

18-19 Bible Study #28

4/9/19

18-19 Bible Study #27

4/2/19

Numbers 11 was left out from last week's charts

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 11:1-3**

- Here we go again with the people “complaining” (murmuring)
- Father said that this was like the children complaining when going on a trip as the family pulled out of the driveway
- They just started on this journey and they were complaining
- Because this aroused God’s anger they called the place *Taberah* meaning “burning”

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 11:4-10**

- This was a very bad idea as God had planned to provide for them during this journey
- Father again reminded us that parents were usually not happy when the children complained about the food set before them
- As an aside, Moses related just how beautiful the manna was and how the people had been using it

Numbers (Cont)

- The statement that “everyman was at the door of his tent” may have been a bit of hyperbole
- After all, there were 600,000 men plus women and children in the camp
- That would have been 600,000 tents each with a man crying for food at the entrance to his tent
- Father said this was certainly seemed melodramatic

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 11:11-17**

- This sounds familiar as Moses again asked how God was going to deal with him as he could not carry all these people in his arms
- He asked where he was to get meat for such a multitude of people
- As before, he asked God to “just kill me”
- This was another example of what Father talked about in **Exodus 5** when Moses spoke to God like a child to his father

Numbers (Cont)

- This is a pattern that we can find all throughout the *Psalms*
- Moses was in despair and therefore he spoke in a very melodramatic way with lots of hyperbole (the world is coming to an end)
- God, once again, responded like a loving father by telling Moses that He would take care of him

Numbers (Cont)

- Moses was not really asking for death but for help with the situation
- Therefore, God gave some of the spirit of Moses to the 70 elders to help alleviate Moses' burden
- This was the beginning of the system of judges that eventually became the Sanhedrin

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 11:18-31**

- Look at what happened to those people who were complaining
- The quails were falling in the desert for a distance of up to a couple of miles
- Since a cubit is approximately 1 and ½ feet (that meant they would be plied up to a depth of 3 feet in all directions) from the camp as far as one could see
- Father said that they would have to literally eat themselves out of the camp
- And, of course, they became sick of quail

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4/9/19

Year end plans

- In order to complete the *Pentateuch* and give a brief overview of the rest of the Old Testament, I plan to continue presenting classes until Tuesday, June 4, 2019
- This will enable us to begin next Fall with an introduction to the New Testament

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 12**

- This chapter described the challenge to *Moses'* leadership by his older brother and sister (*Aaron* and *Miriam*)
- Since God looked at *Moses* as His mediator, what they were saying was not such a good idea
- Although *Miriam* was initially struck with leprosy, it was soon healed

- **Numbers 13-14**

- Tells about the spying out of the Promised Land by the 12 chosen tribal princes *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 13:1-2**

- Father suggested that we make a note after **Numbers 13:2** to **Deuteronomy 1:22**
- The people of Israel actually asked for “spies” to go and reconnoiter the Promised Land (as it seemed as though they did not trust God)
- So God responded, “Fine, you may send in spies to spy out the land”
- He required one man from each tribe (since the people did not trust each other either)
- We need to note that the one who was the most important was *Joshua* *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 13:3-29**

- *Moses* changed the name of *Hoshea* (meaning “savior”) to *Joshua* (meaning *Yahweh* is savior)
- Most likely the name “savior” was not his given name, but a title given to him by the people
- Remember that in **Exodus 17**, when they came out of Egypt, *Joshua* as leader of the Army, saved the people from the *Amalekites* while *Moses* stood on the nearby hill with his arms raised
- Father suggested that *Moses* changed his name to clarify that it was not a man but God who saved them from their enemies

Numbers (Cont)

- This understanding will be very important in the New Testament when the God man named *Joshua* (Jesus) will save us from our enemies (sin and death) round about
- The 12 spies spend 40 days reconnoitering the land and bring back a large cluster of grapes and some pomegranates to show the fruit of the land
- Then they reported to the people encamped at the edge of the Negev desert south of the Dead Sea what they had seen
- They related that the land was very beautiful flowing with milk and honey (symbols of fertility)

Numbers (Cont)

- But, they reported that the people of the land were frightful, the land was well fortified, and the cities had huge walls
- Further, they said that there were giant warriors who were sons of *Anak* *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 13:30-33**

- *Caleb* spoke with such confidence because he was from the tribe of Judah
- He told them to settle down and encouraged them to proceed into the Promised Land
- The others (minus Joshua) declared that the land devoured its inhabitants except for those who were of great stature
- They said that the *Anak* were from the giant race called the *Nephilim*! (**Genesis 6:4**)
- But that was not possible since the *Nephilim* were destroyed in the “Great Flood!”
- In fact, by speaking of them as the *Nephilim*, they were merely calling them the “boogey men” *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 14:1-12**

- The congregation thought that Yahweh was going to kill them so they wanted to stone *Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb*
- When the glory of the Lord appeared, *Moses* dropped to the ground and began to pray
- Once again, we hear God direct *Moses* to step aside so He can kill all of the people as He reminded *Moses* that He wanted to do that earlier *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 14:13-31**

- God relented at *Moses'* request and once again allowed them to live
- But, He told *Moses* (except for *Joshua* and *Caleb*), all those 20 years old and upward were going to die before the people entered the Promised Land
- He said this because that group was suppose to constitute the courageous soldiers willing to fight for the peoples *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 14:32-38**

- The reason that none would enter the Promised Land was because He directed them to wander in the desert for 40 years (one year for every day they reconnoitered the Promised Land)
- Forty years was considered one generation
- Their children were going to suffer because of their iniquity, grow up as shepherds in the wilderness, but eventually enter the Promised Land
- We will hear about this again in **Deuteronomy 1**

Numbers (Cont)

- Unfortunately, the people did not want to accept this plan
- They thought that after all that work they were still going to die in the wilderness (earlier murmurings)
- So they repented *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 14:39-45**

- *Moses* warned not to enter because God was not with them if they did they would die
- They refused to listen and were repulsed and many died
- The *Amalekites* and *Canaanites* chased them as far as ***Hormah***
- Thus, they were doomed to stay out of the Promised Land until everyone of the 20 year olds and upward (except for *Joshua* and *Caleb*) died
- That is the story of the rest of the **Book of Numbers** in a nutshell
- It covers what happened to them over the next 40 years

Numbers (Cont)

- It points out that they basically moved around in a giant circle in the wilderness while they killed time
- Then in the 40th year, they were called to enter the Promised Land
- That event will be discussed in the **Book of Deuteronomy** *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 15** presents various incidents impacting the people of Israel as they prepared to enter the Promised Land and while they traveled in the “gigantic circle”
 - **Numbers 15:1-31** Told them how to prepare sacrifices to be offered upon their arrival in the Promised Land
 - **Numbers 15:32-36** -36 Presented an unusual story of a man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath resulting in the community stoning him
 - **Numbers 15:37-41** provides the requirement for the people to put tassels on their garments to remind them of the Commandments *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 16** presented the *Kohath Rebellion*
 - This is about a rebellion of the people against *Moses* and *Aaron*
 - It was led by *Korah*, the son of *Kohath*, along with *Dathan* and *Abriam* from the tribe of *Reuben*
 - These were firstborn sons who wanted to return to the priesthood
 - Thus, the major rebellion against the priesthood was led by firstborn sons
 - As an aside, Father pointed out that the movie *The Ten Commandments* mixed this story with the Golden Calf incident (so do not trust Hollywood for your catechesis)

Numbers (Cont)

- These two confronted *Moses* and *Aaron* claiming that they had taken on too much and claimed to be holy (set apart)
- They argued that all of the people were holy
- *Moses* told them to get all of their men (firstborn), and come to the tent of meeting the next morning swinging their censers filled with incense
- *Moses* knew what would happen because of what had happened to *Aaron's* two sons who had the right to burn incense, but were killed because of their drinking
- These guys did not have the right to burn incense before the Lord

Numbers (Cont)

- The next day God tells *Moses* to step aside and He directs all the people to get away from *Dathan* and *Korah*
- As these guys stood there swinging their censers, fire came, consumed them, and the earth opened up and swallowed them ending the *Korah* rebellion *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 17**

- This section starts out with a positive sign from God that *Aaron* and his sons are the rightful priests by showing the blossoming of his rod
- Father pointed out that this is the story that proved that *Aaron* was the high priest
- *Aaron* was chosen to be the one who was tasked with caring for the place where God was to dwell among His people (in the Ark of the Covenant)

Numbers (Cont)

- He also reminded us that Joseph is often seen in artwork with a rod that blossomed (Basilica in Washington)
- This is based on a story in the Proto-Evangelium of James depicting how *Joseph* was chosen to be the husband of Mary
- This was to show that Joseph, like Aaron, was chosen to take special care of the Ark of the Covenant (now living within Mary)
- Father suggested that this should be able to help us meditate when we approach the celebration of Christmas
- **Numbers 18 and 19** contain additional details about the Levitical priesthood *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 20:1-2**

- At this point, the Hebrews encamped at *Kadesh*, in the *Wilderness of Zin* **at the end of their 40 years** of wandering in the desert
- This is just before they begin their final march to the Promised Land
- We also learn that *Moses'* sister *Miriam* died and was buried there *

Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 20:3-7**

- This section presents the second time *Moses* brought water out of the rock
- Many confuse this event with *Moses* bringing water out of the rock of Mt. Sinai (*Massah* and *Meribah*) in **Exodus 17:1-7**
- Here “the rock” is no longer giving water because of the rebellion of the people
- This “rock” had special association with God and Mt. Sinai which was the source of the Law
- But, since they were no longer keeping the Law, the rock no longer gave them water

Numbers (Cont)

- The rod of *Moses* was the image of his authority
- God directed *Moses* to “*tell the rock to yield its water*”
- But, look at what *Moses* actually did
- He gathered all of the people and instead of calling on the rock to yield its water, he struck the rock with his rod (not once but twice)
- He did this out of anger
- Most confuse this with the Exodus story where he was told to strike the rock with his staff and believe that he was denied entry into the Promised Land because he struck the rock not once, but twice

Numbers (Cont)

- Father pointed out that in the Rabbinic Literature (the Targum), it says that *Moses* struck the rock twice because the first time blood came out and the second time water
- This action is the reason that *Moses* and *Aaron* were not allowed to enter the Promised Land
- He also stated that this passage is related to *John's* description of blood and water coming from the side of Christ (John 19:34)
- The section ends with *Moses* seeking passage through Edom followed by the death of *Aaron* from apparent old age *