

A Study in the Book of Numbers



By Cecilia Perh



Entrusting the Word
to the Faithful



Book	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Key Idea	Beginnings	Redemption	Worship	Wandering	Renewed Covenant
The Nation	Chosen	Delivered	Set Apart	Directed	Made Ready
The People	Prepared	Redeemed	Taught	Tested	Re-taught
God's Character	Powerful, Sovereign	Merciful	Holy	Just	Loving Lord
God's Role	Creator	Deliverer	Sanctifier	Sustainer	Rewarder
God's Command	"Let there be!"	"Let My people go!"	"Be holy"	"Go in!"	"Obey!"

Numbers in the Pentateuch

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
ORIGINS of the nation	DELIVERANCE of the nation	LIFE of the nation	TEST of the nation	REMINDERS to the nation
THEOCRACY BORN	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED		THEOCRACY TESTED AND PREPARED FOR THE NEW HOME	
	<p><u>COVENANT</u> IS AMPLIFIED “Keep my covenant to be a peculiar treasure: “Kingdom of priests” “holy nation” (Exo. 19:5-6)</p>	<p><u>LAWS</u> ARE PRESCRIBED “which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD” (Lev. 18:5)</p>	<p>Irvin L. Jensen, p 102 (Jensen’s Survey of the OT)</p>	

Numbers is the story of God leading His people, Israel, through wildernesses on their way to Canaan, the rest land He promised.

The journey moves from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho.

- It was a brief journey in the dark unknown, demanding the utmost in trust and patience (Numbers 1:1-10:10).**
- It is a long, aimless wandering in judgment for unbelief, consuming all but two of first census, 20 years and above (Numbers 10:11-20:29).**
- It is a new and swift journey by the next generation with a few of the old leaders, to enter into the land of rest and blessing (Numbers 21:1-36:13)**

Numbers: Journey to God's Rest

The Generation of Those Who Had Come Out of Egypt

Preparation

- organization
- consecration
- instruction

The Test

- of faith
- of obedience

The Judgment

- wandering
- death

Wilderness



SINAI

KADESH

A New Generation

Reorganisation

- repair

Plains of Moab

MOAB

The theme of Numbers is the consequence of disbelief and disobedience to the holy God. The Lord disciplined His people but remained faithful to His covenant promises in spite of their fickleness.

Numbers displays the patience, holiness, justice, mercy, and sovereignty of God toward His people.

It teaches that there are no shortcuts to His blessings – He uses trials and tests for specific purposes.

Numbers was written to trace the history of Israel's wanderings from Sinai to Moab. But the fact that there was almost no record of the 38 years of wandering shows that Numbers is a very thematic history. It selects those events that are important to the development of God's redemptive program. The sins of the first generation were written as a reminder and a warning to the second generation. They must implicitly trust God before they can possess the land of blessing.

Theme and Purpose

The Old Generation			The Tragic Transition			The New Generation			
Counting and Ordering of the People	Cleansing of the People	Complaints and Disbelief of the People	Instructions for Life in Canaan	The Rebellion of Korah	Aaron, the Levites and Moses	Serpent of Brass and Story of Balaam	Second Census and Laws of Israel	Settling east of Jordan	Preparations for Settling in Canaan
1 4	5 10:10	10:11 14	15	16	17 20	21 25	26 30	31 33	34 36
Preparation			Postponement			Promise			
Waiting			Wandering			Waiting			
Census, Instruction, Travel			-			Travel, Census, Instruction			
At Sinai			To Moab			At Moab			
Sinai to Kadesh			Wilderness			Kadesh to Moab			
Preparation for the Journey			The Journey			At the Gate of the Land			
About 2 months (39%)			38 years (17%)			A few months (44%)			
Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9		Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19				Reading a New Generation Numbers 20-36			
Getting Ready to Possess the land		Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD				An Examination of their Readiness to enter the Lord's Land			
Structuring		Testing				Enduring			

Detailed Outline of the Book of Numbers

I. Preparations for Travel (Numbers 1:1-10:10)

- A. The First Census (chapter 1)
- B. The Order of the Tribes (chapter 2)
- C. The Census and Duties of the Levites (chapters 3-4)
- D. Cleansing and Consecration (chapters 5-6)
- E. The Tabernacle Service (chapters 7-8)
- E. The Supplementary Passover (chapter 9:1-14)
- F. The Fiery Cloud and the Silver Trumpets (chapters 9:15-10:10)

II. The Journey to Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 10:11-14:45)

- A. The Departure from Sinai (chapters 10:11-36)
- B. The Rebellion of the People (chapter 11)
- C. The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (chapter 12)
- D. Spying out the Promised Land (chapter 13)
- E. God's Judgment on Unbelief (chapter 14)

III. The Journey to the Plains of Moab (Numbers 15:1-22:1)

- A. Covenant Statutes Reviewed (chapter 15)
- B. The Rebellion of Korah (chapter 16)

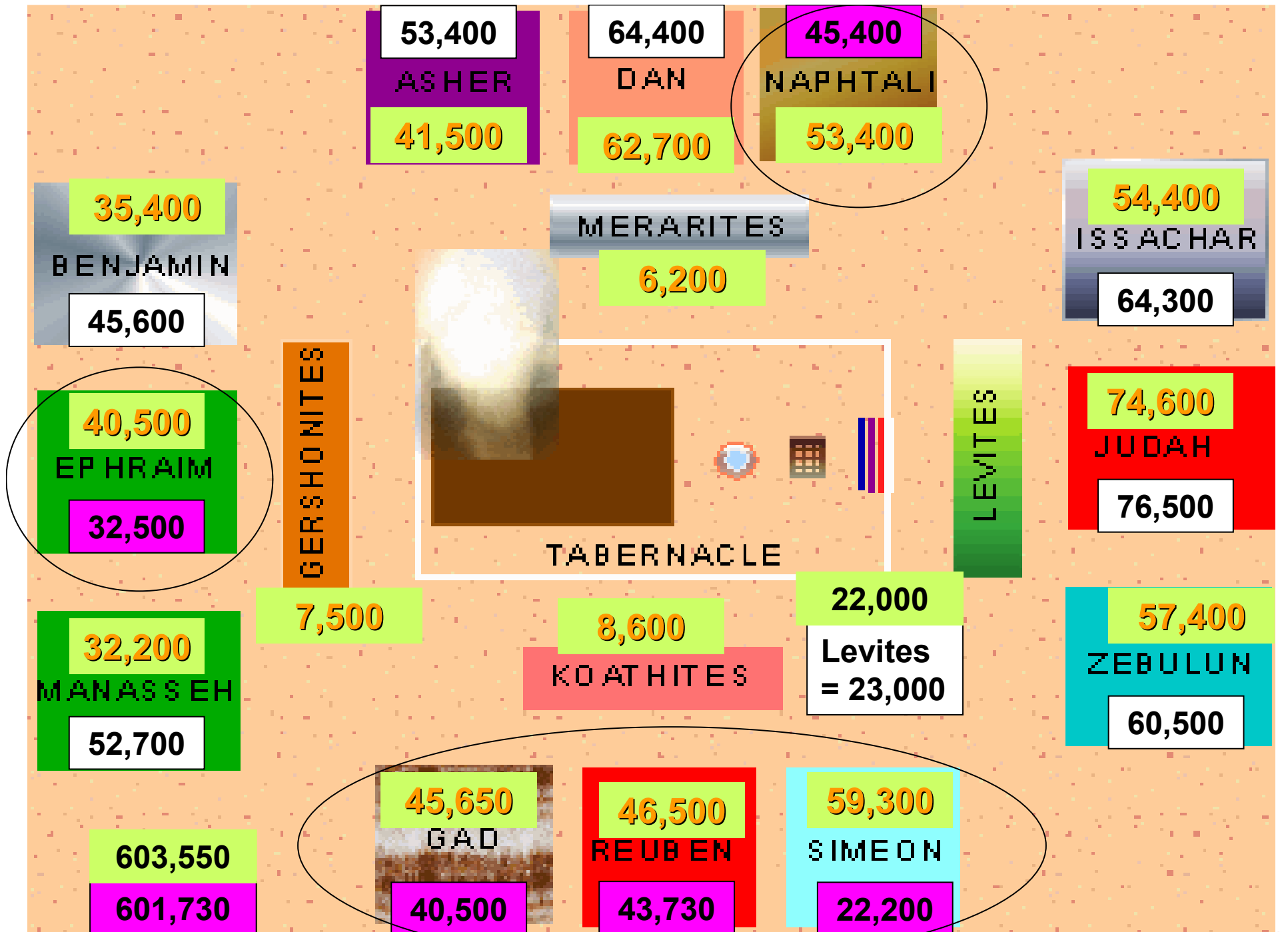
- C. The Budding of Aaron's Rod (chapter 17)
- D. The Responsibility of Priests and Levites (chapter 18)
- E. The Red Heifer Sacrifice (chapter 19)
- F. The Waters of Meribah, Edom, Aaron's death (chapter 20)
- G. Journey to Moab (chapters 21:1-22:1)
- F. Balak and Balaam (chapters 22:2-24:25)
- G. The Idolatry of Israel (chapter 25)

IV. Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (Numbers 26:1-36:13)

- A. The Second Census (chapter 26)
- B. Daughters of Zelophehad (chapter 27:1-11)
- C. Joshua appointed as Moses' Successor (chapter 27:12-23)
- D. Laws concerning Offerings and Vows (chapters 28-30)
- E. The War against Midian (chapter 31)
- F. Inheritance of Eastern Tribes (chapter 32)
- G. Resume of the journey from Egypt (chapter 33:1-49)
- H. Final Instructions about Conquest and Inheritance (chapters 33:50-36:13)







Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (26:1-36:13)

New Commitment to Battle (ch 31-32)

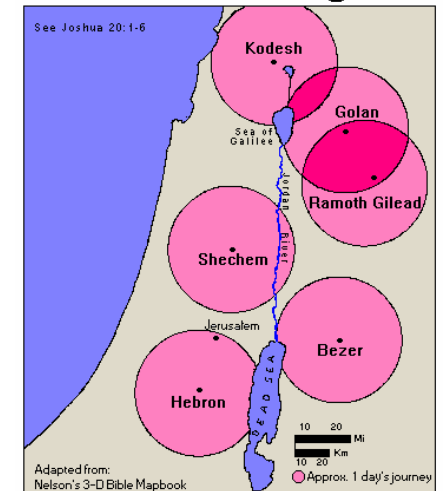
- The Slaughter of Midian (Numbers 31)
 - The Command to Exact Vengeance (v1-2)
 - The Army Sent Against Midian (v3-6)
 - The Battle against Midian (v7-10)
 - The Spoils of War (v11-12)
 - The Anger of Moses (v13-18)
 - The Purification of the Soldiers and their Spoils (v19-20)
 - The Instructions for the Purification (v21-24)
 - The Lord's Levy of the Booty (v25-31)
 - The Division of the Booty (v32-47)
 - The Special Gift to the Lord (v48-54)
- The Inheritance of the Eastern Tribes (Numbers 32)
 - The Request of Gad and Reuben (v1-5)
 - The Reaction of Moses (v6-15)
 - The Defense of Gad and Reuben (v16-19)
 - The Agreement of Moses (v20-24)
 - The Agreement of Gad and Reuben (v25-27)
 - The Command of Moses (v28-30)
 - The Answer of Gad and Reuben (v31-32)
 - The Transjordanic Tribes Given their Land (v33-42)

New Laws for the New Land (ch 33-36)

- The Travelogue of Israel (Numbers 33:1-49)
 - Israel's Exodus from Egypt (v1-4)
 - From Rameses to the Red Sea (v5-8)
 - From Marah to the Red Sea to Mount Sinai (v9-15)
 - From Mount Sinai to Kadesh (v16-36)
 - From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (v37-49)
- Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance (Numbers 33:50-36:13)
 - The Inhabitants of the Land (33:50-56)
 - The Boundaries of the Land (34:1-15)
 - The Southern Border (v1-5)
 - The Western Border (v6)
 - The Northern Border (v7-9)
 - The Eastern Border (v10-12)
 - The Apportioning of the Land (v13-15)
 - The Dividing of the Land (34:16-29)
 - The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)
 - The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)



Cities of Refuge



Numbers 35 - Orders having been given before for the dividing of the land of Canaan among the lay-tribes (as I may call them), care is here taken for a competent provision for the clergy, the tribe of Levi, which ministered in holy things.

I. Forty-eight cities were to be assigned them, with their suburbs, some in every tribe (Num_35:1-8).

II. Six cities out of these were to be for cities of refuge, for any man that killed another unawares (Num_35:9-15). In the law concerning these observe,

1. In what case sanctuary was not allowed, namely, that of wilful murder (Num_35:16-21).
2. In what cases it was allowed (Num_35:22-24).
3. What was the law concerning those that took shelter in these cities of refuge (Num_35:25, etc.).

Matthew Henry on Numbers 35

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

1 **Now** the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan opposite Jericho, saying, 2 "Command the sons of Israel that they give to the Levites from the inheritance of their possession, cities to live in; and you shall give to the Levites pasture lands around the cities. 3 And the cities shall be theirs to live in; and their pasture lands shall be for their cattle and for their herds and for all their beasts. 4 And the pasture lands of the cities which you shall give to the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits around. 5 You shall also measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the center. This shall become theirs **as** pasture lands for the cities.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

Genesis 49:5-7

- 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers;
Their swords are implements of violence.
- 6 "Let my soul not enter into their council;
Let not my glory be united with their assembly;
Because in their anger they slew men,
And in their self-will they lamed oxen.
- 7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;
And their wrath, for it is cruel.
I will disperse them in Jacob,
And scatter them in Israel.

Fulfillment of Prophecy

Deuteronomy 33:8-11

- 8 And of Levi he said,
"Let Thy Thummim and Thy Urim *belong* to Thy godly man,
Whom Thou didst prove at Massah,
With whom Thou didst contend at the waters of Meribah;
- 9 Who said of his father and his mother, 'I did not consider them';
And he did not acknowledge his brothers,
Nor did he regard his own sons,
For they observed Thy word,
And kept Thy covenant.
- 10 "They shall teach Thine ordinances to Jacob,
And Thy law to Israel.
They shall put incense before Thee,
And whole burnt offerings on Thine altar.
- 11 "O LORD, bless his substance,
And accept the work of his hands;
Shatter the loins of those who rise up against him,
And those who hate him, so that they may not rise *again*."

How Prophecy is Modified by Obedience

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

6 "And the cities which you shall give to the Levites shall be the six cities of refuge, which you shall give for the manslayer to flee to; and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities.

7 All the cities which you shall give to the Levites shall be forty-eight cities, together with their pasture lands. 8 As for the cities which you shall give from the possession of the sons of Israel, you shall take more from the larger and you shall take less from the smaller; each shall give some of his cities to the Levites in proportion to his possession which he inherits."

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

They were to be dispersed throughout the land in forty-eight cities set apart for them by the twelve tribes (cf. Josh. 21, where a detailed account of the fulfillment of this command is given: thirteen cities from Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin allocated to the priests; ten cities from Ephraim, Dan, and west-Manasseh allocated to the Kohathites; thirteen cities from Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and east-Manasseh allocated to the Gershonites; and twelve cities of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun allocated to the Merarites).

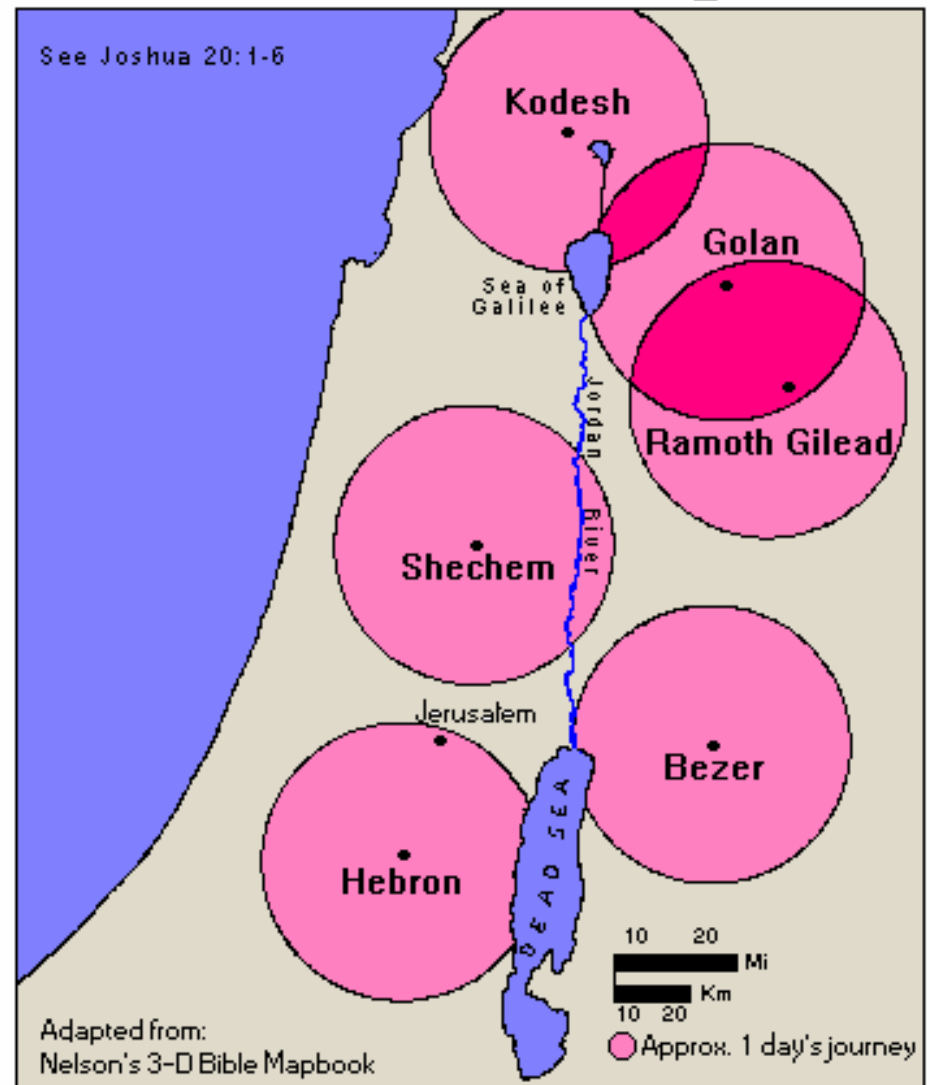
In other words, the Levites were to have no corporate existence as a tribe, but were rather fragmented in this way in a God-appointed isolation. Furthermore, the purpose of this dispersion, as we may learn from Deu_33:10, was with a view to the instruction of the people of God in the Law of the Lord.

This consideration serves to put the Levites' calling in a true spiritual perspective. Even with the pasture lands around the cities allocated to them, the total area of actual land given them could have amounted only to one-tenth of the 1 percent of the whole of Canaan, as Wenham points out, so that relative to the other tribes it could be substantially said that they had "no inheritance among the children of Israel" (Num_18:23). Their spiritual function was therefore regarded as paramount.

Preacher's on Numbers 35:1-8

- After their conquest of the land, Israel changed the names of many of the cities and they also established 48 cities for the Levites to dwell in - six were cities of refuge (v1-8). The Levites were scattered throughout Israel so they could minister to the people and teach them God's law (Josh 21). They were also granted pasture lands adjacent to the cities where they could care for their flocks and herds.
- The 6 cities of refuge were Kedesh, Shechem and Hebron on the west side of the Jordan, and Golan, Ramoth and Bezer on the East side.

Cities of Refuge



The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

To take the type and analogy afforded by the cities of refuge further, we may say that they "speak" of Christ as the sinner's refuge in whom alone there is shelter and protection from the avenger of blood. As sinners, we are liable to the condemnation of the law; we are "wanted" men, guilty before God, and there is no other provision for our safety but in the sheltering mercy of the Savior. This gives a rich and wonderful meaning to the words in Pro_18:10, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." Here, once more, is the Old Testament fulfilling its role as God's "picture book," giving a wonderful illustration of the way of salvation, and showing clearly that "coming to Christ" is not merely a mental assent to facts and doctrines, but a movement toward Him, a betaking of oneself to Him. The picture of a frightened child running to its mother, finding safety, reassurance, and protection in her unfolding arms, illustrates this "movement" graphically: this is salvation, and there is no condemnation to those who are thus in Christ Jesus and who have fled for refuge to Him....

We should note particularly the significance of the fact that the cities of refuge were Levite cities (Num_35:13) and that the Levites were set apart especially to be ministers of the Lord, and teachers of His law to the people. The association of ideas in this is impressive and remarkable, for the function of these cities of refuge matched that of the Levites themselves. Happy is the man, separated unto the ministry of the Word of the Lord, who is recognized as constituting and creating a "place" to which the burdened and the heavy-laden can turn in time of need and find refuge and rest. We should not forget, in this connection, our Lord's words to the disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Mat_5:14). Here is the idea of a city of refuge as the calling and function of the church; we, too, may fulfill this calling by being like the Levites, separated unto God for the gospel's sake.

Preacher's

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

16 "**Behold**, I send you out **as** sheep in the midst of wolves; **therefore** be shrewd **as** serpents, and innocent **as** doves. 17 **But** beware of **men**; **for** they will deliver you up to *the* courts, and scourge you in their synagogues; 18 and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, **as** a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 **But** **when** they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; **for** it shall be given you **in that hour** what you are to speak. 20 **For** it is not you who speak, **but** *it* is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. 21 And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all on account of My name, **but** it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 **But** whenever they persecute you in this city, **flee to the next;** **for** truly I say to you, you shall not finish *going through* the cities of Israel, **until** the Son of Man comes.

Matthew 10:16-23

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

9 **Then** the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, '**When** you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 11 **then** you shall select for yourselves cities to be your cities of refuge, **that** the manslayer who has killed any person unintentionally may flee there. 12 And the cities shall be to you as a refuge from the avenger, **so that** the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for trial. 13 And the cities which you are to give shall be your six cities of refuge. 14 You shall give three cities across the Jordan and three cities in the land of Canaan; they are to be cities of refuge. 15 These six cities shall be for refuge for the sons of Israel, and for the alien and for the sojourner among them; that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

16 **'But if** he struck him down with an iron object, **so that** he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death.**
17 **And if** he struck him down with a stone in the hand, by which he may die, and **as a result** he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death.** 18 **Or if** he struck him with a wooden object in the hand, by which he may die, and **as a result** he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death.** 19 The blood avenger himself shall put the murderer to death; he shall put him to death **when he meets him.** 20 **And if** he pushed him of hatred, or threw something at him lying in wait and **as a result** he died, 21 **or if** he struck him down with his hand in enmity, and **as a result** he died, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death, he is a murderer; the blood avenger shall put the murderer to death **when he meets him.**

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

22 **'But if** he pushed him suddenly without enmity, or threw something at him without lying in wait, 23 or with any deadly object of stone, and without seeing it dropped on him **so that** he died, **while** he was not his enemy nor seeking his injury, 24 **then** the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the blood avenger according to these ordinances. 25 And the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the blood avenger, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he fled; and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

26 **‘But if** the manslayer shall **at any time** go beyond the border of **his city of refuge** to **which** he may flee, 27 and the blood avenger finds him outside the border of **his city of refuge**, and the blood avenger kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood 28 **because** he should have remained in **his city of refuge** **until** the death of the high priest. **But after** the death of the high priest the manslayer shall return to the land of his possession. 29 And these things shall be for a statutory ordinance to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

If the homicide appeared to be a case of manslaughter, the man would be tried by **the congregation** (vv. 22-24). If acquitted, the **manslayer** had to stay **in the city of refuge . . . until the death of the high priest**. He was then allowed to **return** home (v. 28). If he ventured **outside . . . the city** before the death of the high priest, the **avenger of blood** could slay him without incurring guilt (vv. 26-28).

The death of the high priest brought freedom to those who had escaped to the cities of refuge. They could no longer be harmed by the avenger of blood. The death of our Great High Priest frees us from the condemning demands of the Law. How foolish this stipulation would be if one failed to see in it a symbol of the work of our Lord at the Cross!

Unger relates some traditional details:

- **According to the rabbis, in order to aid the fugitive it was the business of the Sanhedrin to keep the roads leading to the cities of refuge in the best possible repair. No hills were left, every river was bridged, and the road itself was to be at least thirty-two cubits broad. At every turn were guideposts bearing the word Refuge; and two students of the law were appointed to accompany the fleeing man, to pacify, if possible, the avenger, should he overtake the fugitive.**

BBE on Numbers 35:22-28

The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)

30 **'If** anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, **but** no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. 31 **Moreover**, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, **but** he shall surely be put to death. 32 And you shall not take ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, **that** he may return to live in the land **before** the death of the priest. 33 **So** you shall not pollute the land in which you are; **for** blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. 34 And you shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; **for** **I** the LORD am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel.'"

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

For blood it defileth the land - The very land was considered as guilty till the blood of the murderer was shed in it. No wonder God is so particularly strict in his laws against murderers,

1. Because he is the author of life, and none have any right to dispose of it but himself.
2. Because life is the time to prepare for the eternal world, and on it the salvation of the soul accordingly depends; therefore it is of infinite consequence to the man that his life be lengthened out to the utmost limits assigned by Divine Providence. As he who takes a man's life away before his time may be the murderer of his soul as well as of his body, the severest laws should be enacted against this, both to punish and prevent the crime.

Adam Clarke on Numbers 35:33

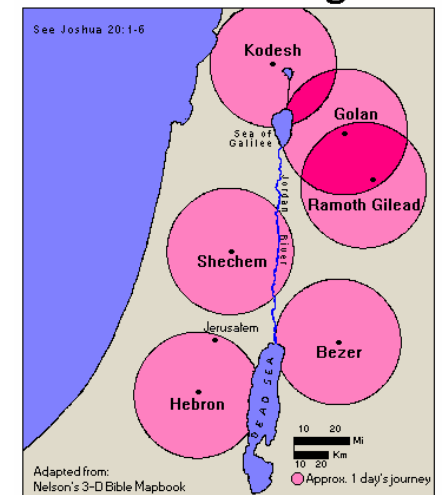
- **Wiersbe** - Israel had an army but no equivalent for a police force. If somebody was murdered the members of the family and clan saw to it that the murderer was punished. However, if a man accidentally killed someone, that was a case of manslaughter, not murder; and he could flee to one of the cities of refuge and present his case to the elders and the witnesses. If they thought he was guilty of murder, they would turn him over to the family and the authorities for punishment. If he was innocent, he was allowed to stay in the city of refuge under their protection until the death of the high priest. Then he was free to return home. He was not allowed to pay a ransom and be freed sooner v32)

The Cities of Refuge

- If the man was guilty, he was stoned to death. Murder was a capital crime in Israel for which there was no ransom (v32). The blood of innocent victims polluted the land, and the land belongs to Yahweh (v33-34). The only way the land could be cleansed was by the death of the murderer.
- Guilty sinners today can flee by faith to Jesus Christ and find refuge from the judgment of God (Hebrews 6:18). Because Jesus is the ever-living High Priest, salvation is secure forever for “He ever lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25, NKJV). He bore the guilty sinner’s punishment, therefore there can be no condemnation (Romans 8:1).



Cities of Refuge



The Cities of Refuge

The Cities of Refuge

(Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 4:41-44; 19:1-13)

Persons (players) Involved

1 Manslayer (innocent)

- If a manslayer makes it to a city of refuge, he could stand trial.
- These cities were refuge for the manslayer (De. 19:6,10), not the murderer (De. 19:11-13).
- He cannot pay money (ransom) to leave the city of refuge early (Nu.35:32). Early would be before the high priest dies (Nu.35:28).
- The manslayer found NOT GUILTY must stay at the city of refuge until the high priest dies (Nu.35:28). Though a man accidentally kills another person, he still had to give up some of his freedom for a period of time.
- If the manslayer goes outside the city of refuge before the high priest dies, the avenger may kill him.

2 Murderer (guilty)

- If he flees to a city of refuge the elders are to deliver him to the avenger of blood to be killed (De. 19:11-13).
- The convicted murderer could NOT pay his way out (Nu.35:31). He must die.
- The people of Israel are not to pity the death of a murderer (De. 19:13, 21).

3 Victim

- This is the person that is killed.
- As the murderer is killed the "blood of the innocent" is purged (De. 19:13).

4 Avenger

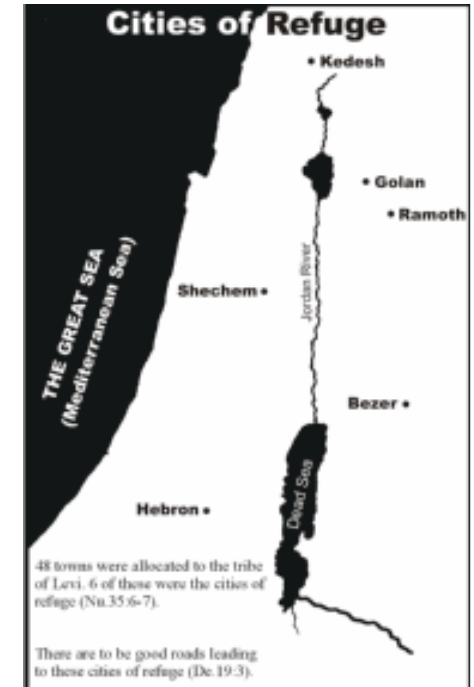
- The avenger is the nearest relative of the killed victim.
- The avenger is obligated to kill the murderer for the sake of the nation which is where the LORD dwells (Nu.35:33-34).
- The cities of refuge were setup to avoid an avenger killing, in anger, an innocent manslayer (De. 19:6).

5 Elders

- The elders of the city of refuge are to deliver the murderer to the avenger of blood (De. 19:11-13).

6 High Priest

- The manslayer, who finds refuge at the city, must stay there until the high priest dies (Nu.35:28).



Notes

- The cities of refuge teaches the importance of life to God.
- There was to be one standard for all Israel which includes the alien and the sojourner (Nu.35:15).
- Murder pollutes the land (Nu.35:33-34).
- 48 towns were allocated to the tribe of Levi, 6 of these were the cities of refuge.
- There are to be good roads leading to these cities of refuge (De. 19:3).



Numbers 36 - We have in this chapter the determination of another question that arose upon the case of the daughters of Zelophehad. God had appointed that they should inherit, Num_27:7. Now here,

- I. An inconvenience is suggested, in case they should marry into any other tribe (Num_36:1-4).
- II. It is prevented by a divine appointment that they should marry in their own tribe and family (Num_36:5-7), and this is settled for a rule in like cases (Num_36:8, Num_36:9); and they did marry accordingly to some of their own relations (Num_36:10-12), and with this the book concludes (Num_36:13).

Matthew Henry on Numbers 36

The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)

1 And the heads of the fathers' *households* of the family of the sons of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near and spoke before Moses and before the leaders, the heads of the fathers' *households* of the sons of Israel, 2 and they said, "The LORD commanded my lord to give the land by lot to the sons of Israel **as** an inheritance, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother to his daughters.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)

3 “**But if** they marry one of the sons of the *other* tribes of the sons of Israel, their inheritance will be withdrawn from the inheritance of our fathers and will be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they belong; **thus** it will be withdrawn from our allotted inheritance. 4 And **when** the jubilee of the sons of Israel comes, **then** their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they belong; **so** their inheritance will be withdrawn from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers.”

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)

5 **Then** Moses commanded the sons of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, "The tribe of the sons of Joseph are right in *their* statements. 6 This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they wish; only they must marry within the family of the tribe of their father.' 7 **Thus** no inheritance of the sons of Israel shall be transferred from tribe to tribe, **for** the sons of Israel shall each hold to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. 8 And every daughter who comes into possession of an inheritance of any tribe of the sons of Israel, shall be wife to one of the family of the tribe of her father, **so that** the sons of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers. 9 **Thus** no inheritance shall be transferred from one tribe to another tribe, **for** the tribes of the sons of Israel shall each hold to his own inheritance."

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)

10 **Just as** the LORD had commanded Moses, **so** the daughters of Zelophehad did: 11 Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad married their uncles' sons. 12 They married *those* from the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained with the tribe of the family of their father.

13 These are the commandments and the ordinances which the LORD commanded to the sons of Israel through Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan *opposite* Jericho.

Numbers 33:50-36:13 - Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance

Three things stand out in the book of Numbers:

1. The consistent wickedness and unbelief of the human heart.
2. The holiness of Jehovah, tempered with His mercy.
3. The man of God (Moses) who stands as a mediator and intercessor between the sinful people and a holy God.

The human heart has not changed since Numbers was written. Neither has the holiness or mercy of God. But Moses has been replaced by his Antitype, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him we have strength to avoid the sins that characterized Israel, and thus avoid the displeasure of God which they incurred. In order to profit from what we have studied we must realize that "these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition" (1Co_10:11).

BBE on Numbers 36

The Old Generation			The Tragic Transition			The New Generation			
Counting and Ordering of the People	Cleansing of the People	Complaints & Disbelief of the People	Instructions for Life in Canaan	The Rebellion of Korah	Aaron, the Levites & Moses	Serpent of Brass & Story of Balaam	Second Census & Laws of Israel	Setting east of Jordan	Preparations for Settling in Canaan
1 4	5 10:10	10:11 14	15	16	17 20	21 25	26 30	31 33	34 36
Preparation			Postponement			Promise			
Waiting			Wandering			Waiting			
Census, Instruction, Travel			-			Travel, Census, Instruction			
At Sinai			To Moab			At Moab			
Sinai to Kadesh			Wilderness			Kadesh to Moab			
Preparation for the Journey			The Journey			At the Gate of the Land			
About 2 months (39%)			38 years (17%)			A few months (44%)			
Mobilizing the People ch 1-9		Displeased with His People ch 10-19				Readying a New Generation ch 20-36			
Getting Ready to Possess the land		Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the Lord				An Examination of their Readiness to enter the Lord's Land			
Structuring		Testing				Enduring			

Life is meeting new circumstances, many of which we don't expect and can't control. Life is meeting new people and developing new relationships; it's meeting new ideas, some of which may upset us. As much as we try to avoid it, life is meeting ourselves and not always liking what we see. But most of all, life is meeting God, for He's always there, protecting us, wanting to teach us and always seeking to mature us. Life is meeting and meeting ought to lead to learning and learning to growing.

Let's review some of the lessons we learn while marching with Moses and the children of Israel, people just like you and I.

Summary and Review

The metaphors for life are many, and each of them teaches us something important. Sometimes life is like a battle and sometimes it's more like a race, but always it's a school where we need to be awake and alert to what God is trying to teach us. To Moses and Israel, life was a journey from bondage to freedom, from childishness to maturity, from selfishness to service, from glorifying the past to anticipating the future.

From God's point of view, there were only 3 locations in this journey: **Egypt**, the place of bondage that seems like security, **Canaan**, the place of inheritance where God wants to give us His best, and **the wilderness**, the place of unbelief, discipline and falling short of the good things God planned for us.

We Learn about Life

Living the Christian life begins with deliverance from Egypt (bondage) through the grace and power of God = salvation by faith in Christ's work on the cross, through God's grace. *The essence of Christian living is to enter into your spiritual inheritance as quickly as possible.* Before Israel arrived at Kadesh-barnea, God put them through various trials to grow them up (1 Peter 1:3-9).

When you reach the Kadesh-Barnea place in your life and all believers do, trust His Word and enter into your inheritance by faith. Don't worry about the giants, the enemy, the walled cities, or your own weakness and insignificance. Say with Caleb and Joshua, "The Lord is with us; fear them not" (Numbers 14:9). "For we who have believed do enter into rest" (Hebrews 4:3)

We Learn from Life

Israel repeatedly committed these three mistakes:

- they looked back and glorified Egypt
- they looked around and complained about their circumstances, and
- they looked within and magnified their own desires

What they should have done was to look up to God and trust Him to see them through.

God's desire is that we develop character and become more like Christ ([Romans 8:29](#)). That's why He arranges the necessary experiences of life for us. But we can't grow in grace unless we grow in the knowledge of God as revealed in Christ Jesus ([2 Peter 3:18](#)).

We Learn about God

During their wilderness journey, Israel learned that God loved them and cared for them, but they didn't always believe it. "What shall we eat" "What shall we drink" were the repeated questions they asked (Matthew 6:25-34), when they should have been saying to one another, "Yahweh is our shepherd. We lack nothing."

Israel also learned that God was long-suffering with them but wouldn't permit them to sin successfully. He was willing to forgive them when they cry out to Him, but too often they didn't cry out in confession until they first cried out in pain.

We Learn about God

On life's journey, we learn that Yahweh is the God of new beginnings. True, a whole generation had to die before the nation could enter the Promised Land, but they died because of their own rebellion. In His grace, God forgave them; in His government, He permitted them to suffer the consequences of their sin. You can't negotiate the will of God. You either obey it, ignore it, or resist it.

One of the tests of spiritual maturity is “**increasing in the knowledge of God**” (Colossians 1:10) – God Himself, His character, His works and His ways and delighting in them. Moses learned: “**He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel**” (Psalm 103:7).

We Learn about God

People are people whether marching slowly through an ancient wilderness or driving at high speed down our modern highways. One of the first lessons we learn about ourselves from Israel's experience is that we have a fallen nature that's prone to resisting the will of God.

Another lesson is that we don't enjoy changes in our lives and the discomfort they usually bring. All of us want life to be one vast comfort zone where we're sheltered from change, all the while forgetting that God-ordained change can be used to mould our character and help us grow.

We Learn about Ourselves

Another lesson is that complaining and grumbling are sins that God judges. When we complain to God about our lot in life, we not only commit the sin of ingratitude, but we also reveal pride (we think we know more than God knows), and unbelief (we don't really trust Him) and impatience. If we would learn to trust God, praise Him for His mercies, and wait for Him to accomplish His will, we'd grow a lot faster and experience a lot less misery.

One last lesson is that age is no guarantee of maturity. It's possible to grow old and not grow up. When the nation failed at Kadesh-Barnea, the fault lay with the older generation, whom God gave time to die off. Then God began with the new generation.

We Learn about Ourselves

Life is a journey we make by faith, for only God knows the end from the beginning. Actually, everybody lives by faith in someone or something. **The difference between Christians and non-Christians is the *object of their faith*.** Christians put their faith in God and His Word, while non-Christians trust themselves, their experience, and ability, their money and perhaps their friends. Israel also had the bad habit of walking by sight and not by faith and this caused them most of their trouble.

Faith is obeying God in spite of what we see or hear, how we feel or what might happen. Israel had all the evidence they needed that God was concerned about them, and had the power to take them into the Promised Land.

We Learn about Faith

Numbers is a book about “counting”. Twice Moses counted the men available to serve in the army (Numbers 2; 26). Somebody even counted the number of people who died in the various plagues God sent to discipline them.

Anybody can be a statistic, a number in a record, but it takes faith and courage to be the kind of person the Lord can count on. God wants all His children to be the kind He could count on, like Moses and Aaron, Joshua and Caleb, Eleazar and Phinehas.

We Learn the Importance of One Believer

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

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We have a choice. We can go with the unbelieving majority and miss God's very best, complaining our way through life, **or we can stand with the minority and dare to believe God and follow His commands.** We can crave comfort **or respond to challenge.** We can look back and yearn for carnal security **or look ahead and eagerly anticipate spiritual maturity.** We can wander in the wilderness of unbelief and selfishness and disobedience **or enter into the Promised Land with its battles and trials, trusting God to give us the victory.** The choice is yours!

We Learn the Importance of One Believer

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

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Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (26:1-36:13)

New Commitment to Battle (ch 31-32)

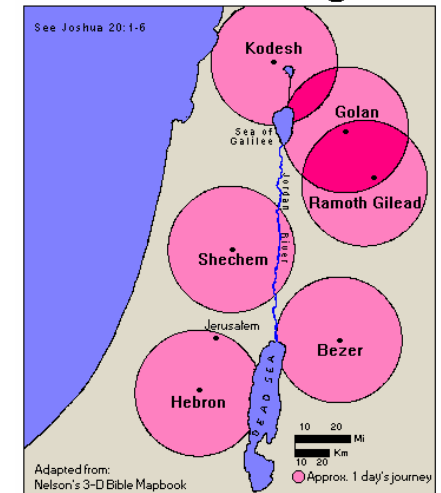
- The Slaughter of Midian (Numbers 31)
 - The Command to Exact Vengeance (v1-2)
 - The Army Sent Against Midian (v3-6)
 - The Battle against Midian (v7-10)
 - The Spoils of War (v11-12)
 - The Anger of Moses (v13-18)
 - The Purification of the Soldiers and their Spoils (v19-20)
 - The Instructions for the Purification (v21-24)
 - The Lord's Levy of the Booty (v25-31)
 - The Division of the Booty (v32-47)
 - The Special Gift to the Lord (v48-54)
- The Inheritance of the Eastern Tribes (Numbers 32)
 - The Request of Gad and Reuben (v1-5)
 - The Reaction of Moses (v6-15)
 - The Defense of Gad and Reuben (v16-19)
 - The Agreement of Moses (v20-24)
 - The Agreement of Gad and Reuben (v25-27)
 - The Command of Moses (v28-30)
 - The Answer of Gad and Reuben (v31-32)
 - The Transjordanic Tribes Given their Land (v33-42)

New Laws for the New Land (ch 33-36)

- The Travelogue of Israel (Numbers 33:1-49)
 - Israel's Exodus from Egypt (v1-4)
 - From Rameses to the Red Sea (v5-8)
 - From Marah to the Red Sea to Mount Sinai (v9-15)
 - From Mount Sinai to Kadesh (v16-36)
 - From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (v37-49)
- Final Instructions about Conquest & Inheritance (Numbers 33:50-36:13)
 - The Inhabitants of the Land (33:50-56)
 - The Boundaries of the Land (34:1-15)
 - The Southern Border (v1-5)
 - The Western Border (v6)
 - The Northern Border (v7-9)
 - The Eastern Border (v10-12)
 - The Apportioning of the Land (v13-15)
 - The Dividing of the Land (34:16-29)
 - The Cities of the Levites (35:1-34)
 - The Daughters of Zelophehad (36:1-13)



Cities of Refuge



Numbers: Man's Failure and God's Faithfulness (Num 14:8-9) (Wiersbe)

I. At Sinai: Obeying the Lord (1:1-9:14)

1. Numbering the Soldiers (1:1-54)
2. Organizing the Tribes (2:134)
3. Assigning the Duties (ch 3-4)
4. Purifying the People (ch 5-6)
5. Dedicating the Tabernacle (ch 7-8)
6. Celebrating the Passover (9:1-14)

II. To Kadesh: Tempting the Lord (9:15-12:16)

1. The Camp Marches (9:15-10:36)
2. The People Complain (ch 11)
3. Aaron and Miriam Criticize Moses (ch 12)

III. At Kadesh: Rebelling Against the Lord (ch 13-14)

1. Exploring the Promised Land (ch 13)
2. Refusing the Claim the Land (14:1-9)
3. Turning away from the Land (14:10-45)

IV. In the Wilderness: Learning from the Lord (15:1-20:13)

1. About Sacrifices (15:1-31)
2. About Authority (15:32-17:13)
3. About Responsibility (ch 18)
4. About Purity (ch 19)
5. About Humility (20:1-13)

V. In Moab: A New Beginning from the Lord (20:14-36:13)

1. New Victories (20:14-21; 21:1-35)
2. A New Priest (20:22-29)
3. New Dangers (ch 22-25)
4. A New Generation (ch 26)
5. New Regulations (27:1-11)
6. A New Leader (27:12-23)
7. New Commitment to the Law (ch 28-30)
8. New Commitment to Battle (ch 31-32)
9. New Laws for the New Land (ch 33-36)



