

## OUTLINE AND STUDY OF BOOK OF NUMBERS

### I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Background.
  - i. Numbers.
    1. Relates Israel's 40 year history during wilderness wanderings.
    2. Name of book is:
      - a. "In the wilderness" in the Hebrew Bible.
      - b. Numbers in Septuagint & English Bibles.
      - c. Name derived from two numberings of Israel (Ch 1 & 26).
    3. Israel's story is both sad & encouraging. (See Hebrews 3:16-19)

### II. BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK.

- a. Author (Compiler of materials?)—Moses.
  - i. Consistent with Jewish & Christian traditions.
- b. Journey of a few weeks ended up a trip taking 40 years.
- c. Immediate purpose of book—to remind younger generation of danger of unbelief.

### III. MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF NUMBERS.

- a. A "call to faithfulness".
- b. Question: Can a called, chosen and "saved" people fall away from God. (I Corinth. 10:1-13).
- c. Bible repeatedly warns of such: (1) Hebrews 3:12-19 and (2) James 5:19-20.

### IV. MAJOR THEMES/TOPICS OF BOOK OF NUMBERS.

- a. TAKING A CENSUS.
  - i. First census—13 months after exodus from Egypt. (Num. 1:1)
    1. All men 20 yrs & upward eligible for military counted. (Num. 1:2-3,45,46)
      - a. Excluded Levites—numbered 603,550 (Num. 1:46 & 2:32)
    2. Suggests total Israelites of 2-3 million men, women and children.
  - ii. Second census—Num.26:51 (near time of entering Canaan)—601,730.
- b. WALK BY FAITH OR BY SIGHT—THE PEOPLE CHOOSE! (II Corinth. 5:7)
  - i. People questioned, murmured a complained—about food, water, etc.
  - ii. God, through Moses, said, "TRUST ME!"
  - iii. Problems began within 3 days of Sinai (Numbers 10:33-36)
  - iv. Nation sentenced to 40 years of wandering. (Numbers 14:27-39)
- c. THE WRATH OF A HOLY GOD
  - i. Several instances of Divine wrath & anger (Num. 14:10-12, Num. 15:32-36)
  - ii. Is God of Old Testament a "God of Wrath" while God in New Testament is only a "God of Love"? (See Matt. 23, especially v. 33 and II Thess. 1:7-9.)
- d. MENTION OF CHRIST IN NUMBERS.
  - i. Brass serpent in the wilderness—"type" of Christ—John 3:14-15 and Num. 21:6-9.
  - ii. Manna & "Bread of Life"—John 6:32ff.
  - iii. Balaam prophesied of a "star out of Jacob"—Num.24:17 and Matt. 2:2.