



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 9. Numbers 20–36

- **Review**

- Despite how great the final preparations at Sinai went, Israel almost immediately began grumbling and rebelling once the journey began.
- The first generation's lack of faith led to judgment.
- 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**

- The Rebellious Generation Dies Out (20–21)
 - The 40th year begins with Miriam dying, Moses disobeying, and Aaron dying: Their generation's time is coming to a close.

- More grumbling leads to the bronze serpent episode with powerful _____ typology (cf. John 3:14–15).
- The Curious Episode of Balaam (22–25)
 - Was Balaam a true prophet? It depends on what you mean.
 1. He appears to receive genuine _____ from God, and he even calls YHWH his god.
 2. Despite his outward obedience, his heart was not in it (cf. 31:16).
 3. His story is a reminder that God’s Word can be spread by whatever _____ He chooses (cf. Phil. 1).
 4. He is probably best categorized as a _____ prophet rather than a false one.
 - The text abounds with ironies: God loves to make points with it!
 - Israel received a powerful object lesson on the edge of the promised land on why they needed to be so wary of idolatry and tolerance for the pagans God commanded them to expel.
 - Intercession comes in violent fashion.
- The Torch Is Officially Passed (26–27)
 - After the plague, a new census is taken that contains only members of the new generation to show they are ready to enter the land.

- Inheritance laws are addressed because God is reaffirming that tribal identity needed to be preserved for the inheritance to be _____.
- Moses is told to prepare to die, and Joshua is officially installed as his successor.

○ Laws for Worship (28–31)

- More preparation for the land is given in terms of perpetual offerings, special offerings and how to handle vows.
- The law of vows preempted conflicts within _____ by affirming male headship.
- The commands following the war with Midian show the people how to obey God in war and deal with the resulting uncleanness, plus how to divide spoils fairly when only so many actually fought, showing warfare involves more than fighters: it involves the whole _____ and _____.

○ Organizing the Inheritance (32–36)

- Provision is made for some tribes to settle outside of Canaan as long as they help conquer the rest of the land
- The journey is recalled so the new generation would remember how God led them all 40 years and that they were reaping the fruits of a long journey.

- They are told to drive out the inhabitants and divide the land by _____.
- Provisions always need to be made for the Levites because they couldn't generate wealth from land like the other tribes.
- The provisions for manslaughter ensured there would be a balance of justice and purity in the land.
- Inheritance law is addressed one last time to make sure tribal inheritances stay stable.

Discussion:

1. What does Numbers teach us about how God sees His people (including the Church) across generations?
2. What should we in the Church take from all God's provisions for how Israel was supposed to organize itself in the land?

Blanks: Christ, revelation, instrument, disobedient, perpetual, households, nation, God, population