

# IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing  
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

## VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

*"And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine:"*  
**NUMBERS 3:11**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

### **Lesson 4: BOOK OF NUMBERS**

**TITLE:** Appropriately, the Hebrew title of the book, taken from the first verse, means, "in the Wilderness of," because most of the book records the history of the Israelites in their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai. The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, entitles the book *Arithmoi* (Numbers) because of the prominence of census figures (chaps. 1-3, 26).

**AUTHORSHIP:** Moses

**DATE OF NUMBERS:** Between 1450 and 1410 B.C.

**KEY WORDS & THEMES:** The principal lesson of Numbers is that God's people must walk by faith, trusting His promises, if they are to move forward. In reinforcing this theme, the book recounts the unbelief and discontent of the people in general (11:1) and of Miriam and Aaron (12:1), the refusal at Kadesh-barnea to enter the Promised Land (14:2), Moses' own failure (20:12), and the idolatrous worship (25:3). Yet, in spite of repeated failure, the Israelite's covenant-keeping God miraculously supported them during those years of rebellion and wandering and finally brought them to the Promised Land.

The New Testament uses several of the events in Numbers to remind believers of the seriousness of sin (compare John 3:14 and Numbers 21:9; 1 Cor. 10:5-11 and Numbers 14:29-35, 16:41-50, 20:1-13; 2 Peter 2:15-16, Rev. 2:14 and Num. 22-24; Jude 11 and Num. 16, 27:3).

**HISTORICAL SETTING:** The account covers the period between Israel's departure from Egypt and her arrival in Canaan. Exactly one year after they fled from Egypt, the Israelites were gathered at Mt. Sinai to receive instructions concerning the law and the Tabernacle (as recorded in the book of Leviticus). Numbers continues the historical narrative one month after the close of the last chapter of Exodus (Ex.40:2 and Numbers 1:1). The book covers the winding 39 years' journey from Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, through various places in the wilderness, and finally

to the plains of Moab across the Jordan River from Jericho.

#### OUTLINE OF NUMBERS:

##### **A. Israel Preparing at Sinai (1:1-10:10)**

1. The Census of the People (1:1-4:49)
2. The Sanctification of the People (5:1-10:10)

**STRAIGHT FROM THE  
PASTOR'S HEART  
DR. BENNY M. ABANTE, JR.**

##### **B. Israel Marching to Kadesh-barnea (10:11-12:16)**

1. The March Begun (10:11-36)
2. The Murmurings Begun (11:1-12:16)

##### **C. Israel at Kadesh-barnea (13:1-20:13)**

1. The Defiance of God (13:1-14:45)
2. The Discipline from God (15:1-20:13)

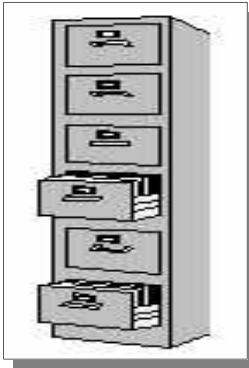
##### **D. Israel Marching to Moab (20:14-21:35)**

1. The Defiance of Edom (20:14-22)
2. The Death of Aaron (20:23-29)
3. The Defeat of Arad (21:1-3)
4. The Discipline of Israel: The Brass Serpent (21:4-9)
5. The Defeat of Sihon and Og

##### **E. Israel on the Plains of Moab (22:1-36:13)**

1. Balak Propositions Balaam to Curse Israel (22:1-41)
2. Balaam Blesses Israel (23:1-24:25)
3. Israel Worships Baal of Peor (25:1-18)
4. The New Generation Numbered (26:1-65)
5. The People Instructed (27:1-30:16)
6. The People Defeated the Midianites (31:1-54)
7. Transjordan Settled by Two-and-a-Half Tribes (32:1-42)
8. The Journey from Egypt to Moab Reviewed (33:1-49)





# The **BMA** **ARCHIVES**

**Dr. Benny M. Abante, Jr.'s  
PREACHING MATERIALS**

- ⇒8. Instructions for Possessing the Land (33:50-56)
- 9. The Division of the Land of Canaan (34:1- 36:13)

### **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:**

Canaan is the Promised Land. It was the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—the land of the covenant. Canaan was to be the dwelling place of God's people, those set apart for true spiritual worship. Although God's punishment for sin is often severe, he offers reconciliation and hope—his love is truly amazing. Just as God's love and law led Israel to the Promised Land, God desires to give purpose and destiny to our lives.

**-RYRIE Study Bible/Life Application Study Bible/BMA'S Messages 01/25/09**

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### **AN EXPOSITION ON THE FOURTH BOOK OF MOSES CALLED NUMBERS**

**AS** the children of Israel journeyed from the foot of Mount Sinai to the land of Canaan, they grumbled, whined at every turn. They focused on their present discomforts. Faith had fled and they added 40 years to their trip. Numbers, which records the tragic story of Israel's unbelief, should serve as a dramatic lesson for all of God's people. God loves us and wants the very best for us. He can and should be trusted. Numbers also gives a clear portrayal of God's patience. Again and again He withholds judgment and preserves the nation. But His patience must not be taken for granted. His judgment will come. We must obey.

**AS** Numbers begins, the nation of Israel was camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. The people had received God's laws and were preparing to move. A census was taken to determine the number of men fit for military service. Next, the people were set apart for God. God was making the people, both spiritually and physically, ready to receive their inheritance. But the complaining began. First, the people complained about the food. Next, it was over Moses' authority. God punished

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK  
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD  
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE  
IN A YEAR**

### **CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:**

**JANUARY 25 EXODUS 7-9**  
**JANUARY 26 EXODUS 10-12**  
**JANUARY 27 EXODUS 13-15**  
**JANUARY 28 EXODUS 16-18**  
**JANUARY 29 EXODUS 19-21**  
**JANUARY 30 EXODUS 22-24**  
**JANUARY 31 EXODUS 25-27**

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

some people but spared the nation because of Moses' prayers. The nation then arrived at Kadesh, and spies were sent into Canaan to assess its strength. Ten returned with fearful stories of giants. Only Caleb and Joshua encouraged the nation to "go up at once and possess it" (13:30). The minority report fell on deaf ears full of the ominous message of the majority. Because of their unbelief, God declared that the present generation would not live to see the Promised Land. Thus the "wanderings" began. These wilderness wanderings featured a continuous pattern of grumbling, defiance, discipline, and death. How much better it would have been to have trusted God and entered His land! Then the terrible waiting began—waiting for the old generation to die off and waiting to see if the new generation could faithfully obey God.

**NUMBERS** ends as it begins, with preparation. This new generation of new Israelites was numbered and sanctified. After defeating numerous enemies, they settled on the east side of Jordan River. Then they faced their greatest test: to cross the river and possess the beautiful land God had promised to them.

THE lesson is clear. God's people must trust Him, moving ahead by faith if they are to claim His Promised Land.

**-Life Application Study Bible/BMA'S MESSAGES 01/25/09**

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**Can you imagine the mammoth job of counting the wandering tribes of Israel? That's exactly what Moses and Aaron did! Israel's leaders broke down the huge assignment into many smaller elements, using the tribes, clans and families already in place in Hebrew culture. Good leaders organize chaos.—John Maxwell, The Maxwell Leadership Bible**

