

Through the Bible Course

**Numbers**

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Key Verse: Numbers 10:29

Numbers refers to two numberings – chapter 1 and chapter 26

Purpose: To record Israel's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land; manifests their complaints and unbelief while on this pilgrimage.

Note: Keep in mind sequence which runs through Bible and is especially manifested in the book of Numbers.

1. Circumstances conducive to goodness
2. Failure nevertheless
3. Disastrous results
4. Divine goodness

I. Preparation for Journey – chapters 1 through 9

1. Definite enrollment made – 603,550 twenty-year-olds and upward; total: 1,500,000 to 2,414,000 is estimate – chapter 1.
2. Definite positions assigned – chapter 2
  - a. Tabernacle place of presence of God for worship (always in the center)
  - b. In camp, surrounded by three tribes on each of four sides
  - c. On march, six tribes precede and six follow
3. The peculiar place of tribe of Levi – chapter 3
  - a. Redemption of first born – verses 40-51
4. Definite duties assigned tribe of Levi – chapter 4
  - a. Kohathites carry sanctuary and vessels – verses 1-20
  - b. Gershonites to transport curtains of tabernacle – verses 21-28
  - c. Mararites transport boards, bars, etc. – verses 29-49
5. Laws governing the camp – chapters 5-10:10

Note: All were to remain ceremonially clean – obedience to leadership of God demanded – 9:15-23

II. March from Sinai to Kadesh-barnea – chapters 10-12

1. Sinai to Paran – 10:11-36
2. Their murmurings – hardly started before Israel began to complain
  - a. Fire of Lord – 11:1-3
  - b. Lust for flesh pots of Egypt – 11:4-9 (vs.5)
  - c. Moses' complaint and God's answer – 11:10-25
  - d. God answers complaint by giving quail - became a plague to them – 11:31-35

e. Murmurings of Miriam and Aaron – chapter 12

III. Failure at Kadesh – chapters 13-14

Note: These are pivotal chapters in experience of Israel. Their failure was caused by unbelief - Hebrews 3:19.

1. Impeached word of God; believed spies instead of God.
2. Denied His power – looked at giants and walled cities instead of considering power of God.
3. Did not believe in His goodness. He had redeemed them from bondage of Egypt and led them through wilderness to borders of Promised Land, but they did not believe He would give it to them.

Note: He permitted them to have their way, but they suffered for it.

IV. 38 Years of Wandering – chapters 15-36

1. See mercy of God as He tells them what they should do when they enter the land – chapter 15.

Note: God's promise will not be broken nor His purpose thwarted.

2. God's order cannot be overthrown – chapters 16-18
  - a. Gainsaying of Korah – chapter 16
  - b. Aaron's rod which budded – chapter 17
  - c. Levites confirmed as priests – chapter 18
3. Provision made for cleansing defilement – chapter 19
4. Moses' sin – even a leader may fall – chapter 20
5. Israel complains again and fiery serpents sent – chapter 21
6. Balaam cannot curse, but must bless – chapters 22-25

Note: Notice his prophecies regarding Israel and their fulfillment.

7. New generation of Israel numbered – only Joshua and Caleb, men of faith, survive wilderness wanderings.
8. Contain preparations for their entrance into land – order of offerings – assigning of inheritances – charge to Reuben, Gad, and Manassah – the cities of refuge – chapters 28-36.