

The Book of Numbers

The Law – Torah

The Pentateuch

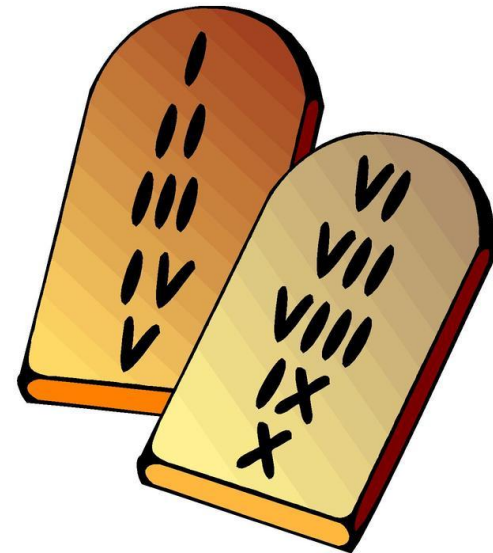
Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy



Numbers Title

The English title “Numbers” is from the two censuses in the book.

Numbers: Theme

- God has a plan for his people. The LORD's people must live each day by faith in him and his word if they are to please him and *enjoy* his plan of blessings in time. Unbelief and disobedience bring painful consequences, but the LORD, in grace, always keeps his Word to his people.

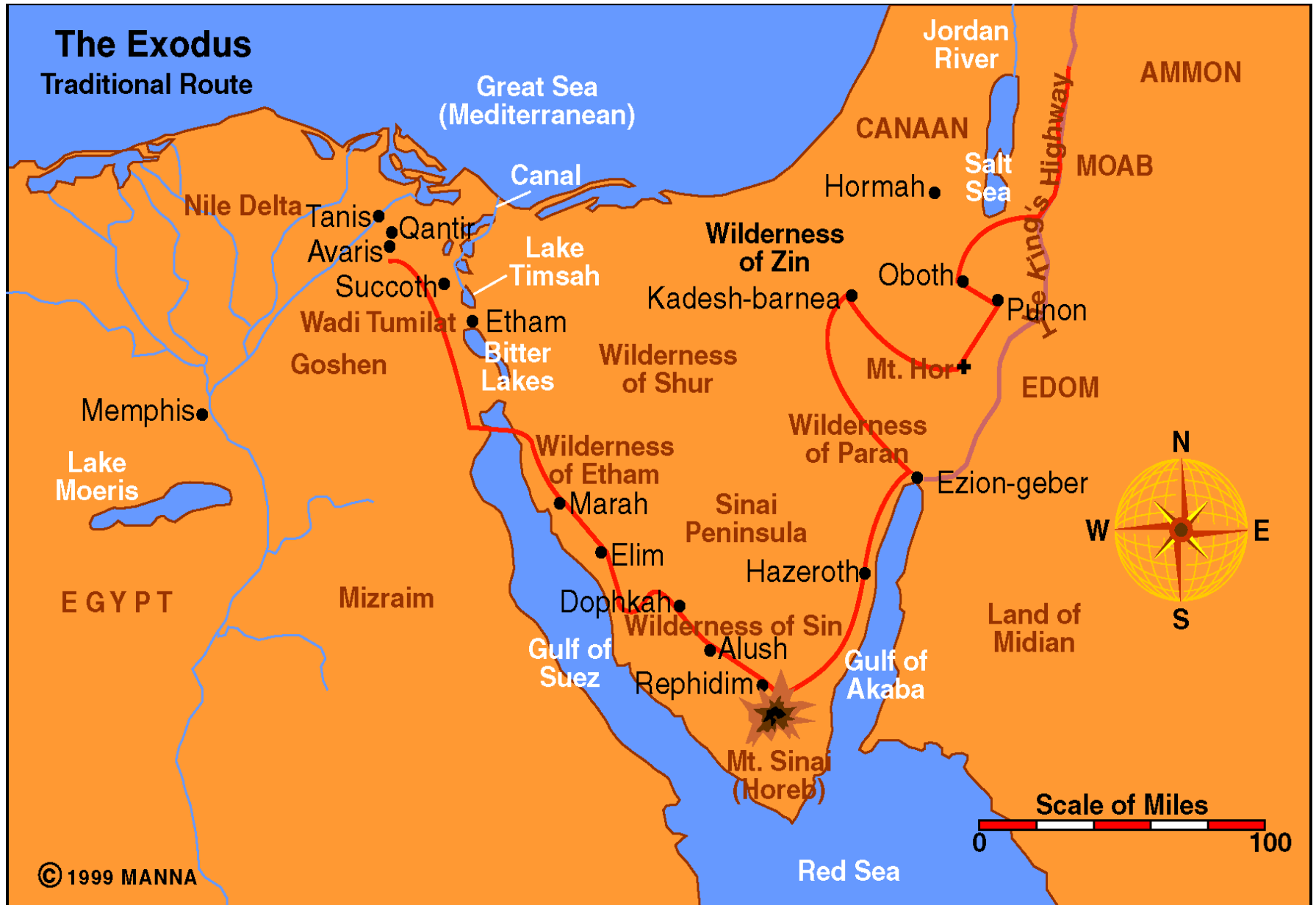
Numbers Key Verse, 14.22-23

- 22 “Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice,
23 shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.”

Numbers: Background to events.

- The Hebrew people left Egypt one year ago. They are still at Sinai.
- God has already given Moses the Law for the people.
- The tabernacle has been completed.
- It is now time to move into Canaan.

Exodus - Traditional



Numbers: When did all this happen?

- The **first census** was on second day of the second month of the second year dated from the time they left Egypt—**April 1445 BC** (Numbers 1.1-4).
- The Israelites left Sinai **20 days later** (Numbers 10.11).
- **Thirty-nine years later**, God told Moses to take **another census** of the new generation while they were in the Plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho. This generation would enter Canaan (Numbers 26.1-4).
- They remained in the **Plains of Moab** about **5 months**.
- The events in Numbers cover **39 years**.

Numbers: Key Words Used

- Moses, 236
- Congregation, 73 times
- Lord spoke, 49 times
- Wilderness, 48
- Set out, 37 times
- Law, 15
- Grumble, 2 times, Complain, 1 time

Numbers: Main People

- Moses
- Aaron
- Caleb
- Joshua
- Korah, Dathan, and Abiram
- Balak
- Balaam

Numbers: Narrative Preview

- The Lord generously organized, prepared, and provided everything for his people and their short trip to the promised Canaan land. Yet Israel disbelieved, disobeyed, and complained against the Lord. As a result the Lord disciplined the people, yet kept his covenant of blessing to them, and the next generation entered the land under Joshua.

Numbers: Narrative, 1

- Numbers begins with Moses counting the people in preparation for the march to Canaan. The first census was on second day of the second month of the second year dated from the time they left Egypt—April 1445 BC It is only 13 months after leaving Egypt (Numbers 1.1-4).

Numbers: Narrative, 2

- Twenty days later the Israelites begin the trip to Canaan (10.11). Along the way they repeatedly disbelieve and disobey God: complain about no meat; Aaron and Miriam jealous; unbelief of the spies; military defeats; Korah rebellion; Moses hits the rock; complain against Moses followed by the fiery serpents; Balak and Balaam and idolatry; As a result, God disciplines them in order to prepare them to enter Canaan.

Numbers: Narrative, 3

- After 39 years of wandering, God tells Moses to take a new census (26.2). They are in the Plains of Moab, near the Jordan River across from Jericho, where they would stay for about five months. The old generation had died; the new generation was ready to take their land.

Numbers: Narrative, 4

- Moses inaugurated Joshua as the the new leader (27.18). Moses then gave instructions for dividing the land and for living in Canaan.
- The events in Numbers cover 39 years.

Numbers Outline

- 1. Preparation at Sinai for the journey (1-9)**
- 2. Failures, Wanderings, and Kadesh-Barnea (10-20)**
- 3. Plains of Moab, Balaam, and Idolatry (21-25)**
- 4. Plains of Moab, instructions before crossing the Jordan, and Joshua (26-36)**

Numbers Chapter Titles: Preparation at Sinai, 1-9

Chapter 1: Census at Sinai.

Chapter 2: Camp arrangement.

Chapter 3: Levites' Camp and Duties.

Chapter 4: Levites' Census and Duties.

Chapter 5: Unclean, Sin, Law of Jealousy.



More

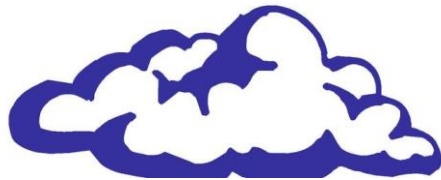
Preparation at Sinai, 1-9

Chapter 6: Nazirite vow.

Chapter 7: Offerings at tabernacle dedication.

Chapter 8: Levites in place of firstborn.

Chapter 9: Passover. Cloud and Fire.



Cloud by Day



Fire by Night

Failures, Wanderings, and Kadesh-Barnea, 10-20

Chapter 10: Two trumpets. Leave Sinai.

Chapter 11: Grace in spite of complaining—quail.

Chapter 12: Miriam and Aaron jealous of Moses.

Chapter 13: Spies to Canaan.

Chapter 14: Will not enter Canaan.

Chapter 15: Offerings and punishment
when in Canaan.



More

Failures, Wanderings, and Kadesh-Barnea, 10-20

Chapter 16: Korah, Dathan, and
Abiram. God judges.

Chapter 17: Aaron's rod budded.

Chapter 18: Priests and Levites: Duties
and support.

Chapter 19: The red heifer and
cleansing.

Chapter 20: Moses hits the rock. Edom.
Aaron dies.



Plains of Moab, Balaam, and Idolatry, 21-25

Chapter 21: The bronze serpent.
Amorites and others.

Chapter 22: Balaam, the Angel, and the donkey.

Chapter 23: Balaam blesses Israel –
Prophetic proverbs 1-2.

Chapter 24: Balaam blesses Israel –
Prophetic proverbs 3-7.



Plains of Moab, instructions before crossing the Jordan, and Joshua, 26-36

Chapter 25: Idolatry with Moabites and
Midianites, and judgment.

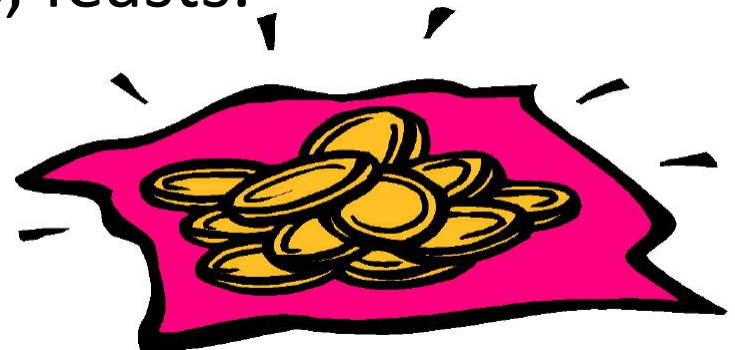
Chapter 26: Census of the new generation.

Chapter 27: Passing the Mantel to Joshua.

Chapter 28: Offerings, sacrifices, feasts.

Chapter 29: Offerings, sacrifices, feasts.

More



Plains of Moab, instructions before crossing the Jordan, and Joshua, 26-36

Chapter 30: Vows.

Chapter 31: Midian's defeat and the spoil.

Chapter 32: Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh's land.

Chapter 33: Egypt to the Jordan—a review.

Chapter 34: Borders, leaders, and lands.

Chapter 35: Levite cities. Murder.

Chapter 36: No inter-tribe land transfer.

Numbers: Key Doctrines, 1

- Decently and in Order, 1-4
- Nazirite vow, 6
- Levites, 8
- Divine Guidance, 9
- Grumbling, 11
- God Provides, 11
- Spiritual Cowards and Spiritual Heroes, 13-14
- Divine Attributes, 14

Numbers: Key Doctrines, 2

- Divine Discipline, 12, 13, 20, 21
- Authority, Service, Pride, Rebellion, 16
- Moses and Failure, 20
- Bronze Serpent and Faith Salvation, 21
- Balaam, 22-24
- Passing the Mantle, 27
- Tribes and Land, 34
- Cities of Refuge, 35

Lessons for us from Numbers, 1

1. God is a God of order (1-4; 1 Corinthians 14.40)
2. Live and obey by faith—Faith application and Faith-Rest (11, 13, 14; Hebrews 3-4)
3. Spiritual Cowards (grumble and unbelief) and Spiritual Heroes (11, 21, 13-14; 2 Timothy 4)

Lessons for us from Numbers, 2

4. Authority, humility, and rebellion, in ministry (12, 16; 1 Corinthians 4; 3 John 9-10)
5. Divine Discipline (11, 14, 16, 20, 21; Hebrews 12.5-13; 1 Corinthians 11.3-31; Acts 1-11)
6. Failure does not stop service (20; Luke 22.54-62; Acts 1.15; 2.14; 10.5)

Lessons for us from Numbers, 3

7. Salvation by faith (21; John 3.14-16)
8. Passing the mantel: transition of authority and leadership (27; Titus 1.5; Philippians 2.19-30)
9. Importance of spiritual heritage (8, 16, 34-36; Philippians 1.27-30)

Numbers 21: 4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. **5** And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." **6** So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. **7** Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you;

pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

The **bronze serpent** is a type of Jesus on the cross

1. Death without it (Num. 21:6)

1. Death without him (1 John 4:10)

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

2. Lifted up on a pole (Num. 21:8)

2. Lifted up on the cross (John 3:14;12:32-33)

John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself." **33** This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

3. Available to all (Num. 21:8)

3. Available to all (John 3:16)

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

4. The ONLY cure

4. The ONLY savior (Acts 4:12)

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

5. A SURE cure (Num. 21:8-9)

5. A SURE cure

6. Required faith

6. Requires faith (Heb. 11:6)

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7. Look and live! (Num. 21:8)

7. Look and live! (Heb. 12:1-2; Isa. 45:22)

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 45:22 "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

8. Must not become an idol (2Kg. 18:4)

2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places and broke the *sacred* pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

8. Must not become an idol (1 Jn. 5:21)

1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

The Red Heifer

Water Purification

**How many of you have ever heard
of the Ashes of the Red Heifer?**

Numbers 19:1-10



Notice that this was commanded by God!

Ashes of the 1st Red Heifer would be mingled with the ashes of the next, and the next
...and so on!

From Moses until the destruction of the temple, there were apparently 9 Red Heifers
offered in this manner

The Jews today are looking for a Levitically acceptable Red Heifer for the time when the
temple is rebuilt.

**Aren't you glad that God has provided the final, perfect, spotless Lamb for Our
Purification?!?!?!?**

Chapter 19 – The Red Heifer



Ch-16 Korah and the plague ~ 15,000 killed

Ch-17 Then... “We are all dying!”

Ch-18 So...

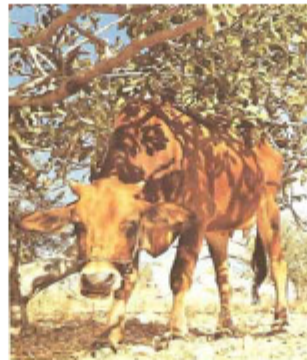
Ch-19 Then...

Because of the significant number of deaths, a means of purification was needed for those becoming unclean because of contact with or being in the presence of the dead.

It was important to purify the camp from the final effects of sin (death).

Chapter 19 – The Red Heifer

- Differences between the red heifer and other sacrifices:
 1. red
 2. female
 3. never been yoked
 4. never had a calf
 5. burned completely (including blood and offal)
 6. consumed outside the city



Chapter 19 – The Red Heifer

- Steps in the purification process:
 1. The unclean person must decide to avail themselves of the “water of purification”.
 2. Sprinkling (by a person who was clean and authorized)
 3. Wash their clothes and bathe themselves (themselves)

So for us,

1. We must decide to avail ourselves of the purifying work of Christ. Note: We don't choose the method of purifying, that has already been decided.)
2. Sprinkling of the blood of Christ to remove our sins.
3. Then we apply (bathe) ourselves by continuing to work out our salvation as instructed by the Word. (e.g. washing of the water of the Word)

Chapter 19 – The Red Heifer

- The Red Heifer is a type of Christ:
 1. He was sacrificed for our sins.
 2. He had never borne the yoke of sin.
 3. He was killed outside the camp.
 4. It is by the application (sprinkling) of His blood that we are made clean.
 5. We appropriate our cleansing by faith in the sacrifice of His life.

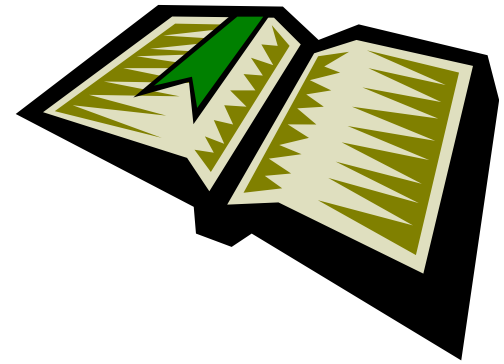
Note: Those that cared for the body of Christ voluntarily placed themselves in a position of ritual uncleanness for 7 days.

Aarons Rod

Aaron's Rod

- God instructed Moses to bring a rod from each tribe and write their leader's name on it
 - Aaron's name was on the rod of Levi
- God said the rod of the one He chose would blossom
- All 12 rods were placed before the Lord in the tabernacle - Aaron's rod budded

Numbers 17:10-11



And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die." Thus did Moses; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

Contents...

Aaron's Rod

Aaron's rod confirmed God's anointing of the priesthood, and resurrection power.

The rod that Aaron had carried was a dead tree branch, but it not only budded, it bore fruit (Numbers 17:1-11)!

As Aaron's rod was dead and then budded and bore fruit, so Christ died and rose again (Matthew 28:1-10). Rod represented power of God to bring life out of death

Contents...

As Aaron's rod was dead and then budded and bore fruit, so Christ died and rose again (Matthew 28:1-10).

Rod represented power of God to bring life out of death



Korah

- **Q. Who was Korah?**
- **A.** One of Levi's great grandsons and a first cousin to Moses and Aaron.
- **Q. Did Korah have a lot of responsibility in Israel?**
- **A.** Yes, he already had a high office in the service of the Lord in the Tabernacle (see Num. 4:1-20), but he wanted an even higher office - the priesthood that was given to Aaron (vv. 8-11). He was not satisfied with the job he was given by God.
- **Q. Do you know anyone else who was not satisfied with job they were given?**
- **A.** Yes, Satan (Ezek. 28:15-16).

- **Q5. Did Korah go to Moses alone?**
- **A.** No, he took three Reubenites – Dathan, Abiram and On – and about 250 other leaders of Israel who had their own complaints. They came as a group to oppose and challenge Moses and Aaron (Num. 16:1-3).
- **Q6. What did Korah want to do?**
- **A.** Korah challenged Moses, actually God (Num. 26:9), because Korah and the others did not respect the leader God had put in charge. "We are here because we believe you are taking on too much power. You and your priests act as though you are holier than any of the rest of us. If we are God's chosen people, then *all* of us are holy and the Lord is with us. Why do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" (Num. 16:1-3).

- **Q11. What did Moses do?**
- **A.** He fell down face forward to the ground because it was such a great sin the men were committing (Num. 16:4).
- **Q12. What did Moses say to Korah and the other rebels?**
- **A.** "In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him and he will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far." Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites. Isn't it enough for you that God has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near to Himself to do the work at the Lord's Tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? Now you are trying to get the priesthood too. It is against the Lord that you and your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?" (Num. 16:5-11).

- **Q13. Did Moses only speak to Korah?**
- **A.** No, he also called Dathan and Abiram (v. 12).
- **Q14. Why do you think Moses called Dathan and Abiram?**
- **A.** Moses tried to call them away so they would not be part of the rebellion. God makes people aware of their problems and gives people a chance to repent, but once they fail to listen consequences happen at some point.
- **Q15. What did Dathan and Abiram say?**
- **A.** "We will not come. We refuse to listen to your excuses for leading us from the good land of Egypt and into a desert where we are to die. Your only aim has plainly been to control the people, no matter what becomes of them" (vv. 12-14).

- **Q16. Did they have a repentant attitude and did they change?**
- **A. No.**
- **Q17. How did Moses respond to the accusations or charges of the rebels?**
- **A. Moses became angry at the untruthful charges and said: "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them" (v. 15).**
- **Q18. What did Moses say to Korah?**
- **A. "You have started something you will have trouble finishing. Your belief that just anyone can be in the priesthood without being ordained by God is false. However, if all of you insist on trying to force your way into such offices, every one of you should be here tomorrow morning with incense and a censer filled with fire. Aaron and his sons will also be here with their censers. God will make it known which ones He will choose as priests and their helpers" (vv. 16-17).**

- **Q19. What happened the next morning?**
- **A.** Two hundred and fifty leaders, plus Korah, Dathan and Abiram appeared before the Tabernacle. Every man carried a censer filled with fire to show his readiness to go at once into priestly service. Yet most of these men were not Levites and those who were Levites were rebelling against Moses, Aaron and most importantly, God (vv. 18-19).
- **Q20. What did God tell Moses to do?**
- **A.** "Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once" (vv. 20-21). We should always separate ourselves from those who are in rebellion to God's Law.

- **Q21. What was God going to do?**
- **A.** All those people there were going to be killed. But Moses asked God to spare the people as he had done in before (see Ex. 32:9-11). Moses and Aaron fell face down and cried out, "O God, God of the spirits of all mankind, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"(v. 22).
- **Q22. What did Moses do next?**
- **A.** He instructed the people to move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and stated: "This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: If these men die a natural death and experience only what usually happens to men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord brings about something totally new, and the earth opens and swallows them, and they go down alive into the grave, then you will know that these men have treated the Lord with contempt" (vv. 25-30).

- **Q23. What follows quickly?**
- **A.** The earth opened up and swallowed all of the households and possessions of Korah and all the men in the rebellion (vv. 31-34).
- **Q24. Were others killed?**
- **A.** Yes, the two hundred and fifty men who had followed Korah and who had brought their censers ran away from where the earth opened up. Even though they were soon scattered among thousands of others, all two hundred and fifty men suddenly met death by bolts of fire, shooting down from the Lord (v. 35).

- **Q25. Why did so many people have to die?**
- **A.** God cut off the rebellious in this way as an example to others who blaspheme Him. These people were wicked and rebellious and their actions and speech were directed against God and His system and those who act in His name, and it brought swift punishment.
- God does punish the wicked for their disobedience. However, we know that all who have ever lived will be resurrected from the dead and have their chance to be part of God's family

- **Q26. Were the men's censers used later?**
- **A.** Yes, Eleasar was told to gather the censers scattered among the burning coals. The censers were beaten into sheets: "The metals in those censers have been presented before the Lord and have become holy", the Lord explained. "Save them so that they will be used in forming special plates to cover the altar of burnt offerings. Then let those plates be a reminder to the people that no one except the descendents of Aaron is to offer incense before the Lord. Anyone who does otherwise will be subject to the fate of Korah and those who followed him with their foolish ambitions" (vv. 36-40; 2Chro. 26:14-21; and Heb. 5:4).
- **Q27. Was anyone spared?**
- **A.** Yes, the children (Num. 26:11)

- **Q28. Do we have a record of Korah's sons anywhere else in the Bible? If so what did they do?**
- **A.** Yes, 1Chronicles 9:19 also talks of the sons of Korah serving God (see also Psalms 84, 85, 88).
- **Q29. After the rebellion had been put down were the people content to carry on with Moses and Aaron as their leaders?**
- **A.** No. They continued to grumble and complain and blamed Moses and Aaron for the deaths of their fellow Israelites. They did not believe that the destruction the previous day had come from God (Num. 16:41).

- **Q30. Then what happened?**
- **A.** God was angry and wanted to destroy the people and Moses and Aaron were afraid for the people. God sent a plague and people were dying all over the place.
- **Q31. What did Moses and Aaron do next?**
- **A.** Moses told Aaron to take his censer and incense and make atonement for the sins of the people (vv. 46-48).
- **Q32. Did God stop the plague?**
- **A.** Yes. Because of the faith of Moses and Aaron, God answered their prayers and spared the people (v. 50). But many thousands did lose their lives that day (v. 49). They were a rebellious and unbelieving people who had to learn their lessons the hard way, just like some of us today.

Balaam and the Donkey

Intro:

- **- Rev. 2:14 “the teaching (doctrine) of Balaam” - one way the Lord described false religious doctrines**
- **- this lesson: Beware of the Teaching of Balaam!**

The “teaching of Balaam” is symbolic of false teaching?

- - Rev. 2:14 teaching that puts a stumbling block before people, whereby they fall into sin
- - Balaam and Balak (king of Moab)
- - Balaam was a prophet of God
- - Balak (king) tried to get Balaam to curse Israel, so they couldn't defeat the Moabites, but God didn't allow
- Him to curse His people
- - so Balaam taught Balak how to put a stumbling block before Israel, whereby they sinned, and God
- punished them for their sins

What are some present-day teachings of Balaam?

- **stumbling blocks placed before people, resulting in sin AND any false religion or religious teaching**
- **- Gnosticism entices people through deceitful philosophy, promising a special relationship with God that cannot be obtained except through that religion**
- **- Rev. 2:15 Nicolaitans**
- **- pagan religions entice people with fulfillment of lustful desires, that whatever you believe is ok**
- **- enlightenment religions entice people with enlightenment, usually through an ascetic lifestyle**
- **- Pentecostal religions entice people with the promise of supernatural power, using magic and tricks to deceive them**
- **- Catholic religions entice people with the promise of eternal life, obey the priest and saved, punishment will only be for a short time in purgatory, can always be forgiven even if die before confession**
- **- Protestant religions entice people with once saved always saved, no matter what you do you'll be saved**