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Survey of Numbers

by
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Survey of Numbers

**A study of the book of Numbers for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Numbers

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Numbers. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you have written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Numbers. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course, you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses you will be reading. After each paragraph, you will usually have three questions. The questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson, there will be an opportunity to write down something you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons, three things will happen in your life:

First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.

Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses you have studied.

Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally communicated in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Numbers
Lesson 1
Numbers 1:1-2:34

Today, we are beginning our study of the book of Numbers. As we begin, we see that the number of men of fighting age in Israel is given. These were the men that were twenty years of age and older when Israel came out of the land of Egypt. The things that happened in the book of Numbers covered a period of about forty years. During that forty year period, all of the people that were over twenty years of age when Israel came out of Egypt died because of their sin except Joshua and Caleb. Near the end of the book of Numbers, God gave instructions to number the men twenty years and older again. We will see that there were about the same number of men that there were at the beginning of the book of Numbers.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Moses was told to count the men of Israel.
- Explain why the Levites were not counted in the same way as the rest of the men.
- Explain why each tribe was given a certain place to camp.

We saw in the book of Exodus that the people of Israel had camped near Mount Sinai for almost a year. During that time they were given the Ten Commandments, the other laws and the instructions for the building of the tabernacle. Once they had received these instructions, the people remained at Mount Sinai until the building of the tabernacle had been completed. After the laws had been given and the tabernacle completed, the Lord spoke to Moses again and gave him the next set of instructions. God told Moses to count all of the men that were twenty years of age and older that were able to fight.

1. Read Numbers 1:1-27 and write who was to be with Moses to help him count the men of Israel.
2. Explain why God gave the people of Israel all of the laws before they left Mount Sinai to go to the land of Canaan.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for Israel to spend a year building the tabernacle and getting organized before they started toward the land of Canaan.

The fact that the leaders were to help Moses count the people gives us an interesting and important lesson. There were leaders that were well known from every single tribe. These leaders were from every tribe and had developed while the people were slaves in the land of Egypt. This is a picture of the fact that leaders will develop in every group and in every situation if those leaders are given the opportunity to develop. Today, many churches talk about the fact that they have a shortage of leaders. The way to change that situation is to give the people of the church opportunities to develop. This involves a combination of systematic Bible study together with giving those people the opportunities to serve the Lord so that they develop through experience. This is why God has given every Christian spiritual gifts with which to serve the Lord. As a person uses his or her spiritual gifts, that person will develop as a leader for the Lord.

4. Read Numbers 1:1-27 and write which tribe had their families counted first.
5. Explain why it takes both systematic Bible study and opportunities to gain experience learning to lead and develop in order to develop effective godly leaders.
6. Explain why you realize that it is important in your own life to help others learn how to apply Biblical principles in order to become effective leaders.

The tribe of Reuben had their families counted first because he was the oldest son of Jacob. There were at least two reasons why God wanted the people from each tribe to be counted.

First, God wanted Moses to know how many soldiers were available from each tribe. Second, God wanted the people to realize that He had not allowed Israel to multiply during the forty years that they were in the wilderness because of their sin. Throughout the entire Bible God continually reminds us of the terrible consequences of sin. God cannot bless those who are living in rebellion against Him. The people would see forty years later that they had not increased while they were in the wilderness for the forty years.

7. Read Numbers 1:1-27 and write on what day the people were counted by Moses.

8. Explain why it was important for Israel to know how many men were able to serve as soldiers as they traveled through the wilderness and later entered the land of Canaan.

9. Explain why it important to you in your own life to realize that there will be consequences when you sin.

As we read about the various tribes, we see that some of the tribes were much larger than other tribes. Again we are reminded of the fact that God blesses different groups of people in different ways. We should not expect God to bless us the same way that He blesses someone else. God has a different plan for each of us and we should be thankful for the plan that He has for each of our lives. When we follow the plan of God, we will be filled with joy because we will know that God is working in our life and that He is accomplishing His purpose in our lives.

10. Read Numbers 1:28-54 and write the total number of men from all of the tribes together that were able to fight.

11. Explain why it is important for every Christian to realize that God will bless us in different ways than He blesses other Christians.

12. Explain why you will be filled with joy as you discover and carry out the purpose that God has for you in your life.

Although the men of Israel made a rather large army of men when all of them were added together, that did not mean that they could fight great battles in their own strength. It was necessary for them to depend on the Lord because they did not have large amounts of fighting equipment like some of the surrounding nations. Today, we are fighting a spiritual battle. All Christians are to be prepared to fight against the powers of the devil. Since the devil has great strength, we must depend on the strength that the Lord gives us instead of depending on our own strength. In fact the only offensive weapons of a Christian are prayer and the Word of God according to Ephesians 6.

13. Read Numbers 1:28-54 and write what tribe was not numbered with the rest of the tribes.

14. Explain why it was important for Israel and is still important for us today to realize that we must depend on the Lord for spiritual strength.

15. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you can depend on the strength that the Lord provides instead of depending on your own strength.

The Levites were all of the men from the tribe of Levi. There was a reason that God did not count them with the soldiers of Israel. God had said that the Levites were to care for the tabernacle. This was a responsibility that took all of their time and they were not to take time to go and fight. If they did go to the battle, there were to go as spiritual leaders rather than as fighters. Many times the people of Israel had to fight when they were traveling. While they were traveling, the Levites were carrying the furniture of the tabernacle. They could not leave the furniture to go and fight.

16. Read Numbers 1:28-54 and write where the Levites were to set up their tents when the people of Israel stopped to camp.

17. Explain why God chose to have the Levites devote their time to ministry and did not include them among the fighting men of Israel.

18. Explain why it is important to allow the Lord to use your life to minister to others wherever the Lord leads you each day.

When the people of Israel camped, each tribe was given a certain place where they were to set up their tents. The Levites were the only ones that were to have their tents close to the tabernacle. This was to make it possible for the Levites to fulfill their responsibilities of caring for the tabernacle. We also read that the people of Israel did all that God had commanded them to do. Here, we see that the people were obedient in everything that God commanded them to do. In the same way, the Lord also wants our obedience in the things that we do.

19. Read Numbers 1:28-54 and write what God said would happen to the stranger that came close to the tabernacle.

20. Explain why the Levites were not to be counted with the rest of the men that were counted.

21. Explain why you think that God wanted the tribe of Levi to set up their tents close to the tabernacle while they were in the wilderness.

Since there were over 600,000 men who were soldiers, it is possible that the entire nation may have included from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 people counting the women and children. This was a very large group of people to move through the desert. It would have been very difficult to move such a large group of people if they would not have been organized into an orderly group that followed a certain pattern each time that they moved. As a result, before the people left Mount Sinai, God gave them instructions about the order that they should follow as they traveled and camped.

22. Read Numbers 2:1-16 and write where every man was to pitch his tent and camp when they set up the camp after traveling.

23. Explain why the fact that God told Moses how to organize the people of Israel made it possible for them to move much easier each time they moved to a new location.

24. Explain why you realize that you can be much more effective for the Lord as you follow the instructions of the Lord.

Each tribe of the nation Israel had its own flag. All of the members of that tribe were to camp around that flag. They were not to be moving from one place to another. If the people would have been moving from flag to flag, there would have been great confusion. In the same way we need to choose to follow the Lord and obey Him only. In the New Testament we are told that we cannot serve two masters. We are either following the Lord or we are following the devil. Some people try to follow both the Lord and the devil at the same time. All that they actually do is cause confusion in their own minds. Just as the people of Israel followed only one flag, we should only follow the Lord.

25. Read Numbers 2:1-16 and write the first tribe that was to camp on the east side of the tabernacle.

26. Explain why it is important for every Christian to choose to follow the Lord only and not to try and serve two masters.

27. Explain how you have seen the Lord work in your life and then through your life as you choose to serve Him only.

In addition to the tribe of Judah setting up camp on the east side of the tabernacle, the tribes of Issachar and Zebulun were to also camp on the east side with Judah. We will see that there were also three tribes on each of the other sides of the tabernacle. When the people of Israel prepared to march and move to a new place, the three tribes on the east side were to go first. These would be followed by the tribes on the south, the tribes on the west and the tribes on the north. Each of these tribes was to move in a certain order as they marched.

28. Read Numbers 2:1-16 and write which tribe had its flag on the south side of the tabernacle.

29. Explain why the various tribes always followed the same order as they moved their camp to a new place.

30. Explain why you think that it was important for each tribe to camp in its assigned place as Israel moved through the wilderness.

As we look at the various tribes that are mentioned, we see that each tribe had one man that was the leader of that tribe. Each of these men was responsible for leading that tribe as they traveled and setting up their flag when they camped. Here, we see that Moses had trained these leaders to lead their tribes. Then, he had turned the responsibility of the leadership of each tribe over to the man that was in charge of that tribe. Otherwise Moses would have been very tired if he would have had to run around the camp telling each tribe where to set up its camp whenever Israel moved to a new location.

31. Read Numbers 2:17-34 and write where the tabernacle was to be wherever the people of Israel traveled.

32. Explain why it was important for Moses to train the man that led each tribe and then give that man the responsibility to lead that tribe each time the nation of Israel moved.

33. Explain why it important to you in your own life to be trained and then be given the responsibility to carry out a part of the work of the Lord.

Here, we see that there was even an assigned place for the tabernacle. Everyone and everything moved in its assigned order under its own leaders. Today, Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us. Today, we need to work under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has given every Christian one or more gifts so that each person can carry out the ministry that the Holy Spirit has for each person. In order to be effective in completing that ministry, each Christian needs to be taught how to use his spiritual gift or gifts under the direction of the Holy Spirit. God gave leaders to the church to teach Christians how to minister. Then, as Christians, we are to minister in the way that the Holy Spirit leads us.

34. Read Numbers 2:17-34 and write where every man was to be when they marched.

35. Explain why it is important for all Christians to learn to work under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

36. Explain why you realize that it is very important for each Christian to be trained to use their spiritual gifts and then be given the opportunity to serve the Lord.

Here, we see why it was possible for 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 people to move without confusion. Every man was in his assigned place. Each man was doing his assigned job. Here, we see a picture of the thing that will make it possible for a church to grow and develop. Every Christian needs to be equipped to serve the Lord and then given the opportunity to serve the Lord. Each Christian needs to be shown how to witness for Christ in the place where he or she lives and works. Although many people will never come to a church, they will listen to their neighbor or fellow worker who speaks and lives for Christ at home and on the job.

37. Read Numbers 2:17-34 and write what tribe was not numbered when Moses numbered the people.

38. Explain why it is important for every Christian to be living and working for Christ in the place where he or she lives and works.

39. Explain why it is important for you to be a witness for Christ both by your words and your actions.

We see that all of the tribes had their assigned place. Whether the people were traveling or camping, the tabernacle was in the center of the camp. This reminds us of the fact that Christ must be in the center of our lives at all times. Only when we keep Christ in the center of our lives will we be able to live lives that are examples to others of the transformation that Christ can make in their lives. Only as Christ is in the center of our lives will we be able to speak boldly for Christ. This is why we need to make Christ the center of our lives at all times.

40. Read Numbers 2:17-34 and write what the people of Israel did when they heard the commandments of the Lord.

41. Explain why Christians need to be shown how to make Christ the center of their lives.

42. Explain why it is important for Christ to be in the center of your life at all times.

Now, reread Numbers 1:1-2:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 2
Numbers 3:1-4:49

In our last lesson, we learned that each of the tribes of Israel had an assigned place when the people traveled and when the people camped. The tribe of Levi did not have their assigned place to camp clearly explained in those chapters. We will learn why in our lesson today. We will learn that the various clans or families of the tribe of Levi lived on different sides of the tabernacle. Each of these families was given the responsibility to move certain parts of the tabernacle whenever the camp of Israel moved to a new location. We will learn about the responsibilities of each of the various families of Levi in our lesson today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the duties of the Levites.
- Explain what God says about the first-born sons.
- Explain how the various families of Levi served the Lord.

As we begin this chapter, we are given a list of the names of the priests. As you remember from the study of the book of Leviticus two of the sons of Aaron were killed by God because they tried to use their own fire to burn incense on the altar of incense. God sent fire out from the holy of holies and destroyed them because of their sin. As a result, there were only three priests as the people Israel prepared to leave Mount Sinai. Those three were Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar. These three men had the responsibility to offer all of the sacrifices of the people of Israel as they lived and traveled through the wilderness.

1. Read Numbers 3:1-24 and write why Moses was told to present the tribe of Levi to Aaron.
2. Explain why it was important for the three priests to have the entire tribe of Levi to assist them in the care of the tabernacle.
3. Explain why you realize that the priests would not have been able to carry out their ministry of the priests without the help of the Levites.

There was much work to be done in caring for the tabernacle and offering the sacrifices for such a large group of people. As a result, God chose the tribe of Levi to assist the priests in the care of the tabernacle. God knew that many people could do the work that would have been impossible for just three priests to do. Today, the same thing is true. When every Christian is serving the Lord, many things will be done that could not be done by just a few Christians. That is why the Holy Spirit has given every Christian one or more spiritual gifts to serve the Lord. God told Israel that He had chosen the tribe of Levi to serve in the place of all of the first-born. As the Levites served the Lord, they were representing all of the people in their service.

4. Read Numbers 3:1-24 and write what God told the people of Israel about the first-born.
5. Explain why it is important for all Christians to be involved in carrying out the work of the Lord and not just a few leaders.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to have the opportunity to help carry out the work of the Lord.

The first-born of each family was to be dedicated to the Lord because the Lord had protected the oldest child the night that the death angel went through the country of Egypt killing the oldest child of each Egyptian family. As you remember, the tribe of Levi was not counted when Moses counted the men that could serve as soldiers. Now, Moses was told to count the Levites. However, he was to count all of the males of the tribe of Levi from a month old instead of those twenty years and older. We see that the tribe of Levi was much smaller than

the other tribes. Even though the men were counted down to the age of one month, there were only 22,000 men.

7. Read Numbers 3:1-24 and write on which side of the tabernacle the families of the Gershonites were to camp.

8. Explain why the Lord told Moses that the whole tribe of Levi was to be dedicated to the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that the ministry of the Levites would help to remind the people of Israel how the death angel had spared their first-born.

The tribe of Levi was divided into three family clans because Levi had three sons. Each of those sons had a clan come from them. Each clan was given certain responsibilities for the care of the tabernacle. When the tabernacle was moved, each family was responsible for carrying part of the tabernacle. The families of the clan of Gershom were responsible for carrying all of the curtains and the coverings. The families of this clan were to camp on the west side of the tabernacle. The families of Kohath were given the responsibility for carrying all of the furniture of the tabernacle. They lived on the south side of the tabernacle.

10. Read Numbers 3:25-51 and write who was placed in charge of the Levites.

11. Explain why the work of moving the tabernacle each time that the people of Israel moved their camp was to be divided between the three clans of the tribe of Levi.

12. Explain why you think that it would have taken all of the men of the tribe of Levi to be able to set up and take down the tabernacle quickly.

Here, we see another example of the sharing of leadership. Eleazar was given the responsibility of supervising the moving of the tabernacle each time that the tabernacle was moved. We read that the families of Merari were responsible for carrying the boards and the frame of the tabernacle. They were given a place to live on the north side of the tabernacle. Then, God said that Moses and the priests were the only ones that were to live on the east side of the tabernacle. They were to live in front of the entrance to the tabernacle.

13. Read Numbers 3:25-51 and write the next group of people that Moses was told to number.

14. Explain why Moses and the priests were to live in front of the entrance to the tabernacle and the three clans of Levi were to live on the three sides.

15. Explain how the supervision of the moving of the tabernacle provided leadership training for Eleazar when he later became the high priest.

God spoke to Moses and told him to count all of the first-born male children that had been born since the people of Israel came out of Egypt. The people had entered a new period in their history when they came out of Egypt. God said that the entire tribe of Levi was to serve Him instead of the first-born son of each family. As a result, every family was also to redeem their first-born son. They were to redeem the first-born with an offering of five shekels. A shekel was a coin that weighed about fourth-tenths of an ounce.

16. Read Leviticus 3:25-51 and write to whom the Levites were to give the money that they used to redeem their sons.

17. Explain why God wanted all of the families of Israel to redeem their first-born son throughout the history of Israel.

18. Explain why you think that the fact that Christ bought you and redeemed you from your sins means that you now have the privilege to serve Him and do His work in the world.

The entire nation was to give to the work of the Lord by giving to the Levites so that the Levites could spend their time working for the Lord. Then, the Levites were to give to the priests (the family of Aaron) so that they could use all of their time carrying out the service of the Lord at the tabernacle. Here, we see that everyone gave to the work of the Lord including both the people and the leaders. The Levites gave their offering first as an example to the rest of the people. Today, all of us as Christians also need to give to the work of the Lord so that others

can spend their time taking the message of the Gospel to other people.

19. Read Numbers 3:25-51 and write what Moses did with the money that the Levites gave to him to redeem their first-born.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of giving to the Lord.

21. Explain why you realize that it is a privilege to be able to give to the Lord in thankfulness for what He has done for you.

God also gave instructions about the responsibilities of each of the families of Levi. The first family that God mentioned was the son of Kohath – the Kohathites. God said that the men from that family between the ages of thirty and fifty were the ones that were to do the work in the tabernacle. The Kohathites were also the ones that were responsible for the furniture in the tabernacle. When it was time to move the tabernacle, the Kohathites were to cover the Ark of the Covenant with the veil that hung between the holy place and the holy of holies. God also told Moses what to use to cover each of the other pieces of furniture.

22. Read Numbers 4:1-20 and write what was used to cover the golden altar where the incense was burned.

23. Explain why the priests needed the family of Kohath to help them with their responsibilities inside of the tabernacle.

24. Explain why it is important in any group of Christians to have some Christians who help care for or set up for the place where each church meets together.

There were several reasons for covering the pieces of furniture of the tabernacle. The coverings protected the furniture from the sun, the rain and the dust of travel. The coverings also prevented the people from beginning to worship the objects instead of worshiping the Lord. However, the most important reason was to protect the life of the people. God said that any person that touched one of the pieces of furniture of the tabernacle would die. God is a holy God and the coverings on the furniture were a reminder to the people that the penalty for sin is death.

25. Read Numbers 4:1-20 and write who was responsible for the things that were used in the tabernacle.

26. Explain why all people in the world need to realize that God is a holy God and that the penalty for sin is spiritual death.

27. Explain why you think that the most important reason why the Levites were to cover the pieces of furniture was to protect the people from death.

Eleazar was given the responsibility for caring for all of the things that were used inside the tabernacle. Later Eleazar became the high priest when Aaron died. Here, we see that God was giving him on-the-job training for the responsibilities that he would have later as the high priest. Today, God also gives deacons to a church for the same reason. As the deacons handle their responsibilities, they are being prepared for the day when they will be the elders and will be responsible for the spiritual leadership of the church.

28. Read Numbers 4:1-20 and write who was to tell each of the Kohathites what they were to do when they moved the tabernacle.

29. Explain why it is important to provide on-the-job training for all of those that will become future leaders in the church.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the responsibilities that were given to Eleazar.

We go on to read about the responsibilities that were given to the Gershonites. The Gershonites were responsible for the curtains and the coverings of the tabernacle. When it was time for the people of Israel to move, the Gershonites were to carry the curtains and the skins that were used to cover the curtains. They were also given the responsibility for the ropes that were used to hold up the door of the court that surrounded the entrance to the tabernacle. We see that the

responsibilities were divided so that everything would be done as God commanded.

31. Read Numbers 4:21-49 and write who was given the responsibility of supervising the Gershonites.

32. Explain why it was a large responsibility to take down the coverings and the curtains and set them up again each time that the camp of Israel moved.

33. Explain why you think that it is important to divide the responsibilities of a church among many different people and train them to carry out those responsibilities.

Since Ithamar was to supervise the Gershonites, we see that both of the sons of Aaron were given responsibilities so that they would continue to develop as leaders. The responsibilities of the Merarites are also given. They were in charge of moving the heavy parts of the tabernacle. This included the heavy boards that were used to make the frame of the tabernacle. It also included the pillars that were used to hold up the curtains of the court that surrounded the tabernacle. In addition, they carried the sockets that held the boards and the pillars in place. Here, we see that each part of the tabernacle had someone that was responsible for moving it when the people of Israel moved.

34. Read Numbers 4:21-49 and write between what ages the men were to be that carried the parts of the tabernacle.

35. Explain why it was important that there was a person that was appointed to care for each responsibility whenever the tabernacle was moved.

36. Explain why you realize that much can be accomplished in the work of the Lord when each Christian is trained to do a small part of the work.

God wanted the Levites to give the best years of their lives for the service of the Lord. Today, there are some people that say that they will serve the Lord when they get old and are unable to do anything else. However, God wants us to give our best years to the Lord as well as the time when we are older. If Christians would serve the Lord while they are young as well as when they become old, the Lord will work through their lives to accomplish more than they ever imagine is possible. The Lord is able to do things through our lives that we can never do in our own strength.

37. Read Number 4:21-49 and write how many men of the tribe of Levi were between thirty and fifty years of age.

38. Explain why it was important for the Levites to give their most useful years for their service for the Lord.

39. Explain why God wants us to use the best years of our lives to serve Him as well as the rest of our lives.

We see that there were more than eight thousand men from the families of Levi that were between the ages of thirty and fifty. This reminds us of the fact that there are many men who are Christians that are not serving the Lord in their homes, on their jobs or in their communities. If all of the men that are Christians were busy working for the Lord, we would see great changes. There would be many more strong Christians. Our churches would not be lacking leadership among the men. Men would be teaching their families and helping them in their spiritual growth.

40. Read Numbers 4:21-49 and write what every one of those 8580 men did.

41. Explain why it is important for churches to train and develop every one of their men so that all can share in the work of the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that opportunities to be trained and then be given opportunities to serve the Lord help people mature in their spiritual growth.

Now, reread Numbers 3:1-4:49 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 3
Numbers 5:1-7:89

In many families there are conflicts between husbands and wives. Today, we will learn what God said about those men who were jealous of their wives or thought that their wives had committed adultery. God gave the nation of Israel a way to find out if the wife was guilty or not. God also gave instructions about the Nazirites. The Nazirites were men that had taken a vow to God. During the time of this vow, those men were not to do certain things. We will learn why God said that they were not to do these things. Then, we will learn what the Nazirites were to do when they had completed their vow that they had made.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about uncleanness.
- Explain what God said about adultery and jealousy.
- Explain why the Nazirites were given certain requirements.
- Tell about the gifts of the princes.

When we studied the book of Leviticus, we learned that the people that were lepers were to be considered unclean. They were not to live in the camp of Israel. This was one of the ways that the Lord kept disease from spreading throughout the camp of Israel. Now, as the people were getting ready to leave Mount Sinai, God told the people of Israel to put all of the lepers out of the camp before they started on their journey. This was true of all lepers whether they were men or women. Those who were unclean for other reasons were also to be put out of the camp until they became clean again. God was protecting the health of the people with these instructions even though the people may not have realized that God was protecting them.

1. Read Numbers 5:1-10 and write what the people did when God gave instructions to them to put those who were unclean outside of the camp.
2. Explain why the isolation of all those who had leprosy outside the camp was God's way of protecting the people of Israel from the spread of contagious diseases.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for God to protect Israel from the spread of disease especially while they were in the wilderness.

Then, God gave Moses further instructions about those who were guilty of doing something evil to another person. When a person did evil to another person, that person was guilty of sinning against the Lord as well as being guilty of sinning against that person. When a person had committed a trespass against another person, that person was required to do two things. First, the guilty person was to confess his sin to God. Second, he was to go to the person or people to whom he had done evil and pay back (make restitution) for what he had stolen or cheated. In addition, the guilty person was to give one-fifth more. This was to remind the person of the high cost of sin.

4. Read Numbers 5:1-10 and write to whom this payment was to be made if the man could not find the person or a relative of the person from whom he had stolen.
5. Explain why every sin against another person is also a sin against the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that it was important for the person guilty of sin to make restitution to the person that he had sinned against.

There were times when a man could not make things right with another person because that person was dead and had no family. Then, the person that was guilty was to bring the amount to the Lord that he would have given to the other person. This amount that was to be brought to the Lord was in addition to the sacrifice that the person was required to bring as a trespass

offering. When a person brought an offering to the priest for his sin against another person, then that offering belonged to the priest or could be used by the priest in his ministry as he served the Lord.

7. Read Numbers 5:1-10 and write what the person had to bring to the priest in addition to making restitution.
8. Explain why it is important for all people to realize that their sins have consequences both in their relationship to the other person involved and to the Lord.
9. Explain why you think that God wanted the people to repay what they had cheated or stolen and add one-fifth more.

One of the things that causes the most serious conflicts in marriage is adultery. This is true both when one partner is actually guilty of adultery and it is also true when one person is suspicious and thinks that the partner may have committed adultery even when no adultery has been committed. There were times in the nation of Israel when a man might have thought that his wife was guilty of committing adultery. This caused the man to become jealous and have a lack of trust in his wife. In order to prevent this jealousy, God gave instructions about the way to find out whether the wife was guilty or innocent. This protected the husband because he was able to find out if his wife had been unfaithful. It also protected the wife because it was a way to prove that she was innocent if the wife had not been unfaithful to her husband.

10. Read Numbers 5:11-31 and write to whom the husband was to bring his wife if he thought that she was guilty of adultery.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the destructive effects of jealousy in any marriage relationship.
12. Explain why you think that it was important for Israel to have a way to prove when a partner was guilty but also prove when a partner was innocent.

When a man thought that his wife was guilty of adultery, he was to bring her to the priest along with a meal offering of barley. The priest was not to decide whether the woman was innocent or guilty himself. Instead, he was to set her before the Lord and let the Lord show whether she was innocent or guilty. Many times we are tempted to judge others. Here, we see that the Lord is the One who is the judge. He is the One that knows whether a person is innocent or guilty. The Lord is the One that is also able to reveal either innocence or guilt. The priest was to take some of the holy water that was used in the tabernacle.

13. Read Numbers 5:11-31 and write what the priest was told to mix with the water.
14. Explain why it is important to recognize that the Lord is the judge instead of judging others ourselves.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord said that He would reveal innocence or guilt.

When the priest had the water ready, he was to set the woman before the Lord and uncover her head. Then, the priest told the woman that the water would not do anything to her if she was innocent. The priest also told the woman what would happen to her if she was guilty. After the priest had explained to the woman what would happen if she were guilty, she was to say amen twice to show that she understood. In this way she was showing that she was willing to let it be shown whether she was innocent or guilty. This also meant that the priest would be able to know if the woman was innocent or guilty and also if the husband was just jealous or was making a true accusation.

16. Read Numbers 5:11-31 and write what the priest told the woman would happen to her if she was guilty.
17. Explain why the priest was to assure the woman that the water would not do anything to her if she was innocent.
18. Explain why you think that jealousy is a problem in many marriages.

Here, we see that God promised that there would be physical proof to show whether the woman

was innocent or guilty. It would be very obvious if she was guilty because her abdomen would swell and her thigh would rot. After the priest had explained what would happen, he was to take the barley offering and wave it. Then, he was to burn a handful of it in the fire. Following this, the woman was to drink the water and God promised that He would show whether she was innocent or guilty. If she was innocent, God said that He would later bless her with children. If she was guilty, she was to receive the judgment for adultery which was stoning.

19. Read Numbers 5:11-31 and write what this law was called.

20. Explain why God said that He would give physical proof to show if a person was innocent or guilty when that person was accused of adultery.

21. Explain why you think that God provided a way to show whether a woman was innocent or guilty.

We go on to read about the instructions for a Nazirite. A Nazirite was a man or a woman who was set apart for special service for the Lord. That person might be set apart for a short period of time or that person might be set apart for the entire life of that person. When a man became a Nazirite, there were several things that he was not to do. First, he was not to eat or drink anything that came from the vine. This would mean that he was not to drink any grape juice or wine. He was not to eat any grapes. He was not to eat any raisins (dried grapes). This is a picture of sacrifice for the Lord. The person was not to do any of these things for the length of time that the vow was in effect.

22. Read Numbers 6:1-27 and write what was not to come on his head.

23. Explain why a person was choosing to give the things that came from the vine as a sacrifice to God when he took a Nazirite vow.

24. Explain why you think that a person wants to give up certain things in order to serve the Lord more effectively.

Here, we see a second thing that a Nazirite was to do. He was to allow his hair and beard to grow and not cut it until he had completed his Nazirite vow. In many cultures, when a man has long hair, the people treat him like an outcast. We see here that a Nazirite was willing to be treated with shame because of his dedication to the Lord. He was willing to take whatever rejection came to him. As Christians, we should be happy to suffer for Christ if people make fun of us because we serve Christ. We know that the Lord will bless us even when we are suffering.

25. Read Numbers 6:1-27 and write what a Nazirite was not to touch as long as he had a Nazirite vow.

26. Explain why a person was willing to accept shame if necessary in order to take a Nazirite vow.

27. Explain why we can rejoice for the privilege of suffering shame for the name of Christ.

One of the things that all men in that day wanted to do was help bury their parents or other close relatives. However, a Nazirite was not to touch any dead body including the bodies of his parents or other close relatives. Here, we see another picture of the sacrifice that a person made when he set himself apart for the service of the Lord. If a Nazirite accidentally touched a dead body, God told him what to do to be cleansed. As we study about the person that took a Nazirite vow, we see that he made several sacrifices so that his service for the Lord would be more effective.

28. Read Numbers 6:1-27 and write what a man was to do with his hair when he had finished his Nazirite vow.

29. Explain why Christians should be happy to make sacrifices in order to be able to serve the Lord better.

30. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be willing to make whatever sacrifice is necessary in order for you to accomplish the purpose that the Lord has for you in your life.

God also gave instructions about what a Nazirite should do when he had completed his time of special dedication to the Lord. God then told Aaron how to bless the people as he prayed. This prayer mentions blessings from the Lord. It mentions the fact that the Lord will keep and protect those who serve Him. The Lord will also watch over His people and show kindness to them. Then, the Lord will give His people peace. As Christians, we also know that Christ also does all of these things for us. Christ watches over us and will give us peace at all times as we depend on Him.

31. Read Numbers 6:1-27 and write what God said that He would put on the children of Israel.

32. Explain why the Lord instructed Aaron about the way that he was to bless the people.

33. Explain why it is also important for you in your own life to pray for others.

The last part of the book of Exodus said that Moses set up the tabernacle in the wilderness when it was completed. At the time that the tabernacle was completed, we read that the man that was the prince or the leader of each tribe brought gifts to the Lord from his tribe. Here, we see that the Lord gives us a description of these gifts. Since it was the leader of each tribe that brought this gift on behalf of his tribe, we see a picture of the fact that leaders should be men who lead the people that they lead in their service of the Lord. Today, the leaders in each church should be men who are leading the people and showing them how to serve the Lord by example. In this way every Christian will learn by example how to serve the Lord.

34. Read Numbers 7:1-109 and write what the twelve princes brought as their first gift for the Lord.

35. Explain why it was important that the prince of each tribe provided an example for the people of his tribe.

36. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to be an example to others of how to serve the Lord.

Each of the princes gave an ox. In addition, each two prince together gave a wagon. These wagons and oxen were to be used to carry the parts of the tabernacle from one place to another when the people of Israel moved. Moses gave these wagons and oxen to the Levites who were responsible for moving the tabernacle. The family of Gershon received two wagons because they were responsible for carrying the curtains of the tabernacle. The family of Merari was given four wagons because they were responsible for carrying all of the heavy boards for the frame of the tabernacle. Since the family of Kohath was to carry the furniture of the tabernacle, they were not given any wagons.

37. Read Numbers 7:1-10 and write how they were to carry the furniture of the tabernacle.

38. Explain why it was a good example that the leaders of each tribe provided by giving these gifts to move the tabernacle.

39. Explain why you think the different clans were given a different amount of oxen and wagons.

We are also given a list of each of the individual gifts of the princes. As we study this list, we see that each of the princes gave exactly the same gifts. However, the gifts of each prince are mentioned separately. This is a picture of the fact that the gifts and service of every single Christian are important in the sight of God. God will not forget the service of each Christian. We are given a summary of all of the gifts of the princes. Then, we read that Moses went into the tabernacle to talk to the Lord. As Moses was in the tabernacle, the Lord also spoke to Moses.

40. Read Numbers 7:11-89 and write from where the voice of the Lord came.

41. Explain why this chapter is an example of the fact that the service of every Christian is important to the Lord.

42. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you know that God will know about your service for Him.

Now, reread Numbers 5:1-7:89 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 4
Numbers 8:1-9:23

In our last lesson, we learned about the responsibilities of the Levites. Before the Levites began their service for the Lord, God said that there should be a time of cleansing and dedication of the Levites. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we see that there was a service of dedication of the leaders before they began their responsibilities. This helped to remind each of these leaders that they were serving the Lord and that they were not to serve themselves. That same thing should be true in our lives and ministry today. When we select people to become leaders of some ministry, we also need to have a service of dedication to remind them that they are to serve the Lord and not to serve themselves.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the order that they were to light the lampstands.
- Tell about the dedication of the Levites.
- Explain what God said about the Passover.
- Explain what God said about the guiding cloud.

As we finished our study of the previous chapter, we saw that the Lord spoke to Moses from the mercy seat in the tabernacle. We begin our study today by studying what the Lord said to Moses from the mercy seat. Throughout our study of the books of Exodus and Leviticus, we saw that the Lord spoke to Moses from the cloud. Now, the tabernacle had been completed. As a result, God began to speak to Moses from inside the tabernacle. This gives us a picture of the way that the Holy Spirit works today. Until a person places their trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit is outside of their life. There the Holy Spirit speaks to them to convict each person of sin, righteousness and judgment – John 16:8-11. However, as soon as a person places his or her trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in the life of that person.

1. Read Numbers 8:1-4 and write to whom Moses was to speak about lighting the lamps in the lampstand.
2. Explain why it was important that God began to speak to Moses from the mercy seat instead of from the cloud.
3. Explain why it is important to you to know that the Holy Spirit is in your life to guide you and help you understand the Word of God.

Although Aaron was the high priest, God always spoke to Aaron through Moses. Many times God spoke to Moses and told him to speak the words to Aaron. Today, God speaks directly to us through the Word of God. We no longer need to depend on someone else to speak to us because we now have the Bible. When Christ returned to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach us and help us to understand the Word of God. As a result, we have a privilege that Aaron did not enjoy. We can have God speak directly to us at any time through the Bible.

4. Read Numbers 8:1-4 and write how many lamps there were on the lampstand.
5. Explain why God chose to speak to Aaron through Moses instead of speaking directly to Aaron.
6. Explain why you are thankful that Christ sent the Holy Spirit to teach you all things and guide you into all truth.

We also see the reason why Aaron was told to light the seven lamps on the lampstand. This lampstand was to provide the light for the tabernacle. We mentioned earlier in our study that this lamp is a picture of the fact that Christ is the Light of the world. Christ came into this

world to give light to every person. When we put our trust in Christ we have His light. We also read that this lampstand was made according to the pattern that God had shown to Moses on the mountain. God also has a pattern for our lives. We need to yield to God and let Him make us according to His pattern for our lives. Then, our lives will be filled with joy.

7. Read Numbers 8:1-4 and write what Aaron did after Moses told him to light the seven lamps on the lampstand.

8. Explain why it is important for every Christian to yield their lives to Christ so that their lives will develop according to the pattern that the Lord has for their lives.

9. Explain why you are thankful that Christ came into the world to give you spiritual light.

God had said that the Levites were to help in the work around the tabernacle. However, God said that the Levites must be cleansed before they could begin their work in the tabernacle. In order to be cleansed, the Levites were to shave their hair and wash their clothes. Then, they were to offer a sacrifice as a covering for their sins. In addition to the Levites offering a sacrifice, the people were also to have a prayer of dedication for the Levites. The leaders of the people of Israel were to put their hands on the Levites while Aaron offered this prayer of dedication.

10. Read Numbers 8:5-26 and write what the Levites were to do after they offered their sacrifice to the Lord and were dedicated to the service of the Lord.

11. Explain why it was necessary for the Levites to be cleansed and have a service of dedication before they began their service for the Lord.

12. Explain why you think that the cleansing of the Levites included an animal sacrifice as a covering for their sins.

When the leaders of the people placed their hands on the heads of the Levites, the people were becoming personally involved in the dedication of the Levites. As you remember, the Levites were actually taking the place of the first-born children of Israel. However, the rest of the people were still supposed to be involved in the ministry of the Levites. This was the reason why the leaders of the people were to place their hands on the Levites when they were set apart for the service of the Lord. God said that the first-born belonged to Him because He had protected the first-born of Israel when the death angel went through the land of Egypt.

13. Read Numbers 8:5-26 and write to whom God said that He gave the Levites.

14. Explain why it was important for the leaders of the people to place their hands on the heads of the Levites during the dedication of the Levites.

15. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be personally involved in service for the Lord.

The entire tribe of Levi was given the responsibility of helping the priests. As they helped the priests, the Levites were actually working as the representatives of the people. After the Lord had given Moses the instructions about the cleansing of the Levites, Moses and Aaron called all of the people of Israel together. Then, they cleansed the Levites exactly the way that God had told them to do it. First, they had the Levites cleanse themselves and their clothes. Then, Aaron offered a sacrifice to the Lord for the Levites.

16. Read Numbers 8:5-26 and write what the Levites did as soon as they had cleansed themselves and Aaron had offered the sacrifice.

17. Explain why it was important for Moses and Aaron to call together all of the people for the dedication of the Levites.

18. Explain why it is also important for us to follow the instructions of the Lord and follow them exactly as the Lord has commanded us.

Here, we see that a very important order for things to happen is given. First, the Levites were cleansed and atonement was made for their sins. Then, the Levites immediately began their service for the Lord. Today, we have some people that try to serve the Lord who have not yet

placed their trust in Christ. We also have some Christians that never begin serving the Lord. Both groups are wrong. We must help people realize that they must put their trust in Christ first. Then, we need to begin to give them opportunities to serve the Lord once they have placed their trust in Christ.

19. Read Numbers 8:5-26 and write at what age the Levites were to begin their service for the Lord in the tabernacle.

20. Explain why we should begin showing new Christians how to serve the Lord once they have placed their trust in Christ.

21. Explain why it is important to you to know that the Lord has called you both to salvation and then also to service for Him.

As we come to chapter nine, we see that it had been just about a year since the people of Israel had left the nation of Egypt. During that year the people had received the law and had built the tabernacle. They had also become an organized nation of people instead of a confused group of slaves. Before the people left Mount Sinai, God spoke to Moses and reminded him that the time had come to keep the Passover. The Lord told Moses that the people were to remember and do all of the things that God had told them to do at the time of the Passover.

22. Read Numbers 9:1-14 and write on what day the people of Israel kept the Passover.

23. Explain why it was important for the people to remember and do all of the things that God had told them to do at the time of the Passover.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to remember that the Father is able to pass over your sin because of the fact that Christ paid the penalty for your sin and you accepted the payment by repenting and placing your faith in Christ.

When the day of the Passover came, some of the men came to Moses. They said that they were unclean because they had just buried the body of a person that had died. As a result, they wanted to know if they were allowed to eat the Passover while they were unclean. We see that Moses did a very important thing. Instead of answering the men himself, Moses told the men to wait while he prayed to the Lord for an answer to their question. This is the way that we should get our questions and problems answered. We should pray to the Lord and ask Him to show us the right answer from His Word so that we follow His way to solve a problem. Then, we will do what the Lord wants us to do instead of just following our own plans.

25. Read Numbers 9:1-14 and write what the Lord said about a man who was unclean at the time of the Passover.

26. Explain why it is important to pray and ask the Lord for wisdom to solve problems instead of trying to solve them in our own way.

27. Explain why you are thankful that you know that the Lord will answer your prayers when you pray and ask Him to lead you to make the right decision.

God felt that the Passover was so important to the people of Israel that they should eat the Passover even if they were unclean or were traveling. Although the men were unclean because they had touched a dead body, they were still to eat the Passover. Then, God gave a warning to any person that might decide that he did not want to eat the Passover. God said that all those who failed to observe the Passover were not to be a part of the people of Israel any more. They were to be cut off from the people. Even the strangers that lived among the people of Israel were to eat the Passover with the people of Israel even though they were not part of Israel.

28. Read Numbers 9:1-14 and write what evening the people of Israel and any strangers were to eat the Passover.

29. Explain why God said that the people were to be removed from the nation of Israel if they refused to eat the Passover.

30. Explain why you think that it was so important for all of the people to eat the Passover.

We go on to read about the events that happened on the day that the people set up the

tabernacle. On that day the cloud that had been leading the people covered the tabernacle. At night this cloud looked like it was a great fire. Since the people were in the desert where it was very hot, the cloud protected the people from the heat of the sun during the day. Then, at night, the cloud gave them light so that the people could see. This is a beautiful picture of Christ. Christ is both our protection and our light. He is with us at all times.

31. Read Numbers 9:15-23 and write what the people did when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle.

32. Explain why it is important to know that Christ is both our protection and our light as we go through life.

33. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord does lead you and guide you as you seek His will.

Here, we see another way that the cloud is a picture of Christ. The cloud showed the people when they were to move. It showed them where they were to go. It showed them where to stop. This cloud was used by the Lord to guide the people for the entire forty years that the people of Israel were in the desert. When we place our trust in Christ, we can depend on His guidance for the rest of our lives. We need to be ready to do what Christ shows us to do. We need to be ready to go where Christ tells us to go. Throughout our lives we need to be prepared to follow the leading of the Lord if we want to be obedient and blessed by Him.

34. Read Numbers 9:15-23 and write what the people did when the cloud stayed on the tabernacle.

35. Explain why it was necessary for the people to have the cloud to lead them and guide them throughout the forty years that they were in the wilderness.

36. Explain why you are thankful that you can trust the Lord to show you what to do and lead you to the places where you are to do what He has shown you to do.

We see that the people were willing to follow the leading of the Lord. If the cloud did not move from the tabernacle, the people stayed in their tents. Sometimes we are not willing to wait when the Lord says wait. Instead, we want to do everything according to our plan and our time schedule instead of seeking the plan and will of the Lord. Here, we are given an example of the fact that we should be willing to move or to wait as the Lord leads us.

37. Read Numbers 9:15-23 and write how long the people waited at times for the Lord to move the cloud.

38. Explain why it is important to let the Lord lead and guide us instead of following our own plans.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to learn to wait on the Lord for His timing in the things that He leads you to do.

We read that the people were shown when to move by what the cloud did. Sometimes the cloud stayed on the tabernacle for only a few days. At other times the cloud remained on the tabernacle for a year or more. God had said that the people were not to move as long as the cloud stayed on the tabernacle and so the people did not move. The Lord might take up the cloud either during the day or at night. As a result, the people were learning the importance of being obedient to the Lord at all times. In the same way, we also need to be sensitive to the leading of the Lord at all times.

40. Read Numbers 9:15-23 and write what the people did when the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle.

41. Explain why it was important for the people to be ready to move at any time whether God led them to move during the day or if He led them to move at night.

42. Explain why it is important to you to be sensitive to the leading of the Lord in your life at all times.

Now, reread Numbers 8:1-9:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 5
Numbers 10:1-11:35

We see that the last half of the book of Exodus, the entire book of Leviticus and the first nine chapters of Numbers tell us about the things that God taught the people of Israel while they were camped at Mount Sinai. God knew that they needed this time to become an organized nation of people so that they would be able to function in a different way than they had functioned as slaves. However, God had promised the people of Israel that He would give them the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In our lesson today we will learn about a few of the things that happened as the people of Israel began to move toward the land that God had promised to them. As the people began to move, we will see that there were those who complained and spoke against God about certain things.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the purpose of the silver trumpets.
- Tell about the request of Moses to his father-in-law.
- Explain what happened because the people complained.
- Explain why God told Moses to choose seventy elders.

We have seen that the camp of Israel was a very large camp. There were six hundred thousand men in the nation of Israel plus the women and the children. In order to make it possible to communicate with the people, God gave some instructions. God is a God of order and He did not want the people to be filled with confusion. Instead, God wanted to guide His people in an orderly manner as they traveled through the desert. Today, God also wants us to follow His guidance as we go through life. We have been given the Word of God so that God can clearly communicate His will to us. We have also been given the Holy Spirit to teach and instruct us so that we can understand His will. We have a great advantage over the people of Israel in the wilderness.

1. Read Numbers 10:1-10 and write what Moses was told to make in order to let the people know what they were supposed to do.
2. Explain why God gave instructions to Moses about how to communicate with the people of Israel.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to have the Word of God to teach you and the Holy Spirit to help you understand the will of God for your life.

God told Moses to make silver trumpets that could be used to let the people know many things. First, we see that the silver trumpets were to be used to let the people know when to gather together for instructions. If both trumpets were blown, all of the people were to gather together in front of the tabernacle so that Moses could speak to them. If only one trumpet was blown, then only the leaders of each tribe were to come and gather in front of the tabernacle. These two trumpets made it very easy to call for a meeting of the leaders or the people. When the trumpets gathered either the people or the leaders together, Moses could then speak to them and tell them the things that the Lord had instructed Moses to tell the people.

4. Read Numbers 10:1-10 and write what was to happen when the trumpets were used to blow an alarm.
5. Explain how the two trumpets made it possible for Moses to communicate with either the leaders or all of the people quickly.
6. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to let God show you how to communicate clearly with others.

Here, we see that the trumpets were also used to let the people know when it was time to begin moving once the cloud had gone up from the tabernacle. When the first alarm sounded, the tribes on the east side of the tabernacle started to move. As soon as they were moving, the trumpets would sound a second alarm and the tribes on the south side of the tabernacle would begin to move. In this way there was no confusion as the people moved. The trumpets were also used to sound another kind of alarm. They were used to give a warning if an enemy came to fight against Israel. Finally, the trumpets were also used when certain offerings were offered to the Lord.

7. Read Numbers 10:1-10 and write which offerings were to have the trumpets sounded when they were offered.

8. Explain the purpose that the Lord told Moses to make the two silver trumpets.

9. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you now have the Bible to let you know what God wants you to do in your life.

As the people started on their journey from Mount Sinai, we are given the place of each tribe in the order of the march. We are also given the name of the leader of each tribe. These men carried the flag of their tribe so that the people would be able to go where they were supposed to go. As the people prepared to leave Mount Sinai, Moses spoke to his father-in-law. Moses asked his father-in-law to travel with them to the land that God had promised to the people of Israel. Moses told his father-in-law that the people would give him land in the land where they were going. There they would be kind and do good to the family of Hobab (also called Jethro).

10. Read Numbers 10:11-36 and write the first answer that Hobab gave.

11. Explain how the Lord used the flags of the various tribes as well as the trumpets to guide the people of Israel.

12. Explain why you think that Moses wanted his father-in-law to travel with Israel to the land that God had promised to them.

At first Hobab said he would not go. Then, Moses spoke to his father-in-law again and asked him to travel with the people of Israel. Moses knew that Hobab had lived his entire life in different parts of the desert through which the people of Israel were going to travel. Moses said that he would like Hobab to travel with them and serve as their guide since he knew the desert so well. Moses said that God would bless Hobab and his family just as the Lord was blessing the people Israel. Moses knew that those who served the Lord would be blessed by the Lord so Moses knew that the Lord would bless Hobab if he went with them.

13. Read Numbers 10:11-36 and write how far the people traveled when they first moved from Mount Sinai.

14. Explain why the knowledge and wisdom of Hobab about the entire desert would be very helpful to Israel as they traveled through the wilderness.

15. Explain why you are thankful that God gives you older adults that have gained wisdom from their experiences in the past that can be helpful for you today.

As the people started to travel, the Ark of the Covenant was at the front of the line. God was using it to guide the people and show them where to go because they had not traveled that way before. The cloud was above the ark as they traveled so that the entire nation would be able to see exactly where the ark was moving. As they traveled, Moses asked the Lord to scatter their enemies before them so that they would be able to travel in peace. God does not promise that we will have no problems. Instead, He will give us wisdom how to solve the problems. Here, we see the way to have victory over the problems that face us. We need to pray and ask God to give us victory.

16. Read Numbers 10:11-36 and write how many days they traveled in their first travels after leaving Mount Sinai.

17. Explain why it was important for Moses to pray and ask the Lord to scatter their enemies before them as they traveled.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

As the people traveled, some of them began to complain. They blamed the Lord for everything that they did not like. Here, we see what people often do when they begin to complain. Instead of looking at their own attitudes and actions, they choose to blame God. As a result, God finally brought judgment on the people because of their complaining. This judgment came in the form of a fire. God sent a fire that began to burn the people on the outer edge of the camp. Suddenly, the people were filled with fear and went running to Moses. Then, Moses prayed to the Lord. The Lord heard and answered the prayer of Moses.

19. Read Numbers 11:1-15 and write what happened to the fire when Moses prayed to the Lord.

20. Explain why people seldom look at their own attitudes and actions when they begin to complain.

21. Explain why you think that the people chose to blame God for the things that they did not like.

The Lord stopped the fire but the complaining soon started again. We read that the mixed multitude began lusting for the things that they had when they were in the land of Egypt. This mixed multitude was composed of Egyptians that had married Israelites. They had not been slaves in Egypt. However, they had chosen to leave Egypt because they were married to Israelites. This is an example of what happens when a Christian marries a person that is not a Christian. It will always bring conflict and complaining against the Lord. This mixed multitude remembered the fish and the vegetables that they had eaten in Egypt.

22. Read Numbers 11:1-15 and write what this mixed multitude said had happened to their souls.

23. Explain why it was possible for the complainers to remember the good things of Egypt and forget the suffering in Egypt.

24. Explain why you think that the mixed multitude were the one that led the people that were complaining.

This mixed multitude was complaining because they did not like the manna. The people gathered the manna from the ground. When the people gathered the manna, they would grind it so that it was similar to flour. They the people took the manna that had been ground up and baked it in pans. The mixed multitude did not like this baked manna and wanted a change in their food. They wanted more variety. In the same way if there is a mixed multitude in a church, they will also complain when there is systematic Bible teaching instead of entertainment.

25. Read Numbers 11:1-15 and write who was very angry at the complaining of the people.

26. Explain why the people wanted a change in their food instead of having manna every day.

27. Explain why you think that a mixed multitude in a church will complain about systematic Bible teaching and want entertainment instead.

When Moses heard the complaining of the people, he began to complain to the Lord about the people. He felt that the Lord had treated him the wrong way by giving him the responsibility to lead a group of people that were so rebellious. He felt that the people were like little children. Moses felt that he could not feed and lead all of the people himself. The task was too big for him. He felt that he could not lead the people alone. Moses was so unhappy that he asked the Lord to kill him. Here, we see that when leaders try to carry the whole burden of leadership by themselves that they can even reach a point where they wish they could die.

28. Read Numbers 11:1-15 and write how Moses asked the Lord to bring the people to the land that He had promised.

29. Explain what you learn about the danger of having a mixed multitude from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that Moses became so depressed because of the complaining that he asked God to kill him.

The Lord heard Moses complain that he could not lead the people alone. Then, the Lord spoke to Moses and told him to gather the seventy men that were the elders of Israel. These men were to work with Moses in leading the people. These men would share the responsibility that Moses was carrying. They were also to speak for God and help lead the people. Moses had been thinking that he was the only one that could speak for God. Now, God showed Moses that there were others that could also speak for God. Today, we need to realize that other Christians can also speak for God.

31. Read Numbers 11:16-35 and write how long God said that the people that were complaining would eat flesh.

32. Explain why we need to realize that God has gifted many people to speak His Word and lead His work instead of trying to do everything ourselves.

33. Explain why you think that Moses had tried to lead by himself and have failed to share the responsibility of leading Israel with the seventy elders.

Moses answered that they did not have enough animals to keep the people eating flesh for a whole month. Moses said that there was not that much meat around even if they could catch all of the fish in the sea. Moses did the same thing that we often do. He looked at the things around him instead of believing the words of the Lord. Then, the Lord asked Moses why he thought it was impossible for the Lord to supply the meat. God wanted Moses to realize that all things are possible for God. Nothing is too hard for Him. He can do the things that look impossible to us.

34. Read Numbers 11:16-35 and write the question that the Lord asked Moses about His hand.

35. Explain why Moses looked at the problem of trying to supply food for the people instead of looking to the Lord to be the provider.

36. Explain why it is important in your own life to realize that the Lord will never ask you to do something that He cannot do through your life.

The Lord supplied meat for the people and seventy men to help Moses lead the people. We read that all seventy of these men prophesied and spoke for God. At the same time, two of the men that had remained in the camp prophesied and spoke for God. Joshua heard the two men and told Moses to make them stop speaking for God. Joshua thought that only the leader could speak for God. Moses had learned from God that all those who trust in God can speak for Him. Today, we have some people like Joshua that feel that only a pastor can speak the Word of God. However, the desire of God is for every Christian to learn to speak to others from the Word of God.

37. Read Numbers 11:16-35 and write what the Lord did to supply the meat that He had promised for the people.

38. Explain why it is important for all Christians to be speaking the Word of God instead of just one or just a few.

39. Explain why it is important for you to realize that the Lord can use many people to speak His Word.

The Lord had promised that He would send meat for the people. That day the Lord caused a wind to blow from the sea. That wind brought many quail so that the area surrounding the camp of Israel was covered with the quail. The people quickly began gathering the birds. Many of the people gathered many more of the quail than they could use. When the Lord saw the greed of the people, He was filled with anger. Then, the Lord decided to judge the people for their greed.

40. Read Numbers 11:16-35 and write how the Lord judged the people.

41. Explain why the people became so greedy that many of them gathered many more quail than their family could use.

42. Explain why you think that many people are controlled by greed instead of being content with what the Lord supplies.

Now, reread Numbers 10:1-11:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 6
Numbers 12:1-14:45

In our last lesson, we learned how the people of Israel began to move from Mount Sinai toward the land that God had promised them. Today, we will learn that the people reached a place that was called Kadesh Barnea. That place was just at the south edge of the land that God had promised to the people of Israel. This meant that the people had almost reached the land that was their destination. From Kadesh Barnea twelve spies, one from each tribe, were sent to make an investigation of the land. We will learn about the report that these spies gave when they returned to the camp of Israel. We will see that ten of these spies were controlled by fear. Then, we will learn about the decision of the people when they heard the report of these spies.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what happened to Miriam when she complained.
- Tell about the report of the twelve spies.
- Explain how the people felt about the report of the spies.
- Explain how the people rebelled against the Word of the Lord.

As we have studied the travels of the people of Israel, we have seen that various people complained about the leadership of Moses. We saw that many of those who complained were Egyptians that were married to people from the nation of Israel. However, we find in our lesson today that the brother and sister of Moses began to complain. They were complaining because Moses had not married a woman from the people of Israel. They thought that they were better qualified to lead the people as a result. The Lord heard the complaining of Miriam and Aaron. Then, the Lord told Moses, Miriam and Aaron to meet Him in front of the tabernacle.

1. Read Numbers 12:1-16 and write what the Lord said to Miriam, Aaron and Moses about His servant, Moses.
2. Explain why Miriam and Aaron thought that they were better qualified to lead the people of Israel than Moses.
3. Explain why you think that God chose Moses to lead the nation of Israel even though his wife was not from the nation of Israel.

The Lord spoke to Miriam and Aaron and said that Moses was a faithful servant. Because Moses was a meek (humble) and faithful servant of the Lord, it was possible for the Lord to speak to Moses plainly. This is a reminder that the Lord looks for different things in the lives of leaders than the world. The Lord was able to speak plainly to Moses because he was a humble man. He was also faithful to the Lord. This faithfulness made it possible for the Lord and Moses to have true fellowship together. They talked to each other as two friends talk together. As a result, the Lord was very angry because of the complaining of Miriam and Aaron.

4. Read Numbers 12:1-16 and write what happened to Miriam because of her complaining.
5. Explain why the Lord looks for people that are humble and faithful and makes them effective spiritual leaders.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord has different qualifications for leadership than the world.

We see that God judged Miriam by giving her leprosy. We learned earlier that leprosy is a terrible disease. Perhaps you are wondering why Miriam was the only one that became leprous. Miriam was the one that was leading the complaining against Moses. She was several years older than Aaron. In addition, when Eve was deceived in the Garden of Eden, God said that

man was to take the leadership. Here, Miriam was trying to become the leader. She did not think about what the Lord had said to Adam and Eve. Today, it is still the plan of God for men to take the leadership in the church. When men fail to take that leadership, the women will take it because they see the need for leadership. In such situations both men and women are failing to follow the instructions of the Lord.

7. Read Numbers 12:1-16 and write what Aaron said when he saw that Miriam had become leprous.

8. Explain why women will often take the spiritual leadership in the home or the church when the men fail to take their responsibility to provide leadership.

9. Explain why you think that God caused Miriam to become covered with leprosy.

When Moses saw the leprosy of his sister, he prayed to the Lord for her. God healed Miriam but He required Miriam to live outside of the camp of Israel for seven days as a time of cleansing. After Miriam was allowed to return to the camp, the people traveled on until they came to Kadesh Barnea. There the Lord told Moses to pick twelve men of the leaders of each tribe. These twelve men were to go and travel through the land of Canaan. They were to go as spies so that they could see what the people that lived in the land of Canaan were like. The spies were to find out how strong the people of the land of Canaan were.

10. Read Numbers 13:1-33 and write what these spies were to find out about the land of Canaan.

11. Explain why it was necessary for Miriam to live outside the camp of Israel for seven days as a time of cleansing.

12. Explain why you think that God had Moses choose one leader from each tribe to go and see what the land and people of Canaan were like.

These spies were also to find out if the people in Canaan lived in strong cities or in small villages. As the spies looked at the land, they were also to pick some of the fruit and bring it back so that the rest of the people could see what the fruit was like. Then, the spies traveled through the land. One of the places that the spies visited was Hebron where they saw the sons of Anak. At a brook called Eshcol, the spies picked a bunch of grapes. The bunch of grapes was so large and heavy that the spies had to put the grapes over a pole and have two of the men carry the pole. This was a real picture of the richness of the land.

13. Read Numbers 13:16-33 and write how many days the spies spent searching the land of Canaan.

14. Explain why it was important for the spies to look both at the cities and at the fruit of the land as they traveled through the land.

15. Explain why you think that Moses told the people to bring some of the food of the land back to the camp of Israel.

When the spies returned, they showed the people the fruit of the land. They told the people that the land was very rich. In fact the spies described the land as a land flowing with milk and honey. If the spies would have stopped talking then, everyone would have been ready to go into the land. However, the spies began to talk about the strong cities with their great walls. Most of the spies said that the people of Israel would not be able to fight against the people in the land of Canaan. There were only two men that knew that God would give Israel the victory.

16. Read Numbers 13:16-33 and write what Caleb said to the people.

17. Explain why most of the spies thought that the people of Israel would not be able to fight against the people of Canaan.

18. Explain why you think that Joshua and Caleb were confident that God would give victory to Israel.

Most of the spies looked at their own strength and forgot about the Lord. They thought that it would be necessary to fight against these cities in their own strength. Only Joshua and Caleb

realized that the Lord would give them victory. Then, the other spies began to talk about the sons of Anak. They said that these men were great giants. The spies said that they felt like they were grasshoppers when they compared themselves to those great giants. Sometimes we look at the problems that we face and they look like great giants to us. If we depend on ourselves instead of trusting the Lord, we say that it is impossible to solve these great problems.

19. Read Numbers 13:16-33 and write what the ten spies said about the strength of the people in the land.

20. Explain why we are often afraid of these great problems just like the people of Israel were afraid of the giants.

21. Explain how it affects your own life when you just look at problems and forget that the Lord is the problem solver.

When the people of Israel heard the report of the spies, they spent the night crying and complaining. The people said that they wished that they had died as slaves in the land of Egypt. They blamed the Lord for bringing them out into the wilderness to be killed. The people even suggested that they pick a new leader and return to the land of Egypt. Moses and Aaron were filled with sorrow and fell on their faces in front of the people. Then, Joshua and Caleb stood up and spoke to the people. They reminded the people that the land was a very good land.

22. Read Numbers 14:1-19 and write what Joshua and Caleb said that the Lord would do if He delighted in them.

23. Explain why the people chose to blame the Lord for bringing them out into the wilderness to be killed instead of trusting the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that most people are anxious to listen to a negative report instead of looking to the Lord for His strength.

These two men knew the power of the Lord. They knew that the Lord could do all things. They encouraged the people not to rebel against the Lord. Instead of listening to Joshua and Caleb, the people decided to stone them. Then, the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle and the Lord began to speak to Moses. The Lord said that He could easily destroy the people because of their unbelief and make a greater nation from Moses. Moses immediately replied that the people of the nations would lose respect for God if He destroyed the people of Israel.

25. Read Numbers 14:1-19 and write why the people of the other nations would say that the Lord had killed the people of Israel.

26. Explain why the people of Israel were almost ready to stone Joshua and Caleb even though those two men reminded them of the power of God

27. Explain why you think that people turn their anger against others when they act out of fear.

Moses told the Lord that the people of the other nations would speak evil of the name of the Lord. Then, Moses begged the Lord to show His great mercy and kindness and not destroy the people. Moses knew that it was necessary for the Lord to judge sin. However, he asked the Lord not to judge the sin of the people by destroying them. Instead, Moses asked the Lord to pardon and forgive the people of Israel because of the love and mercy of the Lord. Here, we see that Moses understood the character of God and knew that God is a God of love and mercy.

28. Read Numbers 14:1-19 and write how many generations of the people would be affected by the sins of the fathers.

29. Explain what lessons the prayer of Moses teaches us about the concern of Moses for the people of Israel.

30. Explain why it is important for you to have a similar concern that causes you to pray for the people around you.

The Lord listened to the prayer of Moses and agreed not to destroy the people of the nation of Israel. However, God said that all of the people that were adults could not enter into the land of Canaan because of their unbelief. During the year since the people had left Egypt, they had

rebelled and shown their unbelief ten times. As a result, God said that none of the people that had rebelled would live to see the land that God had promised to them. Only Joshua and Caleb would enter the land because they had believed the promises of God.

31. Read Numbers 14:20-45 and write what God said would happen to the bodies of the people of Israel.

32. Explain why God said that the people would die in the wilderness as a consequence of their choice not to enter the land.

33. Explain why you realize that it is important to help people realize the consequences of their choices especially sinful choices.

God said that all those who were twenty years of age or older would die in the wilderness because of their unbelief. Then, the next generation would be the ones that would enter into the land of Canaan. Here, we see that we can miss the blessing of God if we have unbelief in our hearts. The Lord will still complete His plan in spite of our unbelief. However, He will use other people to complete that plan and we will miss the blessings. God said that the people would wander in the wilderness one year for each of the days that the spies were gone.

34. Read Numbers 14:20-45 and write the total number of years that God said that the people would wander in the wilderness.

35. Explain why the Lord said that He would bring His blessing to the next generation since the adults rejected the opportunity to enter the land.

36. Explain why you think that many Christians miss the blessings that the Lord wants to give them because of their unbelief.

God promised the people that there would be forty years of wasted time because of the sins of the people. All that the people over the age of twenty could do was wait for the day when they would die. They had no goal or purpose in life for which to live. Then, the ten spies who had brought the bad report about the land began to say evil things about Moses. God heard the evil things that those men were saying. As a result, God sent a plague that killed all ten of the men. Here, we see that God judged their sin and rebellion by death.

37. Read Numbers 14:20-45 and write what the people said that they would do when they got up the next morning.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the results of rebellion against God.

39. Explain why you think God had to judge the ten spies with death because of their rebellion against Moses and their evil words about him.

When the people heard about the judgment that the Lord had promised, they were filled with sorrow. Then, some of the people said that they would go and enter the land and would not rebel against the Lord any longer. However, Moses told the people that it was too late to enter the land. They had already made their choice. If they tried to enter the land, they would be rebelling against God again. The Lord said that the people would be killed in battle if they rebelled and tried to enter the land. Some still went ahead and tried to enter the land.

40. Read Numbers 114:20-45 and write what the Amalekites and the Canaanites did to those who tried to enter the land.

41. Explain why it is important for people to realize that certain choices will have consequences that they cannot reverse.

42. Explain why you think some of the people still tried to rebel against God after they had been told that they could not enter the land.

Now, reread Numbers 12:1-14:45 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 7
Numbers 15:1-16:50

In our last lesson, we learned that the people of Israel rebelled against God and refused to enter the land of Canaan. They rejected both the leadership of God and the report of Joshua and Caleb. As a result, God said that it would be necessary for the people of Israel to wander in the wilderness for forty years. God said that during that forty year period that all of the people that were twenty years of age or over would die and be buried in the wilderness. However, God also encouraged the people by telling them some of the things that they were supposed to do when they entered the land of Canaan forty years later. We will also learn what God did when some of the people rebelled against the leadership of Moses.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the laws that the people were to obey when they entered the land.
- Explain what the law does.
- Tell about the rebellion of Korah.
- Explain how God judged those who rebelled.

The people were probably very discouraged as they thought of the fact that they must wander in the wilderness and then die in the wilderness. As a result, God gave the people some words of encouragement. God gave the people some instructions about what they should do when they entered into the land of Canaan. In this way God was showing that He would keep His promises to the nation even though it was necessary for the people to wander for forty years in the wilderness before they entered the land. God told the people that they should offer a meal offering with their burnt offerings when they came into the land.

1. Read Numbers 15:1-21 and write what the people were to offer for a drink offering.
2. Explain why it was important for the Lord to help the people focus on their future in the land even though that generation would not enter the land.
3. Explain why it is important to remind people of what the Lord is going to do in the future when they are discouraged.

God said that they were to offer a wine offering with their meal offering. This wine offering was approximately three quarts. This offering was to be burned by fire as a sweet savor to the Lord. The Lord said that all those who offered their offerings were to offer their offerings by fire. In this way all of these offerings would be a sweet smell to the Lord. God said that this law would apply to everyone that lived in the land of Canaan. It applied to any stranger that was living among the people of Israel as well as to the people of Israel. Strangers could not offer different kinds of offerings because that would cause the people of Israel to be led into false forms of worship.

4. Read Numbers 15:1-21 and write what God said about the nation of Israel having only one ordinance.
5. Explain why strangers were to offer the same offerings as the people of Israel when they came into the land.
6. Explain why you think that God said that these offerings would be a sweet smell to Him.

The people could not change the laws to make their either easier or more difficult for the strangers that lived among them. Instead all of the people were to obey the same laws. Although the nation of Israel was the chosen nation of God because Christ would come from that nation, God still offered His salvation to the people of the other nations. This salvation was available to the people of other nations in the very same way that it was available to the people

of Israel. Each person had to make an individual decision to put his trust in the promises of God by faith.

7. Read Numbers 15:1-21 and write how long God told the people of Israel that this ordinance was to be in effect.

8. Explain why the laws applied the same way to strangers as they applied to the people of Israel.

9. Explain why it is important for us to make clear to all people that salvation can only be received by faith.

God also gave the people instructions about what should be done if the people committed a sin through ignorance. First, we read about sins that the whole nation might commit because of ignorance. When the people realized that they had sinned as a nation, they were to bring a burnt offering, a meal offering, a drink offering and a sin offering. God gave His promise that He would forgive the sins of the people if they would confess their sins. We know that God will still forgive the sins of all those who confess their sins to Him because God is unchangeable.

10. Read Numbers 15:22-41 and write what an individual was to bring for a sin offering if he was guilty of a sin of ignorance.

11. Explain why sin is still sin even though it may be a sin that was committed in ignorance.

12. Explain why you are thankful that God promises to forgive the sins of all that confess their sins to Him.

An individual could also be guilty of committing a sin of ignorance. God said that an individual was to bring a she goat of the first year as a sin offering. The person was to bring his sin offering to the Lord if he wanted to have his sin forgiven. God promised that He would forgive all those who asked Him to forgive them. However if a person purposely rebelled against the commandments of the Lord and refused to ask the Lord to forgive his sin, that person was to be cut off from the nation of Israel. This applied to a stranger that was living among the people of Israel as well as to one of the people of the nation of Israel.

13. Read Numbers 15:22-41 and write what some of the people found a man doing on the Sabbath day.

14. Explain why an individual that committed a sin of ignorance was to take personal responsibility for his sin and offer a sacrifice.

15. Explain why a person that chose to live in rebellion against God and refused to ask God to forgive his sin was to be cut off from the nation of Israel.

God had instructed the people of Israel to rest on the seventh day each week. God had said that they were not to do any work on that day. As a result, the leaders put this man that was gathering sticks on the Sabbath in prison until God could show them what they should do with the man. Then, the Lord spoke to Moses and said that the man should be stoned to death for his sin. Here, we see that God dealt very strongly with sin. The penalty for sin for this man was physical death. Throughout the Bible we read that the penalty for sin is death. Those who do not turn from their sin will be judged by death. However, that judgment will be spiritual death which is separation from God throughout all eternity in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

16. Read Numbers 15:22-41 and write what color of a fringe the people were to put around the edge of their clothes.

17. Explain why God said that the man that was gathering sticks on the Sabbath day was to be stoned to death.

18. Explain why you are thankful that you can confess your sins and know that the Lord will forgive your sins.

This border of blue was to remind the people that they had been set apart as a nation to worship

and serve the Lord. The Lord had brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Now, they were to worship and serve Him. This gives us a very interesting example as Christians. When we became Christians, the Lord also set us apart to serve Him. We read in two different books in the New Testament that every Christian is a priest of God. As priests of the Lord, we have been set apart to worship and serve the Lord as well as help others to learn about Christ.

19. Read Numbers 15:22-41 and write why God told the people of Israel to put a blue border around the borders of their garments throughout history.

20. Explain why it was important to the people of Israel to have a blue border on their clothes to remind them that they had been set apart to God.

21. Explain why it is also important to remember in your own life that you have been set apart to God.

We have seen that various people complained about the leadership of Moses from the time that Moses had first returned to Egypt to lead the people out of slavery. As we come to chapter 16 we see that it happened again. One day, a group of men decided to challenge the leadership of Moses. This group was led by a man named Korah. Two other leaders in the group were Dathan and Abiram. In addition to these three, there were two hundred and fifty other leaders of Israel that joined with these men in their rebellion against Moses. They all came together to speak to Moses and Aaron. They accused Moses and Aaron of trying to make themselves great by taking too much of the leadership of the Israel.

22. Read Numbers 16:1-22 and write what Moses did when he heard the words of these men.

23. Explain why this group of 250 men chose to accuse Moses and Aaron of taking too much leadership in Israel.

24. Explain why you think that various groups of people in Israel rebelled against the leadership of Moses.

Moses was filled with sorrow as he saw this rebellion because he realized that the people were rebelling against the Lord rather than rebelling against him. Instead of trying to argue with these men, Moses told them all to gather together the next day and let the Lord make the decision about who should lead the people of Israel. The next day all of the Levites that were in rebellion gathered together except two. Dathan and Abiram refused to come and let God show who should lead the people. They said that Moses had promised them a land of milk and honey and had let them out into the wilderness to die instead.

25. Read Numbers 16:1-22 and write what Moses said to God because of his anger about the words of Dathan and Abiram.

26. Explain why the real sin of these men was rebellion against the Lord rather than rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

27. Explain why you think that Dathan and Abiram refused to come with the other leaders to let God show them who He wanted to lead Israel.

Moses told Korah to gather those who followed him at the tabernacle so that the Lord could show who was to lead the people of Israel. Then, Korah came with the two hundred and fifty men. They all put incense on their censers so that the Lord could show who was listening to the word of the Lord. The Lord spoke and said that He would destroy the men who had rebelled against Him. Here, we see that the Lord will show the leaders that He has chosen if we will allow the Lord to make our decisions instead of trying to make those decisions ourselves.

28. Read Numbers 16:1-22 and write what the Lord told Moses and Aaron to do before He brought judgment.

29. Explain why it is important to let the Lord choose the leaders instead of trying to make that choice in our own strength.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to destroy the men that were in rebellion against Him.

Then, the Lord told Moses to have the people get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. They were to have nothing to do with them. Moses also told the people that God would show whether those men were wrong. Moses told the people that if these men were in rebellion against God that they would not die a natural death. Instead, God would destroy them in a way that was very obvious that they were in rebellion. They would die in a very unusual way. Moses said that God would cause the earth to split open. Then, God said that these men would go down to hell (sheol) alive instead of dying a natural death.

31. Read Numbers 16:23-50 and write what happened as soon as Moses had finished speaking these words.

32. Explain why God said that these men would die a very unusual death and go to judgment alive instead of dying.

33. Explain why you think that God felt it was necessary to judge these particular men in a very unusual way.

Moses had barely finished speaking when the Lord did exactly as Moses had said that He would do. Suddenly, the earth opened. When the earth opened up, Korah and the families that followed him and all of their possessions went down into this hole. God says that they went down into the pit alive. This may mean that the place of torment mentioned in Luke 16 is inside the earth and that these men were still physically alive when they went to the place of torment. The Lord also sent a fire to completely destroy the two hundred and fifty men that were following Korah.

34. Read Numbers 16:23-50 and write what the rest of the people did when they heard the cries of those who went down alive into the earth.

35. Explain why this passage may indicate that the place of torment where unbelievers go until the final judgment is inside the earth.

36. Explain why you think that the sin of these men also resulted in judgment for their families.

God also spoke to Moses and had him gather the censers that the men had used to burn their incense. Since these censers had been used in the worship of the Lord, God said that the metal in the censers should be used to make a covering for the altar. This covering was to remind the people that they were not to try and offer incense or they might be judged. We have seen many times that there must be judgment when people rebel against the Lord. God wanted to remind the people that the choice to rebel against God would bring judgment.

37. Read Numbers 16:23-50 and write what the people did the next day after seeing the way that the Lord judged those 250 men that were in rebellion.

38. Explain why it was important for the people of Israel to realize that they were not to develop their own form of worship.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the rebellion of Korah and those who followed him.

The people had not learned that judgment must come when there is rebellion against God. The very next day the people complained against Moses and accused him of killing the people. God quickly began to bring judgment on the people. Then, Moses told Aaron to take his censer and make atonement for the sin of the people. We read that Aaron actually stood between the dead and the living as he made atonement for the people. If Aaron would not have made atonement for the people, all of the people of the nation of Israel would have died that day.

40. Read Numbers 16:23-50 and write how many people were killed in that short time before Aaron made atonement.

41. Explain why it was necessary for Aaron to make atonement for the people to protect them from physical death.

42. Explain why you are thankful that Christ chose to die on the cross to make atonement for your sins as well as the sins of the whole world.

Now, reread Numbers 15:1-16:50 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 8
Numbers 17:1-19:22

In our last lesson, we learned about the rebellion of Korah and the men that had followed him. Those men were from the tribe of Levi. That was the same tribe as the tribe of Moses and Aaron. God had shown those within the tribe of Levi that they were not to rebel against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Now, the Lord also wanted to show the people that He was the One that had chosen Aaron to be the high priest. As we study our lesson today, we will see how the Lord used the rod of Aaron to show that He had chosen Aaron to lead the people in their worship.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how God showed that Aaron was His chosen leader.
- Explain what the priests were to be given for their work.
- Explain why the Levites were not to have an inheritance.
- Explain the meaning of the red heifer.

God knew that some of the leaders of the other tribes would also be tempted to rebel against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. In order to prevent such a rebellion among the people of the other tribes, God told Moses to call the leaders of each tribe and speak to them. He was to tell the prince of each tribe to bring his rod (walking stick) and put his name on it. Aaron was also to bring his rod and put his name on it because he was the representative of the tribe of Levi. The Lord said that the thirteen rods were to be laid in the tabernacle before the Lord so that the Lord could show who He had chosen to lead the people of Israel.

1. Read Numbers 17:1-13 and write what God said would happen to the rod of the person that He had chosen to lead Israel.
2. Explain why the Lord chose to show the leaders of the other tribes that He had chosen Moses and Aaron.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord was actually protecting these leaders by showing them who God had chosen to lead before any of these leaders might be tempted to rebel.

The rods that the men used as walking sticks were old pieces of wood that had been cut from a tree many years before. They were dead and had no life in them. From the point of view of a man, it was impossible for any of these rods to produce anything because they were dead. However, God said that He would cause one of the rods to blossom. In this way that rod became a picture of Christ. He was dead. Yet we know that on the third day that Christ rose from the dead. He had victory over death. As a result, the rod also becomes a picture of every Christian. We were spiritually dead but Christ gave us spiritual life at the moment that we placed our trust in Christ.

4. Read Numbers 17:1-13 and write what happened to the rod of Aaron as it lay in the tabernacle.
5. Explain why God chose to show who He wanted to lead Israel by causing a dead stick to produce blossoms.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ gave you spiritual life when you had been spiritually dead.

The Lord had promised that He would make the rod blossom of the one that He wanted to lead the people. However, the Lord did much more than just cause the rod to blossom. Instead, the rod also had fruit on it by the next morning. This is a beautiful example of what Christ does for us when we put our trust in Him. God promises us eternal life. However, God also gives us

many other blessings in addition to eternal life. God gives us real joy and peace as we live our lives for Him. God fills our lives with blessings. This is one of the many reasons why the Christian life is such an exciting life. God certainly showed the people of Israel that He would do much more than Moses had said that He would do.

7. Read Numbers 17:1-13 and write what the people of Israel did when they saw the rod of Aaron.

8. Explain why God chose to have the stick of Aaron do more than just bud by the next morning.

9. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord forgave you and gave you eternal life and then also now makes your life fruitful.

The Lord told Moses to keep the rod of Aaron in case there would be those in the future that might decide to rebel against the leadership that the Lord had chosen. The people realized that the Lord had chosen Aaron when they saw his rod. The people knew that they would be judged with death if they tried to come into the tabernacle and offer their own sacrifices or burn their own incense. Here, we see an example of the fact that people will realize their sinful condition when they compare themselves and their power with the power of God.

10. Read Numbers 17:1-13 and write what placing the rod before the Lord would do to the murmurings of the people.

11. Explain why it is important for people to be able to understand that the power of God is much greater than their own power.

12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the rod of Aaron that budded and produced fruit.

The Lord also reminded Aaron that he and his sons had been given the responsibility for caring for the tabernacle. We see though that this did not mean that the family of Aaron had to do all of the work associated with the tabernacle. God had given the entire tribe of Levi to assist Aaron and his sons in the service and care of the tabernacle. However, Aaron and his sons were the only ones who were allowed to enter into the tabernacle itself. The Levites were given the responsibilities of serving in those duties that were carried out in the court of the tabernacle or totally outside the tabernacle.

13. Read Numbers 18:1-19 and write what God said might happen to the Levites if they came close to the furniture of the tabernacle or the altar.

14. Explain why the Lord gave the entire tribe of Levi to assist the family of Aaron in the service of the tabernacle.

15. Explain why you think that Aaron and his sons were the only ones allowed to enter into the tabernacle.

The Lord said that the Levites had been given as a gift to the Lord for the service of the tabernacle. In the same way God said that the office of the priest was given to the family of Aaron as a gift to lead others in their worship and service of God. Here, we see that God gave gifts to those in the Old Testament so that they could serve the Lord. Today, God says that all Christians are priests of God and have been given spiritual gifts so that we can also do the service of the Lord. Those gifts are not given to make one Christian better than another. Instead, they are given so that each Christian can have a part in the work of the Lord. As a result, we are to use those gifts to help us be effective in our service for the Lord and not to boast about the gifts that the Lord has given to us.

16. Read Numbers 18:1-19 and write what God said should happen to the stranger that came close to the furniture of the tabernacle.

17. Explain why it is important today for all Christians to recognize that they are priests of God and have been given gifts to serve Him.

18. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord gives you the opportunity to serve Him and has given you spiritual gifts to help you serve Him.

God also reminded Aaron and his sons what part of the sacrifice they were to eat when they offered their sacrifices. God had reserved a part of the sacrifice as the food for the priests. The priests and their families were the only ones that were supposed to eat this food. God also reminded the people of Israel that the first fruit of the land, the first-born of each animal and the first child were also to be given to the Lord. The first-born child and the first-born of an unclean animal could both be redeemed. Here, we see that we should put the Lord first in our giving instead of giving Him what we have left over after we have given to everything else.

19. Read Numbers 18:1-19 and write what kind of a covenant God called the offering of the things that were first-born or first fruits.

20. Explain why the Lord told the people of Israel that the first-born child and the first-born of each animal were to be given to the Lord.

21. Explain why we should also want to give to the Lord first instead of waiting to give Him what we have left over.

God also told how the needs of the Levites and the priests were to be supplied. The family of Aaron and the Levites did not receive a section of land that they could call their own inheritance. Instead, the Levites were to be given cities in various parts of the land where they could carry out their service for the Lord. Since the Levites were serving the Lord and using their time for the Lord, the other people were to supply the needs of the Levites by giving the Levites a part of all that the people received from their own fields and flocks.

22. Read Numbers 18:20-32 and write how much the people of Israel were to give to the Levites.

23. Explain why God chose to supply the needs of the Levites by having the people share part of what they received from their fields.

24. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord also gives you the opportunity to help supply the needs of spiritual leaders.

From the tenth that the Levites received, the Levites were to give a tenth of what they received to the priests to provide for the needs of the priests. This was the reason that they did not need land of their own as a possession. Instead, the tithe of the people was to be given to them as a heave offering. The people were to give their tenth to the Levites as the first thing that they did when they harvested their crops. They were to give the tithe before they took any for themselves. The Levites were also to give their tithe to the priests before they used any for themselves.

25. Read Numbers 18:20-32 and write what kind of produce from their crops the people were to give.

26. Explain why the Lord told the people that they were to give their tenth to the Levites as the first thing that they did with their crops.

27. Explain why you think that it is important for each person to give to the Lord first before they do anything else with what they receive.

The people were to give of the best that they had for the Lord. The Lord also wants us to give Him our best. We can choose what we want to give to the Lord. However, our desire should be to give our best to the Lord because God gave His best for us when He gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sins. Since God gave Christ for us, we should want to give our best to the Lord because of the love in our hearts instead of feeling that we are required to give. If we give to the Lord in love, we will want to give Him our best.

28. Read Numbers 18:20-32 and write what they were not to do with the holy things of the people of Israel.

29. Explain what these verses teach about giving to the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord wants you to give Him your best and not just the things that have little or no value.

The Lord gave several instructions about sacrifices and touching dead bodies. First, we read about the offering of the red heifer (a heifer is a young cow). The people were told to offer a red heifer that had no spots or blemishes. It was also to be a heifer that had never been used for work. This heifer was to be killed outside of the camp. Then, Eleazar was to take some of the blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times before the tabernacle. This is a picture of the fact that we need to be cleansed many times from the sins that we commit day by day because we sin throughout the day.

31. Read Numbers 19:1-22 and write what the people were told to do with the heifer after they had sprinkled his blood.

32. Explain why Eleazar was to take some of the blood of the red heifer and sprinkle it seven times before the tabernacle.

33. Explain why you are thankful that you can experience cleansing throughout the day as you confess your sins to the Lord.

The heifer was to be completely burned. Then, the ashes of the heifer were to be gathered together. The heifer died once. Then, its blood was used for cleansing seven times. This was followed by the gathering of the ashes. Each of these actions gives us a picture of Christ. He died once to pay the penalty for our sin. However, His blood continues to cleanse us from our sins day by day. The work of Christ was completed on the cross but the body of Christ was raised from the dead and is alive today. We go on to read about what happened to a person that touched a dead body.

34. Read Numbers 19:1-22 and write how long a person was unclean if he touched a dead body.

35. Explain the purpose of the offering of the red heifer.

36. Explain why you are thankful that the blood of Christ will continue to cleanse us for the rest of our lives.

When a person died, it was necessary for others to take the body and bury it. However, God said that those who touched a dead body were to be unclean for seven days. On the third day the person was to purify himself. Then, on the seventh day he would be clean. Here, we see again that God was protecting His people from disease. When a person purified himself, he got rid of any germs that he might have picked up from the dead body. During the remaining days of cleansing, there was time to make certain that the person had not caught any disease that might spread to others.

37. Read Numbers 19:1-22 and write what happened to the things that were in a tent if a person died in the tent.

38. Explain why it was important for a person that touched a dead body to purify himself on the third day and the seventh day.

39. Explain why it is helpful to you to know that some of the regulations given in the law were given to protect the health of the people.

We also see that a tent and the things that were in that tent became unclean for a period of time when a person died inside that tent. For seven days the things in that tent were unclean. When a person or a tent was unclean, it was necessary for a person that was clean to come and cleanse the unclean person and the unclean tent. This is a real picture of Christ. Our sins made us unclean in the sight of God. This reminds us that it was necessary for Christ who was without sin to come and die for our sins and rise again to give us life. Only through Christ can we be made clean.

40. Read Numbers 19:1-22 and write what God said would happen to the person that failed to purify himself.

41. Explain why it was necessary when a person died in a tent to cleanse the tent and the things that were in the tent.

42. Explain why you are thankful that Christ came to cleanse you of your sin and make you clean in the sight of God.

Now, reread Numbers 17:1-19:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 9
Numbers 20:1-21:35

We have learned that the people of Israel were forced to wander in the wilderness for forty years because of their sin. Every day for forty years the people were reminded of the fact that the penalty for sin is death. In fact every day there was probably an average of close to two hundred people that died each day. It was necessary for the people to wander for forty years so that an entire generation could die. Today, we come to the end of that time of wandering. The people will now march or halt according to the instructions of the Lord. We will also learn why Moses was not allowed to enter the land that God had promised to His people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Moses was not allowed to enter the land of promise.
- Explain why Israel traveled around the land of Edom.
- Explain the purpose of the bronze serpent.
- Tell about the victories of Israel over the Amorites.

As the people wandered for forty years in the wilderness, they continued to die. Miriam, the older sister of Moses, died while the people were camped at Kadesh. As the people were traveling through the desert, they came to a place where there was no water. Again the people complained about the leadership of Moses and blamed him for the lack of water. They said that they wished that they had died with those who had been killed by God. They accused Moses of bringing them and their cattle out into the wilderness to die of thirst in the desert.

1. Read Numbers 20:1-13 and write what the people called the place where they were when they had no water.
2. Explain why the people accused Moses for being the cause of the problems every time something happened that they did not like.
3. Explain why you think that the people always blamed Moses when they lacked water or had some other problem.

The people felt that Moses had led them to a very terrible place. The desert did not have any food. In addition, the place where they were did not have any water. When Moses heard the words of the people, he began to pray to the Lord. The Lord heard the prayer of Moses and spoke to him. The Lord told Moses that He would provide water from a rock for the people. You remember that when the nation of Israel first came out of Egypt that God had provided water from a rock. That first time Moses had been told to strike the rock. That rock was a picture of Christ being struck once for all of the sins of men. As a result, Moses was not told to strike this rock.

4. Read Numbers 20:1-13 and write what Moses was told to do instead of striking the rock.
5. Explain why Moses shows us that the way to handle the complaining of others is to ask the Lord what to do.
6. Explain why you can be thankful that you know that the Lord will answer your prayer when you ask Him for wisdom or guidance.

God was going to show His great power by causing water to come out of the rock when Moses spoke to the rock. However, Moses was angry because of the complaining of the people. He called the people together in front of the rock. Instead of giving any praise to the Lord, Moses said, "Must we get you water out of this rock?" Moses made it sound like he and Aaron were going to produce water by their own efforts. This was a perfect opportunity to show the people of a new generation that God would supply their needs. Instead, Moses acted like he was

depending on his own strength to produce water instead of giving glory to God.

7. Read Numbers 20:1-13 and write what Moses did to cause water to come out of the rock.
8. Explain how the choice of words that Moses used made it look like he and Aaron were going to supply the water instead of the Lord.
9. Explain why it is important to learn to speak in such a way that the words that you speak will bring glory to God.

Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses struck the rock twice. In spite of the disobedience of Moses, God caused an abundant supply of water to come out of the rock. Many people are like Moses was that day. They feel like it does not matter how they serve the Lord. Even when they are disobedient and do things in their own way, the work of the Lord is going forward. The work of the Lord will go forward because God has determined His plan for completing His work. That was done before He even created the world. However, if we do things in our own way instead of obeying God, we will be judged for our disobedience because we do not bring glory to God. The consequence for Moses for not bringing glory to God was the fact that he was not allowed to enter the land of promise because he struck the rock instead of speaking to it.

10. Read Numbers 20:1-13 and write what name was given to the place where Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of doing things in a way that will bring glory to God instead of self.
12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to do the work of the Lord in the way that the Lord shows you to do it.

While the people were at Kadesh, Moses sent word to the king of Edom asking for permission for Israel to pass through the land of Edom. Moses had the messengers remind the king of Edom how the Lord had brought the people out of the land of Egypt. Moses said that the people of Israel wanted to travel through Edom to the land that God had promised to them. Moses promised that the people would pay for any water that they used as they traveled through the land of Edom. Moses also said that the people would not touch anything in the fields. Instead, they would stay on the highway of the king until they had reached the other side of the land of Edom.

13. Read Numbers 20:14-29 and write what the king of Edom said he would do if the people of Israel tried to pass through the land of Edom.
14. Explain why Moses chose to send messengers to the king of Edom and ask for permission to pass through the land of Edom.
15. Explain why you think that Moses said that they would even pay for the water that they used as they passed through Edom.

The king of Edom refused to listen to the messengers of Moses. He said that he would not allow Israel to pass through his land. In order to make certain that Israel did not try to pass through Edom, the king of Edom gathered a large army near the border of his land. God tells us in the book of Obadiah that this was one of the reasons why God judged the nation of Edom. As a result, the people of Israel had to make a circle around the land of Edom. When the people reached Mount Hor, God spoke and said that the time had come for Aaron to die.

16. Read Numbers 20:14-29 and write why God said that Aaron would not be allowed to enter the land of promise.
17. Explain why God later said that one of the reasons why He judged Edom was because they refused to let Israel travel through their land.
18. Explain how the king of Edom shows you what happens in the world when leaders are controlled by fear.

The disobedience of Moses and Aaron prevented Aaron from having the opportunity to see the

land that God gave to the nation of Israel. Moses, Aaron and the son of Aaron were told to go up to Mount Hor. There Moses took the clothes of the high priest off of Aaron and put them on Eleazar. After the clothes of the high priest had been put on Eleazar, Aaron died on the mountain. Here, we see that it was just one sin that kept Aaron from entering the land that God had promised to His people. God is a holy God and must judge sin whether it is one sin or many sins.

19. Read Numbers 20:14-29 and write how long the entire nation mourned for Aaron when he died.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the results of disobedience.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to obey the Lord when you read His instructions in the Word of God.

We go on to read about Arad, the king of the Canaanites, coming to fight against the nation of Israel. As he fought, he captured some prisoners. Then, the people of Israel vowed to completely destroy the cities of the Canaanites if the Lord would give them victory. The Lord heard their prayers and gave them complete victory. As the people traveled around Edom, they became very discouraged because the way was so long. Then, the people began to complain again. They complained about everything. God also heard the complaining of the people.

22. Read Numbers 21:1-20 and write what God sent among the people because of their complaining.

23. Explain why the people promised to completely destroy the Canaanites if the Lord would give them victory.

24. Explain why you think that people are much quicker to complain when they are discouraged.

We read that God sent fiery snakes among the people. These snakes were very terrible snakes. Any people that were bitten by these snakes died. There was no cure for their bite. A bite by one of those snakes meant certain death. There was no hope for a person that had been bitten. Then, the people came to Moses and admitted that they had sinned. The people asked Moses to pray that the Lord would take away the snakes. Instead, Moses was told to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole where all of the people could see it. Then, any person that was bitten by a snake was to look at this bronze snake that was on the pole.

25. Read Numbers 21:1-20 and write what God promised would happen to all those who looked at the bronze snake.

26. Explain why Moses was told to put a bronze snake on a pole so that the people could choose to look and live or choose not to look and die.

27. Explain why it is important to help people realize that they make choices in life and that those choices determine what happens to them.

In John 3:14 Christ said that He would be lifted up just like this bronze snake that was placed on a pole and lifted up in the wilderness. As a result, the snake gives us a beautiful picture of what Christ did for us. When Adam first sinned, it meant that every person after Adam faced certain death. They were nothing that any person could do to help themselves. We were without hope just like the people that had been bitten by these snakes. It was while we were without hope that God provided a cure. Christ was lifted up on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Now, all people must choose whether they want to look to Christ or choose to die in their sin.

28. Read Numbers 21:1-20 and write what happened to all of the people that were bitten and looked at the bronze snake.

29. Explain what this bronze snake teaches about what Christ did for us when He died on the cross for us.

30. Explain why you think that it is important for us to help people understand that they have the choice to trust Christ and live or they are making the choice to reject Christ and die.

God healed all the people that had been bitten by the snakes and chose to look at the bronze serpent. Then, the people traveled on toward the land that God had promised to them. The people had been complaining because of the lack of water. After the people stopped complaining, God led them to a place where the Lord said that the people would receive water. The people were filled with joy and sang a song when they found the water. Instead of complaining about the things that we do not have, this gives us an example of the importance of thanking the Lord for what He has given us. Then, our hearts will be filled with peace and joy. The Lord has given us so much that we really have no reason to complain.

31. Read Numbers 21:1-20 and write where the Lord provided the people with the well of water.

32. Explain why the people chose to respond with joy and sang a song this time when God supplied them with water.

33. Explain why you realize that it is important to help people learn to become thankful instead of complaining.

As the people continued their travel toward the land that God had promised them, they came to the land of the Amorites. Then, Moses sent messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorites, asking them for permission to travel through their land. These messengers told Sihon that they would not take anything from the fields as they traveled through the land. In fact they would take their own water so that they would not use anything that belonged to the Amorites. They would stay on the road and touch nothing. Instead of listening to the messengers of Moses, Sihon went and gathered his armies together

34. Read Numbers 21:21-35 and write what Sihon did when he came to Jahaz.

35. Explain why Sihon immediately began gathering his army when he received the request of Moses to let Israel pass through his land.

36. Explain why you think that Sihon chose to fight against Israel instead of letting them travel through his land.

Sihon was given a choice. He could have allowed the people of Israel to pass through his land and nothing would have happened to him or to the Amorites. Instead Sihon chose to fight against the people of God. As a result, he and the people of his land were completely destroyed. The land of the Amorites became a possession of the people of Israel. Here, we are reminded of the fact that it is impossible for anyone to fight against God. The Lord will always be victorious. As Christians we know that we can have victory through Christ because it is impossible for anyone to stand against Him. If Christ is for us, no one will stand against us.

37. Read Numbers 21:21-35 and write to what city Moses then sent spies to spy out the land.

38. Explain why we know that the Lord will have victory and we will enjoy that victory as we follow Him.

39. Explain why you are thankful that since God is for you that no one will be able to stand against Him.

In addition to Sihon, there were also others that thought that they could fight against the people of the Lord. One such person was Og, the king of Bashan. He brought out all of his armies to fight against Israel. Then, the Lord spoke to Moses. The Lord told Moses not to be afraid because the Lord would give him victory over Og. Here, we see that God encourages those who follow Him if they will listen to Him. The Lord also always keeps His promises. We see that the Lord gave the people of Israel victory over the people of Bashan.

40. Read Numbers 21:21-35 and write how many of the people of Bashan remained by the time the fighting was done.

41. Explain why the Lord told Moses that he did not need to be afraid of Og and the army of Bashan.

42. Explain how this passage shows that the Lord keeps His promises to those who follow Him.

Now, reread Numbers 20:1-21:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 10
Numbers 22:1-23:30

One day, the people of Israel came close to the land that God had promised to them. To reach their land, the people of Israel had to travel through the land of Moab. The king of Moab decided to ask a prophet to come and place a curse (cast an evil spell) on the people of Israel. Balak, the king of Moab, decided to ask Balaam to come and curse the people of God. Balaam was willing to go because he wanted the riches that the king of Moab offered to him. Here, we see that he was a prophet that was focused on money and not a prophet that truly followed the Lord. However, we will see that God caused Balaam to speak words of blessing instead of casting an evil spell on the people of Israel.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Balaam went to curse the people of Israel.
- Explain what happened as Balaam traveled to curse Israel.
- Explain what Balaam did instead of cursing Israel.
- Explain the prophecy of Balaam from Mount Pisgah.

In our last lesson, we learned that God gave the people of Israel complete victory over the Amorites and the people of Bashan. The king of Moab heard what Israel had done and realized that he could not fight against Israel in his own strength. Balak, the king of Moab, and his people were filled with fear as they heard about the victories of the people of Israel. In his fear, Balak decided to try another way to defeat the people of Israel. He decided to call for a medicine man who would cast an evil spell (curse) on the people Israel. Balak thought that this would be a better way to destroy the people of Israel than to try and fight against them.

1. Read Numbers 22:1-21 and write the name of the man that Balak hired to come and curse the people of Israel.
2. Explain why Balak thought that the best way to destroy Israel was to hire a person to put a curse on them.
3. Explain why you think that many people try to depend on the power of Satan to destroy others.

Balaam was a very powerful medicine man. He was known in several countries for the power of his blessings and his curses. The king of Moab was certain that a curse from Balaam would destroy the people Israel. Balak sent some of the leaders of Moab to offer Balaam a rich reward if he would come and curse the people of Israel. However, God spoke to Balaam and warned him not to go with these men. God said that the people of Israel were a people that had been blessed by Him and Balaam was not to curse them. The next morning Balaam told the messengers of Balak that he could not go with them to curse Israel.

4. Read Numbers 22:1-21 and write what these men told Balak when they returned to the land of Moab.
5. Explain why Balaam refused to go with the messengers of Balak the first time that they asked him to curse Israel.
6. Explain why there are many people in the world that depend on the power of Satan to try and place a curse on others.

Balak thought that Balaam would not come because he had not been offered enough money. As a result, Balak sent leaders that were more important and offered a much greater reward if Balaam would come and curse the people of Israel. Balaam told these men that he could not go unless God allowed him to go even if he were given a house full of silver and gold. However,

Balaam wanted the money very badly so he told the men to stay while he tried to talk God into allowing him to go. Then, God told Balaam that he could go if he would only speak the words that God told him to speak.

7. Read Numbers 22:1-21 and write what Balaam did as soon as it was morning since God had said he could go.
8. Explain why Balaam was eager to try and make a deal with God so that he could go with the messengers of Balak.
9. Explain why you think that Balaam was so eager to go with the princes of Balak even though God had said no the first time.

The Lord had given Balaam a choice. The Lord had shown Balaam first that He did not want Balaam to go. Then, God told Balaam that he could make the choice to go even though he knew that it was not the will of the Lord for him to go. Balaam chose to go even though he knew it was not the will of God for him to go. He was not a true prophet of God but had only listened to God because of fear for his life. As a result, when God said that Balaam could choose to go, he immediately went because he was controlled by his desire for money. He showed by his choice that he was not controlled by the Lord and that he did not serve the Lord. In fact his power to cast evil spells came from the devil. God was angry when He saw the decision of Balaam. The Lord decided to use the donkey of Balaam to cause Balaam to think.

10. Read Numbers 22:22-41 and write what the donkey saw in the road as they traveled.
11. Explain why Balaam chose to do the very thing that God had clearly shown was not His will.
12. Explain how the choice of Balaam shows you that people will make foolish choices when they are controlled by a desire for money.

The angel of the Lord was standing in the middle of the road with a sword in His hand. When we read about the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament, we are actually reading about an Old Testament appearance of Christ. When the donkey saw the sword, the donkey turned off the road into a field. Balaam did not see what had caused the donkey to turn into the field and so he beat the donkey to get it back on the road. The angel of the Lord then went to a place where there were walls on each side of the road. Again the donkey turned to the side. This time the foot of Balaam was smashed against the wall. In his anger, Balaam beat the donkey again. The third time the angel of the Lord stood in a place where the donkey could not pass and so the donkey lay down in the road. Then, Balaam beat the donkey a third time.

13. Read Numbers 22:22-41 and write what the donkey said to Balaam when he beat it the third time.
14. Explain why Balaam was quick to beat his donkey even though the donkey was actually protecting Balaam.
15. Explain why you think that the donkey could see the angel of the Lord but Balaam could not see the angel of the Lord.

Balaam was so angry that he did not even think of the fact that animals do not talk. Instead, Balaam answered right back. He said that he wished he had a sword so that he could kill the donkey. Then, God opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the Lord with a drawn sword in His hand. Suddenly, the anger of Balaam was turned to fear and he fell flat on his face. The Lord told Balaam that he had almost been killed three times because he was going to curse Israel even though the Lord had told him not to go. The only thing that had kept Balaam from getting killed was his donkey.

16. Read Numbers 22:22-41 and write what Balaam said to the Lord.
17. Explain why the anger of Balaam was suddenly turned to fear when he saw the angel of the Lord.
18. Explain what you learn about the power of anger when you see that Balaam was so angry that he did not even think about the fact that he was talking to a donkey.

We see that Balaam was just like Judas. Although Balaam realized that he had sinned, we see that he did not turn from his sin. We will see later that his only desire was to get the money that Balak was offering to him. God told Balaam that He would allow Balaam to go as long as Balaam spoke the words that God told him to speak instead of casting an evil spell through the power of the devil. Balaam agreed because of fear for his own life. In order to protect his own life, Balaam told Balak that he would only speak the words that God told him to speak.

19. Read Numbers 22:22-41 and write where Balak took Balaam the next day so that he could curse Israel.

20. Explain why Balaam did not turn from his sin and rebellion against God even though he nearly lost his life.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the sinful choices of Balaam.

In order to show Balaam part of the people of Israel, Balak took Balaam up on one of the high hills where the people worshiped Baal. There Balaam told Balak to prepare seven altars for sacrifices and then get the sacrifices ready. When Balak had everything ready for the sacrifices, Balaam came and offered the sacrifices. Then, Balaam told Balak to stand by the sacrifices while he went to find God and learn what God wanted him to say. Balaam had not forgotten the warning that God had given him as he had traveled toward Moab and he did not want to lose his life.

22. Read Numbers 23:1-12 and write what the Lord put in Balaam's mouth.

23. Explain why Balaam knew that it was important for him to say what God wanted said even though he did not follow God.

24. Explain why you think that Balaam was willing to offer these sacrifices even though God had told him he was not to curse Israel.

Balaam went back to tell Balak the words that God had told him to speak. Balak was waiting to hear the curse that would be spoken against the people of Israel. Balak felt that as soon as the people of Israel were cursed that it would be easy for him to win a victory over Israel. However, Balaam came back with a different message. He reminded Balak of the fact that Balak had asked him to come and curse the people of Israel. Then, Balaam said that he could not curse a nation of people that God had not cursed. To do that would be to defy God. Balaam had learned that it was dangerous to defy God.

25. Read Numbers 23:1-12 and write what Balaam said that he saw from the top of the rocks.

26. Explain why Balaam did not follow the Lord even though he had recognized that it was dangerous to defy God.

27. Explain why you think that Balaam said that he could not curse a people that God had not cursed.

Balaam recognized that the people of Israel were the people of God. Balaam knew that he would be cursing God if he cursed Israel. Instead of cursing Israel, Balaam spoke a blessing about the people of Israel. He said that he could not count the people even though he had only seen one fourth of the people of Israel. Balaam said that he hoped his final state would be as good as the final state of the people of Israel. Balak was very angry when he heard the words of Balaam. He had just heard his enemies blessed when he had asked Balaam to come and curse them. Balaam answered that he could only speak the words that God allowed him to speak.

28. Read Numbers 23:1-12 and write what Balaam answered Balak.

29. Explain why even though Balaam said that he hoped that his final state would be as good as the final state of the people of Israel that he still did not choose to follow God.

30. Explain why you think Balaam said what he did about the people of Israel.

Balak thought for a little while and then he suggested that they move to a higher mountain where they could see the entire camp of Israel. Perhaps he thought that Balaam would be more

willing to curse Israel when he saw the entire camp. Balaam was willing to go along. His desire was still to get the money. He thought that perhaps God would allow him to curse Israel the next time. The only desire of Balaam was to get what he wanted for himself. Then, they went up to the top of Mount Pisgah and built seven more altars and placed the sacrifices on them.

31. Read Numbers 23:13-30 and write what Balaam told Balak to do while he went to talk to the Lord.

32. Explain why Balaam was still hoping that the Lord would allow him to curse the people of Israel.

33. Explain what you learn from the example of Balaam about the danger of the love of money.

Balak was anxious to hear what the Lord had told Balaam to speak when Balaam came back. First, Balaam told Balak some things about God. We read that God is unchangeable. It is also impossible for God to lie. God will do the things that He has promised. God had given Balaam a command to bless the people of Israel. That was exactly what he had done. Now, there was nothing that could change what the Lord had said. It was impossible for Balaam to reverse the blessing of the Lord. Today, it is still impossible for anyone to change the blessing of the Lord.

34. Read Numbers 23:13-30 and write who Balaam said was with Israel.

35. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that God is unchangeable and that He cannot lie.

36. Explain why it is important to realize that the Lord will continue to bless those who are obedient to Him.

God had been with His people. He had brought them out of Egypt. He had protected them for forty years. God had given them victory over the enemies that came to fight against them. As a result, it was completely impossible for Balaam to cast an evil spell on Israel. Instead, the people of Israel were a real picture of the strength and power of God. Instead of cursing Israel, Balaam said that Israel would be like a great lion. It would go out to destroy its enemies. It would not lie down until those enemies had been destroyed. Balak was very unhappy. He told Balaam that if he could not curse Israel that he should not bless them either. Then Balaam said that he must speak all the words that God had given him to speak.

37. Read Numbers 23:13-30 and write what Balak suggested that they do next.

38. Explain why it is also important for us to speak all of the words that God has given to us to speak.

39. Explain why you think that Balaam had no power to cast an evil spell or pronounce a curse on the people of Israel.

Balak still thought that he could get Balaam to curse the people of Israel. As a result, Balak suggested that they go to the top of Peor so that Balaam could curse Israel from there. Balaam was still anxious to get the money that Balak was offering and so he agreed to go. This shows us who had the real control of the life of Balaam. Balaam was still serving the devil even though he spoke the words that God told him to speak. Many times today we have people who also speak some words out of the Bible even though they are serving the devil. We must be alert for such false teachers continually.

40. Read Numbers 23:13-30 and write how many altars they built at Peor.

41. Explain how the fact that Balaam let Balak build a third group of altars shows that he was a false prophet that did what he did because of his love of money.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to realize today that there are also many false teachers that are only seeking self gain.

Now, reread Numbers 22:1-23:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 11
Numbers 24:1-26:65

In our last lesson, we learned that Balak asked Balaam to come and curse the people of Israel. God showed Balaam that he would be killed if he did not speak what God wanted him to speak. Because of fear for his own life, Balaam did obey God and say what God told him to say even though he wanted to get the money that Balak was offering him. Three times God caused Balaam to speak a blessing instead. However, Balaam still wanted the reward that Balak was offering to him. As a result, Balaam suggested a different way to destroy the people of Israel. We will learn about that suggestion today. We will also learn how many men were ready to enter the land of Israel after the older generation had died.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Balaam said about the greatness of Israel.
- Explain what Balaam said about Christ.
- Explain the doctrine of Balaam.
- Tell how many men were preparing to enter the land of Israel.

We have seen the things that Balaam said at the first two places where he tried to curse the people of Israel. Now, we come to the things that Balaam said at Peor. This time Balaam did something quite different than he had done the first two times. The first two times Balaam had used enchantments (the ceremonies that a medicine man uses) before he spoke. Balaam had realized that the ceremonies did not change things. God still caused him to speak blessings for the people of Israel even though he wanted to curse Israel so that he could get the reward that was being offered by Balak. This third time Balaam did not try to use any ceremonies.

1. Read Numbers 24:1-14 and write what way Balaam looked before he started to speak.
2. Explain why religions that do not know the true God will often use enchantments as a part of their curses.
3. Explain why you think that Balaam was going to try and do something different when he spoke about Israel the third time.

As Balaam looked toward the wilderness, he saw the people of Israel. Then, the Spirit of God came on him and he started to speak. Here, we see that it is possible for God to choose to speak through any person including a person that is in rebellion against Him. This reminds us of the fact that God is in control of all things and all people. Balaam began to speak of the way that God was going to bless the people of Israel. Balaam said that the valleys of Israel would become like gardens by the side of the river. The trees that the Lord planted would grow to become great and beautiful trees because there would be plenty of water. In fact God would pour water out of His buckets onto the land of Israel.

4. Read Numbers 24:1-14 and write how great the kingdom of Israel would be.
5. Explain why God chose to speak through Balaam to speak of the way that He was going to bless the nation of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that God earlier spoke through a donkey and now chose to speak through a man that was in rebellion against Him.

Agag was one of the great kings of his time. However, God said that the people of Israel would become much greater than the kingdom of Agag. God had shown the way that He would help Israel when He brought Israel out of the land of Egypt. Now, God was going to continue to help the people of Israel. God was the One that could destroy the enemies of Israel. God would also make the nation of Israel become like a great lion. No one would be able to stand against

Israel. In fact, God promised to bless those who blessed Israel. He promised to curse those who cursed Israel. This was the reason that Balaam could not curse Israel.

7. Read Numbers 24:1-14 and write how Balak felt toward Balaam after he heard the words of Balaam.

8. Explain why God said that He would make Israel such a great nation that no one would be able to stand against it.

9. Explain why you think that God said that He would bless those who blessed Israel and curse those who cursed Israel.

Balak had hired Balaam to come and curse Israel. Instead, Balaam had blessed Israel three times. Balak had promised Balaam great riches and honor if he would curse Israel. Now, he told Balaam to go back home quickly. Balaam reminded Balak that he had to say what God had told him to say. Then, Balaam said that he would also tell about some of the things that would happen to Israel in the future. Here, we see that God was going to reveal some very important things about the future through Balaam even though he did not follow or serve the Lord.

10. Read Numbers 24:1-14 and write what Balaam told Balak that he would do before he returned to his home.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the blessing that Balaam had spoken of Israel.

12. Explain why you think that God chose to reveal some very important things about the future through a man like Balaam.

Balaam began to speak about what would happen to Israel and the surrounding nations in the future. God had given Balaam a vision of the things that would happen. Balaam said that these things would not happen right away. Instead, they were things that God had shown him about the distant future of Israel. Balaam said that one day a great Star would arise out of Jacob. This was a promise that Christ would come from the nation of Israel. It was this very promise that caused the wise men to travel for a long time and come a long distance to find Christ as recorded in Matthew 2.

13. Read Numbers 24:15-25 and write what Balaam said would arise out of Israel.

14. Explain how the Lord used the prophecy of Balaam to lead the wise men to come and search for Christ many years later.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted people even of other nations to hear the prophecy about the coming of Christ.

In addition to being the Star that would come out of Jacob, Balaam also said that Christ will be king. A scepter was the stick that a king held in his hand. It was this scepter or stick that a king used to carry out his rule. John 8:12 tells us that the first time Christ came to this earth that He came as the Light of the world. The book of Revelation tells us that the second time that Christ comes He will come to be the king of the earth. At that time He will rule for one thousand years on the earth. At that time Christ will rule over all of the surrounding nations. There is also an application for us today. Just as Christ became our light when we placed our trust in Him, now we should also make Him the ruler over our lives.

16. Read Numbers 24:15-25 and write the name of the first nation that Balaam said that Christ would judge.

17. Explain how this prophecy points to both the first and the second coming of Christ to this earth.

18. Explain why you are excited to know that Christ will some day in the future rule the entire earth for one thousand years.

Balaam said that Christ would judge the nations when He comes to rule over the earth. That judgment would begin with Moab since that is the nation that hired Balaam to come and curse Israel. Here, we see that Christ is very patient but that He will one day judge those nations that have been in rebellion against Him. When Christ comes to rule, none of the surrounding

nations will be able to stand against Christ. Instead, Christ will win a great victory over all of these nations. Christ will destroy all of the evil men that remain. Those who think that their land will offer them a place of safety will find that they have no safety.

19. Read Numbers 24:15-25 and write what Balaam did after he had spoken about the judgment that would come on the nations.

20. Explain what these verses teach about Christ.

21. Explain why it is important to know that none of the nations of the world will be able to stand against Christ when He comes to rule the earth.

We read that Balaam returned to his home after he had blessed the people of Israel instead of cursing them. However, Revelation 2:14 tells us that Balaam taught Balak how to destroy the people of God before he left to return to his home. Balaam was still interested in getting the reward for himself even though he knew that God would not allow him to curse the people of Israel. The things that Balaam taught Balak show us that Balaam was controlled by the devil and not the Lord even though Balaam did speak the words of God in order to protect his own life.

22. Read Numbers 25:1-18 and write what the men of Israel began to do with the daughters of the people of Moab.

23. Explain why Balaam shows us that sinful people can speak the words of God even when their lives are controlled by sin.

24. Explain why you think Balaam still chose to tell Balak how to destroy the people of Israel even though he was afraid to curse them.

Here, we see the doctrine of Balaam that he taught Balak before he returned to go to his own home. He taught that the people of God could be destroyed if they could be encouraged to commit immorality with the people of Moab. The people of Moab also invited the people of Israel to come and worship the idols of Moab. This was the second part of the doctrine of Balaam. He knew that idolatry (spiritual adultery) and immorality (physical adultery) would destroy any nation. Today, there are many false teachers that are teaching these same doctrines in churches. Such false doctrines will destroy any people that choose to follow them.

25. Read Numbers 25:1-18 and write what Moses was told to do with the heads of the people to stop the plague that God sent.

26. Explain why physical and spiritual immorality will destroy any nation that encourages such rebellion against God.

27. Explain why you think that there are many churches that allow these false doctrines to be taught in their churches.

The heads of the people were the leaders of each tribe. Here, we see that it was the leaders of the people that led the rest of the people in committing idolatry and immorality with the people of Moab. As a result, God said that the leaders must be judged by death. There were also many other people who got involved in these sins that were the result of the teachings of Balaam that he taught to Balak and the people of Moab. God said that the judgment of all those who were worshipping idols and committing adultery must be that they were put to death.

28. Read Numbers 25:1-18 and write what kind of a woman one of the men of Israel brought to the other men.

29. Explain what you learn about the destructive effects of the doctrine of Balaam.

30. Explain why you think that God said that all those who had participated in the idolatry and immorality were to be put to death.

We are also given a little picture of how this doctrine of Balaam had affected the people of Israel. One of the men of Israel brought a woman of Midian right into the camp of Israel. His purpose in bringing the woman into the camp of Israel was to bring the immorality right into the camp where all of the men could see it and have a part in it. God used Eleazar to judge this

man and this woman. While the man and the woman were committing their immoral sexual relationship, Eleazar came with a javelin and stuck it through them killing both the man and the woman.

31. Read Numbers 25:1-18 and write how many people died from the plague that God sent to judge the people for their immorality and idol worship.

32. Explain why God chose to judge this public display of immorality with immediate death for both the man and the woman.

33. Explain why this shows you that God considers the public display of immorality a very serious sin that must be judged.

We see that a large number of the people of Israel had become involved in the immorality and idol worship very quickly. God also tells us a little more about these two that committed immorality right in the middle of the camp. The man was one of the leaders of the tribe of Simeon. The woman was the daughter of one of the leaders of the Midianites. This terrible sin was being carried on by the leaders of the people and many of the other people quickly began to follow the sins of the leaders. This is certainly one of the reasons that the New Testament requires that the men who are the leaders in the church must have high moral standards.

34. Read Numbers 25:1-18 and write what Moses was told to do to the Midianites because of this sin.

35. Explain what caused so many of the people of Israel to quickly get involved in the sins of the surrounding nations.

36. Explain why the quickness of the people to follow a leader into sin helps you to understand why God requires high moral standards for spiritual leaders.

The people of the nation of Midian as well as the people of Moab were also judged for their sin. Now, the people of Israel were ready to enter the land that God had promised to them. They had wandered for forty years in the wilderness while the older generation had died because of their sin of unbelief. Now, a new generation was ready to enter the land. We see that there were 1820 less men at this point than there had been when the people had come out of Egypt forty years earlier. This is a picture of the results of sin. God could not bless the people while they were living in rebellion. The nation had grown very rapidly while the people were in Egypt. However, it had actually become a little smaller in the wilderness because the people lived in rebellion against God.

37. Read Numbers 26:1-65 and write how many men there were in the tribe of Levi when the people of Israel prepared to enter the land.

38. Explain what you learn about the results of disobedience and rebellion from these verses.

39. Explain why you think God chose to number the men both when Israel came out of Egypt and again when they were ready to enter the Promised Land.

We are also reminded a little more about the results of sin in the final few verses where the results of sin are compared with the results of doing right. God had said that none of the adults could enter the land because of their sin. They had to wander for forty years while the older generation died. However, there were two men that had put their trust in God and had not rebelled. God said that those two men would have the privilege of entering the land. They would be allowed to enjoy the blessings of God because they had been obedient.

40. Read Numbers 26:57-64 and write the names of these men.

41. Explain why the Lord gave Joshua and Caleb a special privilege because of their faithfulness and trust in the Lord.

42. Explain why you are thankful that you know that you will also enjoy the blessing of the Lord as you are faithful and obedient to Him.

Now, reread Numbers 24:1-26:65 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 12
Numbers 27:1-29:40

It was almost time for the people of Israel to enter the land that God had promised to them many years before. However, the generation that had received the law of God in the desert had died. As a result, it was necessary to teach the law to the new generation before that generation entered into the land that God had promised to them. We will see that most of the law will be reviewed in the book of Deuteronomy so that the new generation would know the laws that God had given to them. Today, though, we will study some of the instructions about the sacrifices. These were to remind the people of Israel about the offerings that they were to offer to the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Moses could not enter the land that God promised to Israel.
- Explain what you learn about the daily offerings.
- Explain what you learn about the yearly offerings.

One day, the five daughters of Zelophehad came to speak to Moses. They were concerned because their father had died while the people were wandering in the wilderness. This meant that there would be no one to receive the family inheritance because they did not have any brothers. During that time the women of the surrounding nations did not have the right to hold land. As a result, the daughters asked if the law of Israel would be different for Israel in the land that God had promised to Israel. They wanted to know if the land that would have been given to their father could be given to them instead.

1. Read Numbers 27:1-23 and write what Moses did when he heard the request of the daughters of Zelophehad.
2. Explain why it was important for these daughters to find out if they could receive the land of the family inheritance since the surrounding nations did not have such rights.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for the entire nation of Israel to have this question answered before they entered the land God had promised to them.

Moses knew the right way to find the answer to the question of the five daughters. He asked the Lord to show him the answer. We see that God also had a concern for the rights of women. Because of the instructions of the Lord, Israel gave women the legal right to hold land hundreds of years before the other nations. God said that a daughter could receive the inheritance if a man did not have any sons. If a man did not have any daughters or sons, then the inheritance went to his brothers, his uncles or whatever relative was the next closest to the man. In this way the land always remained in the family to which God gave the land. God said that the land that was given to a family was to be a permanent possession of that family.

4. Read Numbers 27:1-23 and write why Moses was told to go up into Mount Abarim.
5. Explain why it was important for Moses to seek his answer from the Lord instead of just giving his own opinion.
6. Explain why you are thankful that God protected the rights of the women hundreds of years before any other nations did so.

Moses was given the privilege of seeing the land that God had promised to the nation of Israel. However, Moses was not allowed to enter that land. The reason Moses could not enter the land was due to his sin when he failed to glorify God. God had told him to speak to the rock and God would provide water. Instead, because Moses was angry with the people, he struck the rock twice and failed to bring glory to God. Because of that one act of disobedience of Moses, God had said that he was not allowed to enter the land. This reminds us again of the terrible

results of rebellion. It only took that one sin to keep Moses out of the land of promise.

7. Read Numbers 27:1-23 and write who the Lord said would take the place of Moses and lead the people into the land.

8. Explain why anger toward other people will often cause us to do things in our own way instead of doing things in a way that will bring glory to God.

9. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to ask the Lord to give you strength to let go of your anger so that your life can bring glory to God.

The Lord chose Joshua to take the place of Moses and lead the people into the Promised Land. The Lord knew that Joshua would be able to lead the people. For forty years the Lord had been training Joshua to take the place of Moses as he had helped Moses and observed what Moses did. In addition, we read that he had the Holy Spirit in him. The Lord also told Moses to have a dedication service for Joshua before Moses died. In this way the people would recognize him as the leader after Moses died. We also see that one of the ways that God trains leaders is to have them work with other leaders so that they learn what to do when they become the leader.

10. Read Numbers 27:1-23 and write what Moses did to recognize Joshua as the new leader in front of all of the people.

11. Explain how the Lord had prepared Joshua to take the place of Moses so that the people had a leader to lead them into the land.

12. Explain why you think that God showed that the Biblical way to train leaders is by example and not just by telling people what to do.

The Lord also reviewed some of the instructions that he had given about the various offerings that the people of Israel were to offer to the Lord. First, God spoke about the continual burnt offering. Each day the people were to offer two lambs. One lamb was to be offered in the morning and the other in the evening. This offering was a sweet smell to God. The priests were to offer a drink offering with the sacrifice in the morning. Then, they were to offer a meal offering with the sacrifice in the evening. In addition to the daily offering, the people were also to offer a special offering to the Lord on the Sabbath day.

13. Read Numbers 28:1-31 and write what they were to offer on the Sabbath as a blood sacrifice.

14. Explain why the priests were to offer a sacrifice every morning and every evening as a burnt offering to the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that God said that this daily offering in the morning and the evening were a sweet smell to God.

The first day of each month was also a day when the priests were to offer special sacrifices. This special sacrifice included two young oxen, one ram and seven lambs. All of these animals were to be physically perfect and not have any spots or blemishes. In addition to the animals, there was also a special meal offering and a special drink offering at the first of each month. One goat was also to be offered as a special sin offering for the people along with these other sacrifices. Here, we see that God wanted the people to be reminded of the need for sin to be covered.

16. Read Numbers 28:1-31 and write what the nation of Israel observed on the fourteenth day of the first month.

17. Explain why it was important that these sacrifices did not have any spots or blemishes on them.

18. Explain why you think that it was important to offer a goat as a sin offering along with the other sacrifices on the first day of each month.

The Passover was a very important day in the Jewish year because it was the day when Israel remembered how the death angel had passed over their homes when he had killed the oldest child in every home of the Egyptians. The Passover was followed by the Feast of Unleavened

Bread when the people ate bread that had no yeast in it for seven days. The people were not to work on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened bread. There was also a special offering on that day that included two young oxen and seven lambs. On that day the people also offered a goat for a special sin offering. Throughout the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the people were to offer the same special offerings.

19. Read Numbers 28:1-31 and write what the people were to do on the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

20. Explain why God said that it was important for the people of Israel to observe the Passover every year throughout their generations.

21. Explain why you think that God told the people of Israel to offer these various special offerings.

The Lord also gave the people special instructions about the day of first fruits. That day was also to be a special day when the people were not to do any work. Instead, this was to be another day that was to be completely dedicated to the Lord. As a result, the people were also to bring special offerings on this day. These offerings included meal and drink offerings as well as the animal sacrifices. The special offering on this day included two young oxen, a ram and seven lambs. It also included a young goat that was to be offered as an atonement (sin offering) for the people.

22. Read Numbers 29:1-11 and write what special day was held on the first day of the seventh month.

23. Explain why the people of Israel were told to have several days throughout the year that were to be completely dedicated to the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to set aside special times that you can dedicate fully to the Lord.

On the first day of the seventh month the people of Israel were to observe the Feast of Trumpets with the blowing of trumpets. The people were not to work on the day of the Feast of Trumpets. Instead, this was to be another day that was set aside to worship the Lord. On this day the people were to offer one young ox, one ram, seven lambs and a young goat. The goat was to be a sin offering. There was also to be a meal offering on that day. Because this was the first day of the month, there was also the regular monthly offering on this day in addition to the special offering. Of course there was also the daily offering that was offered each morning and each evening. God said that all of these offerings were a sweet smell to Him.

25. Read Numbers 29:1-11 and write the date of the next special day after the Feast of Trumpets.

26. Explain why all of the offerings on the day of the Feast of Trumpets were a sweet smell to the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that it was important for the people to offer a sin offering each time that they had a special feast day.

Just like the other days, God said that the tenth day of the seventh month was to be a holy convocation. This meant that it was a special day to worship the Lord and forget about the regular activities. Instead of working, the people were to spend their time remembering the Lord. This was what the people were to do on each of the days that are called holy convocations. There were also special offerings for this day. These offerings included one young ox, one ram and seven lambs. Like the other special days, the people were also to offer a young goat as a sin offering.

28. Read Numbers 29:1-11 and write what the people were to do with their souls on this day.

29. Explain why it is important to have special times when Christians today can gather together to worship the Lord.

30. Explain the meaning of a holy convocation in your own words.

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, the people were to begin a feast that lasted for an entire week. On the first day of this feast, the people were not to do any work. Instead, that day was to be a day that was set apart for the Lord. Since this was a feast that was to last for seven days there were to be special sacrifices offered each of the seven days. These sacrifices were to be burnt offerings that would be a sweet smell to the Lord. This is a reminder that the sacrifices on the feast days were a part of the worship of the people and were pleasing to the Lord.

31. Read Numbers 29:12-40 and write what kind of animals the people were to offer as a sacrifice on the first day of this feast.

32. Explain why true worship of the Lord will always be pleasing to the Lord and false worship will not be pleasing to Him.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord gave so much detail about what was to be offered as sacrifices on each of the days of this feast.

On each of the seven days of this feast the people were to offer two rams and fourteen lambs as a sacrifice to the Lord. They were also to offer one goat as a sin offering each day. However, the number of young bulls that were offered changed each day. Each day there was one less bull than the previous day. The first day there were thirteen bulls. By the seventh day this number had decreased to seven bulls. Each day there were also meal offerings and drink offers that were offered with the sacrifices. Here, we see that the people offered a large number of animals to the Lord during the seven days of this annual feast.

34. Read Numbers 29:12-40 and write what the people were to have on the eighth day.

35. Explain why the Lord had some feasts that would last an entire week instead of just one day.

36. Explain why you think the Lord changed the number of bulls that were to be offered on each of the days of this feast.

On the eighth day the people were to gather together for a special meeting. As a result, the people were not to do any work on that day. As on the other special days, the people were to offer special offerings. However, these sacrifices were different than those offered on the first seven days. Here, we see that God had certain requirements for each of the special days. The people were to follow the requirements of God and not make their own ways of celebrating these days. Today, the Word of God is still the book that tells us how to serve the Lord. It should be our desire to be obedient to the Lord because of all that He has done for us.

37. Read Numbers 29:12-40 and write what Moses said the people of Israel were to have on the eighth day.

38. Explain why the people were to follow the requirements of God on these feast days and not their own ideas.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be obedient to the Lord in the way that you serve the Lord.

When the Lord had completed all of the instructions about the various feasts, He reminded the people that these feasts were to be in addition to the required sacrifices. They were also to be in addition to the offerings that the people gave because of the vows that they had made. They were to be in addition to any freewill offerings that the people gave to the Lord. These days were all to be special days of worship and not part of the regular worship of the people of Israel. Here, we see that the people were to be reminded throughout the year that they were to serve the Lord and remember Him.

40. Read Numbers 29:12-40 and write what Moses told the people after God gave these commandments about the feasts.

41. Explain why the sacrifices that were offered on the feast days were to be in addition to the regular sacrifices that the people offered.

42. Explain some of the things that you do through the year as special things to remind you to serve the Lord and remember Him.

Now, reread Numbers 27:1-29:40 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 13
Numbers 30:1-31:54

Many people make a promise to do something and then forget about their promise. Today, we will be learning what God said to the people of Israel about promises. We will see that it is very important to keep any promise that is made. This is why it is also important for us to be careful not to make any promises that we are not certain that we can keep. We will also learn what God said about judgment for the Midianites. As you remember from our study of Numbers 25, the Midianites were involved with Moab in the plan to get Israel to worship idols and commit immorality. Because of their sin, God said that the Midianites must be judged.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the vows of a young girl.
- Explain what God said about the vows of a woman.
- Explain why God said that the Midianites must be judged.
- Explain what the people did with the things that had belonged to the Midianites.

The Lord knew that it was very easy for the people of Israel to make a vow (promise) and then not keep that promise. That is something that is still true today. As a result, God reminded the people that a promise is important and must be kept. God began by speaking about the vow of a man. God said that when a man had sworn an oath to keep a vow that he could not break his word. God said that he must keep his vow. This was true even though the man may not have meant vow that he had made. Whatever a man said, he was to complete his word exactly as he had promised in his vow. He could not change his words later but had to keep the vow that he had made.

1. Read Numbers 30:1-5 and write what God said a man should do when he had made a vow.
2. Explain why God saw that it is important for people to keep every promise or vow that they make.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to become known as a person that keeps the promises that you make.

A man could not change his word. This was also true of a woman. When a young woman made a vow, she was to keep her promise. It was possible that a young woman might make a vow while her father was listening. If her father did not say anything, then that young woman was required to keep her promise. She was not to break her word. If she tried to break her word, her vow would be held against her. She had bound herself by her promise and nothing could break that promise. There was only one way that the promise of a young woman would not stand.

4. Read Numbers 30:1-5 and write the one way that the promise of a young woman could be broken.
5. Explain why God said that a person is bound by any promises that the person makes and it not to break that promise.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to realize that the way you keep any promises is a reflection on your character.

The one possible way that the vow of a young woman could be broken was if her father disallowed or broke her vow the day that he heard her. Here, we see the responsibility of a father. It was necessary for him to know what was good for his daughter. If a father realized his daughter had made a vow that was not good or that she could not keep, the father could break the vow on the day that he heard it. However, if the father did not break the vow on the

day that he heard it, the father could not break that vow at a later time. The Lord promised to recognize the responsibility of a father by forgiving the young girl whose vow had been broken by her father.

7. Read Numbers 30:1-16 and write who had this responsibility if a woman was married to a husband.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the vow of a young woman that still lived with her father.

9. Explain why you think that God gave a father the right to disallow a vow made by a daughter on the day that she made the vow.

God went on to talk about a married woman that made a vow. A married woman was also bound by her vow. There was only one way that a married woman could have her vow broken. Her vow could be broken by her husband if he broke that vow on the day that he heard the vow. If the husband heard her vow, then it was his responsibility to break that vow that same day if he did not agree with the vow. If the husband did not break the vow of his wife on the day that he heard her make the vow, that vow must stand and could not be broken. Here, we see that God views the making of vows very seriously. It is not something that should be done casually.

10. Read Numbers 30:6-16 and write what God said about the vow of a widow or a woman that was divorced.

11. Explain why God allowed a husband to disallow or break the vow of a wife only on the day that he heard her make that vow.

12. Explain why you think that God allowed a husband to break the vow that his wife made as long as he did it that same day.

A widow or a woman that was divorced had no man in the house that could disallow or break her vow on the day that she made her vow. As a result, God said that the vow of such a woman must stand. It could not be broken. This was a warning to the women that did not have a husband to be very careful about the promises that they made. Once they had made a promise, there was no way that their promise could be broken. They were required to fulfill the promises of that vow. Today, we also need to make certain that we keep any promises that we make. We need to realize that God wants us to be people of our word that will keep any promises that we make.

13. Read Numbers 30:6-16 and write what the Lord promised to do if the husband disallowed the vow of his wife.

14. Explain why God wants people to keep any vows or promises that they make and not to forget and break them.

15. Explain why you think that it is important to consider a decision carefully and fully to understand all of the results before you make a vow or promise.

Here, we have a little picture of the responsibility that a man has when he becomes the head of a home. He has a responsibility to guide the decisions of his wife and his family so that they do not make the wrong decisions. One of the ways that a man helps his family to make the right decisions is to teach them the Word of God so that they will make their decisions according to the Word of God and not base their decisions on their own feelings. God also warned what will happen if a man waited for several weeks to break the vow of his wife instead of breaking that vow the very same day that he heard the vow.

16. Read Numbers 30:6-16 and write what God said about a man that waited several weeks to break the vow of his wife.

17. Explain why it is important for a family to get to really know the Word of God so that they can base all of their decisions and promises on the Word of God.

18. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to base your decisions on the Word of God instead of your feelings.

A man had to disallow the vow of his wife on the day that he heard her vow. If the man waited until later to disallow the vow, then he was guilty of sin. The reason that a man could break the vow of a wife was due to the fact that men and women make decisions in different ways. A man will usually make decisions on the basis of certain facts. A woman will often make decisions on the basis of her present feelings. This is the reason why a salesman will try to talk and bargain with a woman instead of her husband if possible. The salesman knows that it is much easier to get a woman to make a decision on the basis of her feelings.

19. Read Numbers 30:6-16 and write the choice that a father or husband had if a woman made a vow to afflict her soul.

20. Explain why it is important for couples to realize that they make their decisions in different ways so that they can avoid conflict.

21. Explain why you think that husbands and wives should learn to make decisions together so that they can avoid many conflicts.

The Lord told Moses that he was to do one more thing before he died. God said that Moses was to lead the army of Israel against the Midianites to judge them for enticing Israel to commit immorality and worship idols. Then, God told Moses to take one thousand men from each tribe to go and fight against the people of Midian. Here, we see that God could not allow the sin of the Midianites to go unpunished. Sin must always be judged. Eleazar, the priest, also went with the men of war when they went to fight against the Midianites.

22. Read Numbers 31:1-24 and write who the men of Israel killed while they were fighting against the Midianites.

23. Explain why God wanted the Midianites to be judged for their sin of trying to get Israel to commit immorality and worship idols.

24. Explain why it is important for you to recognize that God is a holy God and must judge sin.

The men of Midian had decided to join with the people of Moab to destroy the people of Israel through immorality and idol worship. Here, we see the impact of the sinful recommendation of Balaam. It had caused two different nations to work together to try and destroy Israel through immorality and idol worship. As a result, God said that all of the men of Midian were to be killed. The cities and the camps of the Midianites were also destroyed with fire so that none of their cities remained. As the Israelites were destroying the cities of the Midianites, the men of Israel captured the possessions and the cattle of the people of Midian.

25. Read Numbers 31:1-24 and write what the men of Israel did with the women of Midian.

26. Explain how the recommendation of Balaam to try and get God to destroy Israel affected Israel, Moab and Midian.

27. Explain why it is important for you to understand why God said that the people of Midian must be judged.

Instead of killing the women and children of the Midianites, the men of Israel took them as captives. Moses was angry when he heard that the army of Israel had not destroyed the women of Midian. It was part of the women of Midian that had enticed the men of Israel to commit immorality with them. If these women were allowed to live, they would soon have been enticing the men of Israel to commit immorality again. As a result, God said that these women must die. The male children of the Midianites were also to be put to death along with any of the young women that had been involved in sexual relationships with a man.

28. Read Numbers 31:1-24 and write how long the soldiers that had killed any person were to stay outside the camp to purify them.

29. Explain in your own words why God said that it was necessary for the women of Midian to be killed.

30. Explain why you think that Moses was angry when he heard that the men had not killed the women of Midian.

God also gave instructions about the men that had fought for Israel against the Midianites. If a soldier had killed any person or had touched the body of a person that had been killed, that soldier was to remain outside the camp of Israel for seven days. On the third day these men were to purify themselves and their captives so that they would be able to come back into the camp on the seventh day. These men were also to purify all of the possessions that they had captured from the Midianites. Then, on the seventh day these men were to wash their clothes.

31. Read Numbers 31:1-24 and write what these men were allowed to do after they were cleansed.

32. Explain why it was necessary for any of the men of Israel that had killed anyone to have a seven day period of purification before coming back into the camp of Israel.

33. Explain why you think that it was also important to purify all of the possessions of Midian before they were brought into the camp.

The Lord also told what was to be done with the possessions that the men of Israel had captured from the Midianites. The possessions were to be divided into two equal parts. One part was to be given to the men of Israel that had fought against Midian. The other part was to be divided between the remainder of the people of Israel. The men that had fought were to give one part out of every five hundred to the priests. The rest of the people were to give one part out of every fifty parts to the Levites. In this way the Lord provided for the people that served in the tabernacle as well as for the rest of the people.

34. Read Numbers 31:25-54 and write how many sheep the army of Israel captured from the Midianites.

35. Explain why the men that had gone to fight against Midian were given half of the possessions that were captured.

36. Explain why you think that God had both the men of war and the rest of the people participate in giving to the priests and Levites.

We see that the Midianites had large flocks of sheep, oxen and donkeys. In addition, there were also 32,000 young women and girls of the Midianites that had not had any sexual relationships with a man. These women became the servants of the people of Israel. The sheep and the cattle were also divided among the people just as God had commanded. The part that God had said should be given to the priests and Levites was given to them exactly as God had said. Here, we see that Israel was obedient and did all of the things that God had commanded in order to judge the Midianites for their attempts to destroy Israel through sin.

37. Read Numbers 31:25-54 and write how many of the soldiers of Israel were killed in the battle against the Midianites.

38. Explain why the people of Israel give a good example by their obedience to the Lord in sharing the things captured from the Midianites.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

The men that were the leaders of the army of Israel counted their soldiers. They found that not a single one of their men had been killed in the battle with the Midianites. As a result, these men had gathered together an offering for the Lord. Here, we see that they were expressing their thanks to the Lord for the fact that he watched over them and protected them from death. This offering for the Lord included much of the jewelry and pieces of gold that the men of Israel had captured from the Midianites. These Moses and Eleazar took the offering of these men and brought it into the tabernacle.

40. Read Numbers 31:25-54 and write what this offering that was placed in the tabernacle was called.

41. Explain why the men that had fought against Midian wanted to give a large offering to the Lord in thankfulness for protecting them.

42. Explain why you enjoy expressing your thanks to the Lord for what He has done for you by your gifts to Him.

Now, reread Numbers 30:1-31:54 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 14
Numbers 32:1-33:56

Since Israel had defeated several of the nations that lived on the east side of the Jordan River, part of the tribes decided to settle on the east side of the river. Moses agreed to allow those tribes to settle on the east side of the river if the people would do certain things. We will learn what these tribes were told to do if they wanted to remain on the east side of the river. Since the people were almost ready to enter the land that God had promised to them, Moses gave the people a review of the way that the Lord had led Israel as they had traveled from Egypt through the desert. Moses helped the people understand how God had brought them to the place where they were now located.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why part of the tribes chose to remain on the east side of the Jordan River.
- Explain what the tribes staying on the east side of the river were told to do.
- Explain the summary of the travels of Israel from Egypt to the land of promise.
- Explain what the people were to do when they entered the land.

As we have studied the past few lessons, we have learned how the Lord gave victory to the armies of Israel over the armies of several nations on the east side of the Jordan River. Then, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and part of the tribe of Manasseh began to look at the land that they had just conquered. That land had lots of beautiful fields where cattle could be fed. These tribes were tribes that had many cattle. As a result, the people of these tribes began to think it would be wonderful to stay right in the land where they were presently located instead of going into the land that God had promised to the people of Israel. These people went and told the leaders of Israel that the land that they had just conquered was a good land for cattle.

1. Read Numbers 32:1-19 and write what these men said that they had.
2. Explain why these two and a half tribes decided to make their choice based on what they saw instead of remembering the promise of God.
3. Explain why you think that it is common for followers of the Lord to make decisions based on what they see instead of making decisions based on the promises of God

Moses told the people of these tribes that they would discourage the rest of the people of Israel if they did not help them fight for the land that God had promised to them. Moses reminded these people that the first rebellion in the wilderness had caused an entire generation to die. Joshua and Caleb were the only two men that did not die. Moses told these men that their tribes were now rebelling in the same way. They were endangering the lives of all of the people by their rebellion. If necessary, God could destroy another generation in the wilderness.

4. Read Numbers 32:1-19 and write what these men promised to do if Moses would allow them to come back to the land that they had already possessed.
5. Explain why Moses warned the people of the two and a half tribes that they were actually making the same decision that the people had made forty years earlier.
6. Explain why you think that it was necessary for Moses to warn the people about the danger of rebellion.

We see that these men said that they would go with the army of Israel to help the rest of the nation of Israel capture the land that God had promised to give to the nation of Israel. They would help the people fight until the armies of Israel were completely victorious. They would not fail to do their part to help the other tribes gain their inheritance. Only after they had helped the other tribes win a complete victory would they return to the land on the east side of the

Jordan River. Here, we see that they wanted Moses to realize that they were not rebelling.

7. Read Numbers 32:1-19 and write where these men said that their inheritance had fallen to them.
8. Explain why Moses was satisfied when the men of the two and a half tribes said that they would cross the river and help the other tribes gain their inheritance.
9. Explain why you think that it was important for Moses to know that the two and a half tribes would help the others gain the land of promise.

Actually we see that these two and a half tribes were making a choice. They were looking at what they saw instead of waiting to see what the Lord had for them in the Promised Land. As a result, they give us a real picture of a carnal Christian. They claimed that their inheritance had fallen to them on the east side of the river. However, we see that they made the choice to receive their inheritance outside the boundaries of the land that God had promised to the nation of Israel. They did enter into the land of promise but they chose to live out of that land in a land that looked good to their eyes. A carnal Christian is one that had placed his trust in Christ. However, he continues to live in the old way so that it is hard to tell if that person is even a Christian.

10. Read Numbers 32:1-19 and write what these men said they would do before they crossed the river to fight with the rest of the army of Israel.
11. Explain how these two and a half tribes give us a picture of the choices of a carnal Christian.
12. Explain why you think that there are carnal Christians that make choices to live with few changes in their lives even though they have placed their trust in Christ.

Moses agreed to allow the people of the two and a half tribes to remain on the east side of the Jordan River if their armies would go and help the other tribes gain their inheritance in the land that God had promised to them. We also need to remember that we cannot force a carnal Christian to begin living for the Lord. He must make his own choice. Moses said that the men would not be destroyed if they helped the other tribes gain the land that God had promised to them. However, God said that they would be guilty if they did not help the other tribes gain their land.

13. Read Numbers 32:20-42 and write what God said about their sin if they failed to help the other tribes.
14. Explain why Christians today must be helped to realize that they are making choices in their lives and that they will miss the blessing of God if they make choices based on their own desires.
15. Explain why you think that Christians must make their choice to grow in the Lord and live for Him and that we cannot force them to make that choice.

Throughout history people have thought that they could cover their sins. People have thought that no one would know that they had done wrong. Today, people still think that they can hide their sins. However, God says here that no one can hide his sins. Those sins will all be revealed one day. When the men of the two and a half tribes heard the word of the Lord, they promised that they would do as the Lord had commanded and not commit sin. They would leave their wives and their children on the east side of the Jordan River. However, all of the men of war would cross the Jordan and help the other tribes fight to gain their inheritance.

16. Read Numbers 32:20-42 and write what Moses promised the men if they would help the other tribes fight.
17. Explain why the words of Moses helped the men of the two and a half tribes make the choice to help the other tribes gain the land across the river.
18. Explain why you think that explaining the Word of God to others and helping them to see their choices will often help them to make wiser choices.

The two and a half tribes were promised the land that they wanted if they would help the other tribes fight for the rest of the land. They were warned that they would not get that land as a possession if they failed to fight with the other tribes. Then, the men of Reuben, Gad and the part of the tribe of Manasseh said that they would go and fight with their brothers of the other tribes. They would not return to their own land until they had helped the other tribes gain the land of promise.

19. Read Numbers 32:20-42 and write what the men of these tribes did before they crossed the Jordan River.

20. Explain why the men of the two and a half tribes said that they would not return to their land until they had helped the other tribes gain their inheritance.

21. Explain verse 23 in your own words.

Before the men of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh prepared to go with the rest of the tribes of Israel, they built corrals in which to keep their cattle and sheep. In this way they did not need to be concerned about the safety of their sheep and cattle. Instead, they could use all of their time and energy to fight against the nations that were living in the land of promise. Before the people entered the land, Moses also gave a review of all of the places where the people of Israel and stopped as they traveled from Egypt to the land of promise.

22. Now, read Numbers 33:1-49 and write what the Egyptians did on the day that the people of Israel went out of Egypt.

23. Explain why the other tribes waited while the two and a half tribes built corrals for their cattle before any of the people entered the land of promise.

24. Explain why you think that Moses took time to review the travels of Israel over the previous forty years before they prepared to enter the land of promise.

When the people of Israel went out of Egypt, it was a day of victory for the people of Israel but it was a day of sadness for the Egyptians. In this chapter we read some of the important events as the people of Israel traveled toward the land of promise. At Elim the people found a wonderful supply of water even though they were in the desert. That was a day of great joy because the people had found bitter water at the previous place where they had stopped. We are then given a list of cities by which they passed before they came to Mount Hor.

25. Read Numbers 33:1-49 and write what happened at Mount Hor.

26. Explain why Moses said that the day that Israel left Egypt was a day of joy for Israel but a day of sadness for the Egyptians.

27. Explain why you think that Moses reminded the people about their response when they found a wonderful supply of water at Elim.

Aaron was the high priest for almost the entire forty years that the people of Israel traveled through the desert. Near the end of the time of wandering, the people reached Mount Hor. There Aaron died at the age of 123. From this we see that Aaron was three years older than Moses. As you remember, Aaron was not allowed to enter the land because of his sin when he and Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock. Again we are reminded of the importance of obedience to the commandments of the Lord and not doing things in our own strength.

28. Read Numbers 33:1-49 and write what city was nearby when the people of Israel camped on the plains of Moab.

29. Explain why you think that God gave Israel a summary of all of the places where Israel had camped as they traveled from Egypt to the land that God had promised.

30. Explain why you think it is important to learn from the lessons of the past as you move toward the future.

As the people were ready to enter the land, God reminded them again of what they were to do as they entered the land. We read where the people were gathered when the Lord spoke to

them. They were gathered near the Jordan River. The place where they were gathered was just across the river from the city of Jericho. We will see that the city of Jericho was the first city that the people of Israel destroyed after they crossed the Jordan River. This was the reason why God told the people what they were to do after they crossed the Jordan River and entered the land of Canaan.

31. Read Numbers 33:50-56 and write what the people of Israel were told to do to the inhabitants of the land.

32. Explain why it was important to review the past as Israel prepared to conquer the city of Jericho.

33. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to remember the past blessings of the Lord.

God said that the army of Israel was to destroy all of the people that lived in the land that God had promised to Israel. They were not to allow any of the people to remain in the land. While the armies of Israel were destroying the people of the land, they were also to destroy the gods of the people. They were to destroy the stone idols and the melted images. They were also to destroy the places that the people of Canaan had built for worshiping their gods. Nothing was to be left that might cause the people of Israel to begin worshiping false gods.

34. Read Numbers 33:50-56 and write how God told the people of Israel that they were to divide the land.

35. Explain why God said that the people of Israel were to destroy both the people and the gods of the people when they entered the land of promise.

36. Explain why you think that idols left in the land would be a temptation to the people of Israel to worship those idols.

God promised the people of Israel that He would give them the land as they moved into the land. All they had to do was follow His command to drive out the people that lived in the land. Here, we see that the basic requirement was obedience to the Lord. After the people conquered the land, the people were told to divide the land by lot. The families that were larger were to receive a larger amount of land. Those families that were not as large were to receive a smaller amount of land. Then, every man was to receive the inheritance that God had given to him.

37. Read Numbers 33:50-56 and write the warning that God gave about what would happen if they did not drive out the people of the land.

38. Explain what these verses teach that the people were to do when they entered the land that God had promised to them.

39. Explain why you think that God said the larger families and tribes were to receive a larger portion of land.

God also gave a warning to the people of Israel. God told them what would happen if the people failed to drive out the inhabitants of the land. God said that the people in the land would cause much trouble for the people of Israel if Israel failed to drive out the people that were then living in the land. The people of the nations in the land would be like thorns when they get stuck against your side. They would continue to bother Israel and it would seem like there was no way to get rid of them. If the people did remain in the land, Israel would have no peace and would be tempted to join in the sins of those people.

40. Read Numbers 33:50-56 and write what God said He would do to the people of Israel if they failed to drive out the inhabitants of the land.

41. Explain why God said that the people of the land would be like thorns in the side of Israel if Israel failed to drive them out of the land.

42. Explain why you think that God said that Israel would be tempted to join in the sins of the people of the land if they did not drive them out of the land.

Now, reread Numbers 32:1-33:56 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Numbers
Lesson 15
Numbers 34:1-36:13

Today, we will be studying our final lesson on the book of Numbers. The people of Israel had reached the place where they were almost ready to enter the land that God had promised to give to them. As a result, the people had to know certain things before they entered the land. We will learn about some of those things in our study today. We will learn the instructions that God gave the people about how to divide the land. Then, we will learn what God said about the cities of refuge that they were to establish when they had gained control of the land. Finally, we will learn what God said about those who would inherit the land.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain about the preparations to enter the land of promise.
- Explain what God said about the cities of refuge.
- Explain what God said about those who fled to the cities of refuge.
- Explain what God said about inheritances.

Before the people of Israel entered the land, the Lord told Moses what the boundaries of the land would be. As we study these boundaries, we see that the south border of the land was to go from the bottom of the Dead Sea across the edge of the desert to the River of Egypt. On the west side of the land, the boundary was the Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea). The north boundary was north of the Sea of Galilee (Sea of Chinneroth). Then, the Jordan River was the east boundary. As you can see, the tribes that were on the east side of the Jordan River were not in the land that God had originally promised to the people of Israel.

1. Read Numbers 34:1-29 and write how each tribe was to receive its land within these boundaries.
2. Explain why the land where the two and a half tribes settled was not a part of the land that was promised to Israel.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for the people to know what land God had promised to them.

Instead of having each tribe choose what they wanted, God said that the land should be divided by lot. This prevented any fighting between two families that both wanted the same land for a possession. It also helped the people to realize that all of the land belonged to God. God gave the people the responsibility of caring for the land because they were His servants. They were to use the land to serve the Lord and not to use it just to satisfy themselves. Today, our desire should also be to use what the Lord has given to us to serve the Lord rather than just using things to please ourselves. The Lord will use both our lives and the things that He has given us effectively if we will use those things to serve Him and not just please ourselves.

4. Read Numbers 34:1-29 and write the name of the group of people that were to help Joshua and Eleazar divide the land.
5. Explain why it was important for the people of Israel to realize that the land belonged to God and that He gave them the responsibility of caring for the land.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for you to use whatever property that the Lord has given you to serve Him and not just satisfy yourself.

Moses was going to die before the people of Israel entered the land so he could not divide the land between the tribes. Joshua became the new leader and Eleazar was the high priest but God did not want them to have to divide the land by themselves. Instead, God wanted Joshua and Eleazar to work with one leader from each tribe in the division of the land. Today, this is still

the plan of God. God wants those who are leaders to train other men to share the leadership and become leaders so that all of them can work together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

7. Read Numbers 34:1-29 and write the name of the prince of the tribe of Naphtali.
8. Explain why God wanted a group of leaders to divide the land rather than just one or two individuals.
9. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to learn to work together as teams instead of just one or two people doing all of the work.

As the leaders of the tribes of Israel prepared to divide the land, God reminded Moses that the Levites were not to receive a section of land like the other tribes. Instead, the Levites were to receive cities that were scattered throughout the entire nation of Israel. There were a total of forty-eight cities that were given to the Levites. In this way there were Levites in every part of the country to carry out their responsibilities. As you remember, God had set apart the tribe of Levi to serve Him. The Levites were to have the land outside the city walls as a place to feed their cattle.

10. Read Numbers 35:1-15 and write how far the land of the Levites was to reach out from the edge of the city wall.
11. Explain why it was important to have the Levites scattered throughout the land since that tribe was to serve all of the people for God.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord also wants us to be available to people wherever they live to help them learn about Christ.

We see that the land of the Levites was to stretch out about 3,000 feet from the edge of the city wall of each city that was to belong to the Levites. Usually the pasture land was within the first 1,500 feet of the city. However, God wanted to give them the second 1,500 feet to make certain that there would be plenty of food for the cattle of the Levites. Then, God told how these cities were to be divided. Six of these cities were to be called cities of refuge. Then, the other forty-two cities were to be scattered throughout the land so that there would be Levites in every area.

13. Read Numbers 35:1-15 and write what tribes were to give many cities to the Levites as their possession.
14. Explain why God said that six of the cities of the Levites were to be called the cities of refuge.
15. Explain why you think that God provided the pasturelands around each of the forty-eight cities for the animals of the Levites.

In certain parts of the land of Canaan, there were many cities. In other parts of the land there were very few cities. Since the people were dividing the land by lot, it was possible for one tribe to receive many more cities than another tribe. If each tribe would have given an equal number of cities to the Levites, some tribes could have been left without any cities. As a result, God said that each tribe should give according to the amount of cities that the tribe had received. Those who had more cities were to give more cities to the Levites. Those who had less were to give less. Today, we should have the same attitude. If the Lord has given us more than He has given other Christians, then we should want to give back more to the Lord.

16. Read Numbers 35:1-15 and write why God gave Israel the six cities of refuge.
17. Explain why it important for those who are given more by the Lord to give more back to the Lord so that the work of the Lord can be completed.
18. Explain why you think that some tribes gave few cities to the Levites while others gave many more.

When a man killed another man, one from the family of the dead man had a right to kill the one who had killed their relative. That relative was called the avenger of blood. However, there were times when one man might kill another man by accident. In order to protect the man that had not purposely killed another man, God gave the people the cities of refuge. The cities of

refuge provided a place of safety to the man that had not purposely killed another person. In this way it prevented family fights from starting where one group of families would fight against another group of families to get even when someone had accidentally killed another person.

19. Read Number 35:1-15 and write how many cities of refuge there were to be on each side of the Jordan River.

20. Explain the purpose of the cities of refuge.

21. Explain why you think that it was important for God to make a distinction between murder and one who accidentally killed another person.

The cities of refuge were only for those who had accidentally killed another person. They were not to protect a murderer. If one man hit another man with a piece of metal, a stone or a piece of wood, that person was guilty of murder if the person that he had hit died. Such a person was not protected if he fled to a city of refuge. The rulers of that city were responsible to find out if the death was unintentional or if it was murder. If the rulers of the city determined that the man was guilty of murder, the man that was guilty of murder was to be put to death. As a result, a man that was guilty of murder would not usually flee to a city of refuge because he knew that he was guilty and would be convicted and condemned to death.

22. Read Numbers 35:16-34 and write who was to kill the murderer in such a case.

23. Explain why it was important for Israel to realize that anyone that was guilty of murder was to be put to death even if that person fled to a city of refuge.

24. Explain why you think that most governments today make a distinction between murder and accidental death (manslaughter).

The penalty for murder was death. The man that was guilty of murder knew that he would be killed by the avenger of blood or be condemned and put to death at the city of refuge. However, if a man had killed another person accidentally, then the rulers of the city would try the person and declare the man innocent of murder. He was protected as long as he remained in the city of refuge. If he went outside the city of refuge, the avenger of blood had a right to kill the man because he had disobeyed the commandment of the Lord. He had made a choice that could cost him his life.

25. Read Numbers 35:16-34 and write how long a man that had killed another accidentally had to remain inside the city of refuge.

26. Explain why there was still a penalty (remaining inside the city of refuge) even for one that was guilty of accidentally killing another person.

27. Explain why you think that the avenger of blood had the right to kill a person that had killed another accidentally if that person left the city of refuge before the death of the high priest.

When the high priest of the nation of Israel died, all those who were in the cities of refuge were allowed to return to their own homes. If an avenger tried to kill a person after the death of the high priest, then the avenger became a murderer and he was put to death. It was also against the law of God for a man to try and pay his penalty with money. If he was a murderer, he must be put to death. If he was guilty of accidentally killing another person, he must remain inside the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. All men were to be treated the same whether they were rich or poor. God said that the land would be polluted if even one person was allowed to buy his freedom and not pay the penalty for his actions.

28. Read Numbers 35:16-34 and write what the people of Israel were told not to do to the land that God had given them.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the penalty for one that was guilty of killing another person.

30. Explain why you think that those in the cities of refuge were allowed to go free when the high priest died.

One day, the men of the tribe of Manasseh came to Moses with a problem. They remembered that God had told the daughters of Zelophehad that they should receive an inheritance along with the men of Israel since their father had died without having any sons. As you remember, God had used this situation to point out the fact that the land would belong to the daughters of any man that did not have sons. However, this caused the men of Manasseh to become concerned since Zelophehad had been a member of their tribe.

31. Read Numbers 36:1-13 and write what the men of the tribe of Manasseh said would happen to the inheritance of their tribe if those daughters married men from another tribe of Israel.

32. Explain why the men of the tribe of Manasseh were concerned that the land given to their tribe could go to another tribe.

33. Explain why you think that it was important to balance the rights of a family that only had daughters with the rights of a tribe.

God had given an inheritance to the people of each tribe. Since the land always returned to the original family in the year of jubilee, that land remained with the same tribe permanently. However, the land would become the possession of a different tribe if the women who received the land of their father married men from a different tribe. This could mean that a tribe could eventually lose a large part of its land to other tribes. This was the reason that the men of Manasseh were concerned. They did not want their land to become the possession of another tribe.

34. Read Numbers 36:1-13 and write who God said these women should marry in order to prevent the inheritance from passing to another tribe.

35. Explain why God had said that the land was to remain with the same tribe permanently.

36. Explain why the rights of women to get the land of their father could have changed the fact that the land would remain in the same tribe permanently.

In order to keep the inheritance within the same tribe, the women who received the land of their fathers were to marry men from the tribe of their father. In this way the land would always belong to the same tribe. It would never become the possession of a different tribe. This was to be true of all of the women that received the inheritance of their fathers. God said that each tribe would be able to enjoy its inheritance permanently in this way. God said that the land was not to pass from one tribe to another because God had given each tribe the responsibility of caring for the land that God had given to that tribe.

37. Read Numbers 36:1-13 and write what the daughters of Zelophehad did when they heard what the Lord had said.

38. Explain what these verses taught the people of Israel about the law of the inheritance of the land.

39. Explain why you think that God had given each tribe the responsibility for the stewardship of the land that God had given to that tribe.

When the daughters of Zelophehad heard the word of the Lord, they obeyed the Lord and married men from their own tribe. All of the daughters married a man from the tribe of Manasseh. As Christians, we have also been promised a land that will be our eternal possession. No one can take that inheritance from us. As we live here on this earth, we are like the people of Israel were when they were in the desert. We have not yet entered into that land that God has promised to us. We can look forward to our eternal inheritance that the Lord will give us.

40. Read Number 36:1-13 and write where the people of Israel were when the Lord gave them these commandments.

41. Explain how the Lord led the people to know how to do both things that God had said should happen in the inheritance of land.

42. Explain why you can be thankful that no one can take your eternal inheritance from you.

Now, reread Numbers 34:1-36:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.