



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 8. Numbers 1–19

- **The Basics**

- Author: Moses
- Date: 1445/1444 until 1406/1405 BC
- Context:
 - Israel has received what it needs from God to be established as a nation, so now they are ready to set out for the Promised Land.
 - Numbers records the final preparation for the journey and the journey itself, but along the way, it reveals much about Israel in how they respond to the challenges they face.
- The most common Hebrew title (*Bemidbar*) means 'in the wilderness.'
- Main themes:
 - God's promises to the nation of Israel vs. His judgment of individual Israelites.
 - True faith expressed through obedience, not religious affiliation
 - The essential nature of intercessory ministry
 - The supremacy of God's appointed leadership

- **Outline**

- Preparing for the Journey (1–10)

- The census and camp arrangement were both practical necessities for travel into a possibly hostile environment, but they show God's blessing of the nation by fulfilling the Abrahamic promise of _____.
 - The main point of the practical commands for the Levitical priesthood is to reaffirm God's selection and design for them as His chosen priests.
 - The focus on holiness is contrasted with commands concerning what could _____ the nation and how to deal with it.
 - The offerings given by each tribe are detailed to reemphasize the unity and commitment by the whole nation at the outset of their journey (though it's not to last...).
 - The final preparations for worship and celebration of the Passover show the priority of worship as they prepare to set out.

- The Rebellious Generation in the Wilderness (11–19)

- The people immediately complain, causing Moses to complain.
 1. This leads to a division of labor among the 70 elders and also punishment for the people.
 2. Moses's intercession stops the first punishment.
- The first rebellion against Moses starts with his own siblings' jealousy of his leadership, but it ends with his _____ and Miriam's punishment.
- The spies go to view the land, and most bring back a report of fruitfulness mixed with fear of the inhabitants.
 1. God promises that generation that they will not enter the land except Caleb and Joshua.
 2. The people try to enter anyway and are repulsed.
- The worship regulations for when they are in the land are God's form of _____ that the nation will eventually enter.
- Korah's rebellion against Moses and Aaron brings some Levites and Reubenites against God's design for leadership, ending in more punishments.

1. These punishments result in grumbling by the people...resulting in more punishment!
 2. Aaron's intercession saves the people, plus his priesthood is vindicated.
- The additional regulations for Levitical duties and portions serve once more to vindicate that priesthood and its hierarchy.
 - The last true wilderness writing focuses on purity and holiness.

Discussion:

1. Compare/contrast true religion with merely outward religion, especially in light of what we see in Numbers.
2. What does Numbers teach us about spiritual leadership?

Blanks: descendants, defile, vindication, reassurance,