NUMBERS
EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Numbers Well?

DATE: ***1446-1440 BC:*** Written in the Wilderness
GENRE: ***Torah:*** Narrative, Census, Laws & More
AUTHOR: ***Moses:*** All 5 Torah Books
SETTING: ***Journey:*** From Sinai to Moab
PURPOSE: ***Wanderings:*** Formation & Conflict
AUDIENCE: ***Israel:*** God's Covenant People

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Numbers Well?

Wilderness Wanderings Toward the Promised Land

- Begins: Mount Sinai
- The Law Has Been Given
- Priesthood Established
- Moses and Aaron Lead
- Ends: The Plains of Moab

KEY VERSES

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

- Numbers 6:22-27

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Numbers?

- Formation of God's People
- Census & Genealogy
- God's Presence & Tabernacle
- God's Established Authority
- Conflict Inside, War Outside
- Unbelief, Failure & Forfeit
- God's Covenant Loyalty

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Numbers?

CH 1-9: 1. Preparation to Leave Sinai
Census, Levites, purification, and the formation of Israel's army

CH 9-19: 2. Sinai to Kadesh: Unrest & Unbelief
Complaining, the spies' report, and Korah's rebellion

CH 20-25: 3. Kadesh to Moab: Wars & Balaam
Moses' failure, battles, the bronze serpent, and Balaam's blessings

CH 26-36: 4. Preparation to Enter Canaan
A second census, inheritance laws, and a new generation



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Numbers?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-9: 1. PREPARATION TO LEAVE SINAI

God numbers and orders his people around the tabernacle, making them a kingdom of priests ready to march

CH 1-4: Census & Camp
Men are numbered for war, and the tribes camp around the tabernacle with the Levites serving

CH 5-9: Purification & Preparations
Restitution, the Nazirite vow, the priestly blessing, and the tabernacle set up under divine guidance

CH 9-19: 2. SINAI TO KADESH: UNREST & UNBELIEF

The first generation refuses the land in unbelief, and God confirms the leaders and priests he chose

CH 9-12: Departure & Complaining
Israel leaves with cloud, fire, and trumpets, but soon complains and turns against Moses

CH 13-15: Spies & Judgment
Ten spies fear, Joshua and Caleb trust; Israel rebels, Moses intercedes, God judges; laws for the next generation

CH 16-19: Korah's Rebellion
Korah challenges Moses and Aaron; the earth swallows the rebels, Aaron's staff buds, and priestly duties follow

CH 20-25: 3. KADESH TO MOAB: WARS & BALAAM

Opposition now comes from outside, yet God gives victory and will not let his people be cursed

CH 20-21: Transition & Battles
Moses strikes the rock, Miriam and Aaron die; kings fall, and the bronze serpent brings life

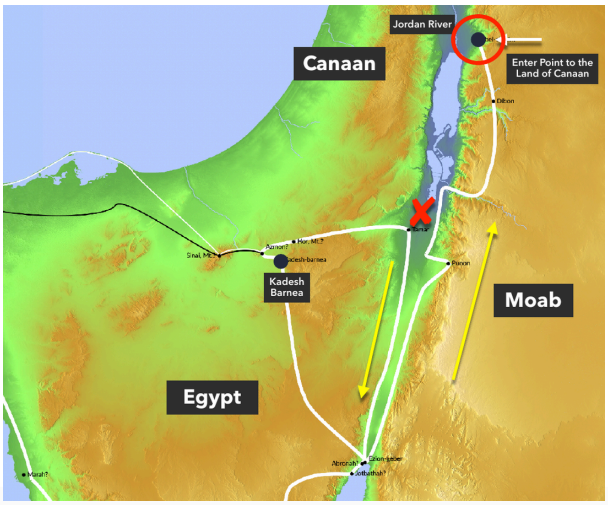
CH 22-25: Balak & Balaam
Hired to curse Israel, Balaam can only bless; a donkey speaks; then Israel falls into idolatry with Moab

CH 26-36: 4. PREPARATION TO ENTER CANAAN

On the plains of Moab, God readies the second generation to inherit what their parents forfeited

CH 26-30: The Next Generation
A second census of the new generation, then laws on inheritance, succession, offerings, and vows

CH 31-36: War, Review & Inheritance
War against Midian, a summary of the whole journey, and each tribe's inheritance



5. HOW NUMBERS POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the bronze serpent lifted up: look and live (John 3:14)
- In Balaam's prophecy: a star and scepter from Jacob
- In Moses' intercession: Jesus, our great intercessor
- In the priestly blessing that is ours in Christ

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