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Okay. All right, we're going to start the study of numbers. So today, I'm going to use this time to set up numbers as a book.

So you get a perspective about the book before we actually get into its details. So the title of Numbers comes from Greek and Latin, and you can find this designation based upon the focus of chapters one through four and chapters 26 of Numbers itself. So the most common Hebrew title comes from the fifth word in the Hebrews text, which of one and one, in the wilderness of, this name of much more descriptive of the total contents of the book, which recounts the history of Israel during almost 39 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Okay, so you've got to remember that the book of Numbers started both in Exodus and was present one week after Leviticus started. So Numbers was written during the course of the Israelites journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai desert, and it was done as a baseline condition of governing the Israelites while the law was being given by God to Moses to the people. So another Hebrew title favored by some early church fathers is based upon the first word of Hebrews text one one, and he spoke.

This designation emphasizes that the book records the word of God to Israel. So that is absolutely the truth. Now, the date of this book is the fourth book are ascribed to Moses throughout Scripture.

You can see this in Joshua 8 31, 2 Kings 14 and 6, Nehemiah 8 and 1, Mark 12 26, John 7 19. So the book of Numbers itself refers to the writing of Moses in chapter 33 two and 36 13. Numbers was written in the final year of Moses life.

Now you got to remember that God told Moses, he would never make it to the promised land. So this is in the final year of Moses life that he wrote this book. The events from 20 chapter 20 verse one to the end occur in the 40th year of after the Exodus.

The account ends with Israel poised on the eastern side of the Jordan River across from Jericho. You find this in chapter 36 13, which is where the conquest of the land of Canaan began in Joshua three chapters three through six. The book of Numbers must be dated therefore around the year 1405 BC.

Since this is the foundational to the book of Deuteronomy and Deuteronomy is dated in the 11th month of the 40th year after Exodus that's that's in Deuteronomy chapter one verse 13. So historically, you can actually put the time and date of this book in perspective. Now, most of the events of the book are set in the wilderness.

The word wilderness is used 48 times in the book of Numbers. The term refers to the land that contains little vegetation or trees and because of a spare sparsity of rainfall. It cannot be cultivated.

They can't grow food. On this land. The land is best used for tending flocks of animals in chapters one one two chapters 1010 Israel encamped in the wilderness of Sinai.

It was at Sinai that the Lord had entered into the Mosaic covenant with them. Now, this is where we get a lot of the pastors today are theologians talk about the Mosaic laws. This is where we get it because it's this covenant that basically God setting set in place with the Israelites.

Okay, to move forward. All right. Now you have to go back in history scope.

Let's do a quick recap. Remember that Adam was the first Hebrew or the second Hebrew Christ was the first Christ and God first Hebrew Adam was the second Hebrew and the first Adam representative of God here on earth and he's chosen one. How do we know that because God gave him domain.

So he had domain now when Adam transgressed against God, which we know that that was already planned because we needed to infiltrate this host body system to give us a way to be born and this deciding process of going home or not. Adam gave up the two keys. To the bottom one of the bottomless pit and the one to death and hell.

Okay, and when Christ came he and he was crucified and died. He went to hell got those two keys released all of this, all of the saints, as they were called in Scripture. Old Testament saints that had been housed there from the beginning of time who had died.

He released them to go to heaven because only one basis of of ability would allow both Old Testament and New Testament. Individuals to go to heaven and that is through the blood of Christ. So those Old Testament individuals had to wait upon Christ to come back to shed his blood to actually allow be allowed to go to heaven.

Think about that 4000 years in some cases. All right. So that is the setting of this.

So basically, when when the flood came Okay, God had to to select another individuals, much like Adam to represent the Hebrew chosen people and he selected Abraham and we've gone through that study. So what you're seeing is, is this is the continuation from Abraham's lineage through time. That that God set in motion through the prophecy of Prophet Moses to the people of Israel to give them a covenant for them to move forward, which is called the Mosaic covenant.

And we get this in Exodus 9 chapters 19 through 24 from chapters 10 verse 11 through 1216 Israel traveled from Sinai to Kaddish. And in chapters 13 and 1 through chapters 20 and 13 the events took place in and around Kaddish, which was located in the wilderness of Paran. Now Paran you can find in this in chapter 12 or 16 and 13 verse 3 and 26 the wilderness of Zin occurred in chapters 1321 and 21 from chapter 20 verse 14 to chapter 22 verse one, we find that Israel travel from Kaddish to the plains of Moab.

And all of the events of chapters 22 verse 2 to 3613 occurred while Israel was in camp in the plane to the north of Moab. That plane was a flat and fertile piece of land in the middle of the wasteland and you find that in chapter 20 verse 20 I'm sorry 20 verse chapter 21 verse 20 chapter 23 verse 28 and chapter 24 for verse one. So the book of numbers concentrates on events that take place in the second and 40th year After Exodus.

Remember I said that basically that was started in the last part of Exodus started one week after Leviticus, which is basically The law was being given to them in the first two months of their wilderness journey. So this book happened at the same time. All incidents recorded in chapter one verse one through chapters 14 verse 45 occur in and around the year 1444 BC, the year after the Exodus.

Everything referred to after chapter 20 verse one is dated around the years 1406 to 1405 BC, the 40th year after the Exodus. Now the laws and events around are found in, I'm sorry, chapter 15 verse one through 1922 Are undated. There's no dates on those are probably all should be dated around the year 1443 to 1407 because it's that period of time that all of these things took place.

Though the lack of material devoted to this 37 year period in comparison with the other years of the journey from Egypt to Canaan Communicates how wasted these years were. Okay, these are wasted years. These were just years that God had set in motion to allow a generation to die.

Because that's what he promised at the foot of Mount Sinai when they built the mold and calf. Remember, we talked about that. God wanted to kill them at that point.

Moses put himself In front of God saying, please don't do that. Strike my name, leave them alone. And Christ says, no, I'm just going to defer my time.

Remember, I'm going to defer this event. To some point in the future because of Moses, what you're doing. And this is the time which he's doing that he's given him 40 years to die off.

Because this generation is not going to make it to the promised land. Okay, so we have some themes we need to work through as we study this. We have We have both historical and theological themes that we need to have an understanding of.

Numbers chronicles the experience of two generations of the nation of Israel. The first generation participated in the Exodus from Egypt. They're the ones that are dying off.

The story begins in Exodus 2.23 and continues through Leviticus and into the first 14 chapters of Numbers. This generation were numbered for the war of conquest in Canaan, and we find that in chapter one, verse one through 46 However, when the people arrived in the southern edge of Canaan, they refused to enter the land and we find that in chapter 14 one through 10. Why? Because it was in It was infected with giants, if you recall.

Okay, and 10 of the 12 spies that went down to look at it came back and says, we can't conquer this land because they're, you know, they're giants, they're just grasshoppers. Because of the rebellion against the Lord, all of the adults, 20 and over, except Caleb and Joshua, which were the two of the 12 that came back and says we can go do this, were sentenced to die in the wilderness. We find this in chapters 14, 26, and 38.

Now in chapters 15 through 25, the first and second generations overlap. Okay, the first died out as the second grew up to adulthood. A second numbering of the people commenced in the history of the second land, chapters 26, verse 52 through 56, and the story of the second generation, beginning in Numbers 26 and 1, continues through the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua.

So the extension of Numbers continues through Deuteronomy and into Joshua as you're going to find a consistency through those books. Now there's three theological themes that permeate Numbers. First, the Lord himself communicated to Israel through Moses.

This is chapter 1, verse 1, chapter 7, verse 89, chapter 12, verse 6 and 8. So the words of Moses had a divine authority. Israel's response to Moses mirrored her disobedience and obedience to the Lord. So Numbers contains three distinct divisions based upon Israel's response to the word of the Lord.

Obedience is in chapters 1 through 10, disobedience is in chapters 11 through 25, and renewed obedience is in chapters 26 through 36. The second theme is that the Lord is the God of judgment. Throughout Numbers, the anger of the Lord was aroused in response to Israel's sin.

We find this in chapter 11 and 1, chapter 10, chapter 11, verse 1, verse 10, and verse 33, chapters 12, 9, chapter 14, 18, chapter 25, verse 3 and 4, chapter 32, 10, 13, and 14. Third, the faithless of the Lord to keep his promise to give his seed of Abraham the land of Canaan is emphasized in chapter 15, 2, 26, 52 to 56, 27, verse 12, 33, 50 to 56, and 34, 1, 29. Now, there are some interpretive challenges that we also need to focus our attention on before we do this study.

There are four major interpretive challenges that face us as we read Numbers. First is the book of Numbers, is the book of Numbers a separate book? Or is it part of a larger literary whole like the Pentateuch? The biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy form the Torah. The remainder of the scripture always views these five books as a unit.

Well, they were. They're completely separate from the rest of the Bible called the law. The ultimate meaning of Numbers cannot be divorced from its context in the Pentateuch, however.

The first verse of the book speaks of the Lord, Moses, the tabernacle, and Exodus from Egypt. This assumes that when we read this, we're familiar with the first three books that precede Numbers, which we've already read. Okay, the book has its own beginning.

It has a middle and has an ending. We've already talked about that. There's three phases.

There's obedience, disobedience, and reemergence as obedience. The dying of the first generation, the overlapping of the first generation or the second generation, and then the second generation coming alive. Thus, the book of Numbers is also to be viewed with singular identity.

The second interpretive question asks, is there a sense of coherence in the book of Numbers? It is readily evident that Numbers contains a wide variety of literary materials and forms, as you will see, because we're getting into things like senses list. Genealogies, laws, history, historical narratives. We're getting into a number of things in Numbers that set the stage for all of Israel throughout the remainder of Scripture.

It talks about poetry, it talks about prophecy, and it deals with the travelers found in the book. Okay, and you're going to see a lot of this. Nevertheless, they are all blended to tell the story of Israel's journey from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab.

That is the focus of the activities of the Israelites contained in the book of Numbers and why all of this stuff is taking place, because there's a future in Israelites' history. And God is setting the stage in identifying things in Numbers that we'll later see throughout the Scriptures. The coherence of Numbers is reflected in the outline that we're going to go through here in just a moment as to how the book is laid out.

Now, a third issue deals with the larger numbers given for the tribes of Israel in chapter 1, verse 46, and chapter 26 and 51. These two lists of Israel men of war, okay, that'll give you an idea of what's fixing to happen. God is setting up Israel to identify the men in the Israelites' encampment in the 12 tribes that will go to war.

These are taken 39 years apart. Why? Because you've got old generation and new generation. Both put the number over 600,000, so basically God's arming physical men of the old generation was over 600,000, and the new generation was over 600,000 as well.

These numbers demand a total population for Israel in the wilderness of around 2.5 million. Okay, some say up to 3 million, but anyway, it's somewhere between those two numbers, 2.5 and 3 million Israelites were those people running around the desert for 40 years. From a natural perspective, this total seems too high for the wilderness condition to sustain.

However, it must be recognized that the Lord supernaturally took care of Israel for 40 years. We find that in Deuteronomy 8 verses 1 through 5, when we get to Deuteronomy, Deuteronomy, the name of Deuteronomy itself is to repeat. So what we're going to find in Deuteronomy is a summary of everything in the first four books.

Therefore, the larger numbers must be accepted at face value. Now, the fourth interpretive challenge that we have concerns the heathen prophet Balaam. Balaam comes into the picture in chapters 22, verse 2, through chapters 24, verse 25.

Even though Balaam claimed to know the Lord as a deception in chapters 22, verse 18, Scripture consistently refers to him as a false prophet, 2 Peter 2, 15 and 16 and Jude 11. The Lord used Balaam as his mouthpiece to speak the true words he put in his mouth. Remember, God is there for both good and evil and uses both good and evil to what? Empower his truth.

So he actually used Balaam to open the eyes of the Israelites. Now, the chapter is laid out in two sections. Okay, basically two sections.

The experience of the first generation of Israel of the wilderness. We get this from the first chapter to chapter 25, verse 18. And the experience of the second generation in the plains of Israel.

It starts in chapter 26 and goes through the end of the chapter in chapter 36. Now, what is numbers all about? An overview, and we're going to go through an overview and summary of numbers. Okay.

Now, as we just talked about, the children, the old generation had to die off. A new generation had to come to being. And that took a period of 40 years.

Now, numbers, as we just talked about, follows Moses and Israel's journey from the foot of Mount Sinai, which is where Leviticus ends, to the edge of the promised land of Canaan. Okay, if this were a road trip today, it would take us about two weeks to get there. So we have to, I mean, this is rhetorical.

We have to ask ourselves, why did it take 40 years? And we have to get this in our understanding so that we can move forward. It was because the old generation had been cursed by God at Mount Sinai when they built the molten calf. And he delayed their death until the wilderness.

So basically, he had to create the second generation to continue his people to get them into the promised land. Now, I want to share my screen a second. Hope you can see my screen.

So this is what happens throughout this book. All right. Now, we go from Israelite's journey from Mount Sinai to Perk Perrin, to the plains of Moab.

So we have this 40-year period that they're migrating from one location to the other. So Moses, in Numbers, the numbers the people of Israel set up by camp formation. Now, you guys will get in the second chapter of Numbers the way that God set up the structure of the campsite at Mount Sinai.

And you've already got that in the sub stack where Trey Smith showed you in detail that the layout of the encampment was done in the manner of a cross. Okay, so you will need to know that at the center of this encampment is the temple. And around the four corners of that temple were the Levites, which you're going to get in the details of those.

And from the Levites, from the four sides were spread out the 12 tribes in the manner by which God told Moses to do that. So the 12 tribes are surrounded the Levites that surround the temple. Now, God provides shelter when Israel's on the move.

And the center of a camp where Israel stops as the protector and guide. So God was always in the center of the camp. Now, why is that significant? Because that's where God is with us.

He's in the center of us. Okay, the temple that basically our tabernacle at that point in time, the tabernacle that was built in excruciating detail in Exodus with all of those 12 chapters going through that is basically a description of us. And we're going to get back to that at some point in time here in the future.

But that this tabernacle represents our holy place inside of us. And God resides in that holy place at the center of that tabernacle. Now, there's three things that happen to move.

Israel complains, which is why Israel is basically in destruction. Aaron and Miriam complain, which is the reason why Aaron was in destruction. And we're going to get into that.

And then God punishes them. Okay, so this is an idea that basically we need to be underneath the covenant of God continuously. Okay, just as Papa Roy and I were talking about prayer and resulting of healing of sickness and disease.

The only way we can be in relationship with God is to be underneath his covenant. And if we're outside of the covenant, then we're no different than Israel complaining or Aaron and Miriam complaining. And the result of that is going to be punishment to us.

So every time you go outside of the covenant of God, there is a price to pay. Okay, now we learned this in our sickness and disease format. We said something is going to die when you get outside of that covenant.

If you get outside of that covenant in your finances, you're going to have financial difficulty. If you get outside of that covenant in your relationship, you're going to have relationship difficulty. And at the end, something is going to die.

All right, and if it's sickness and disease, an end result of sickness and disease is physical death. Okay, that is a method of punishment. Okay, it could be healing if God is not done with you, if your time is not up.

But getting outside of that umbrella will cause punishment. Now we find then in chapters 13 through 19 that basically it is the period of the movement between Mount Sinai to Paran. Okay, and Moses sent 12 spies out into the land.

Now land equals good, natives equals strong when you read the scripture. Okay, now 12 spies went into the land. Two came back and says, we can do this.

Ten came back and says, we can't do this. So what's happening here is because of the ten, Israel is going to die and those ten are going to die with Israel. But the two that came back with a positive response are going to live and see the promised land.

Do you see what that covenant means? If you're inside that covenant and you do what God is telling you to do, because God said, I'm going to give you the land. He didn't say, I'm going to go have you conquer the land and I'm not going to be with you. He says, I'm going to give you this land.

And two of them says, oh, we can do this. Ten of them say, oh, I'm so afraid. There are giants in the land.

There's no way we're going to conquer. They didn't rely on the God's promise that I want to give you the land. So they got outside of the covenant.

What happened? They got physically death is their continued punishment. The two that came back says, oh, you know what? God's promised we can do this because he told us that he's going to give us the land. Oh, what happened to them? They saw the promised land.

Now apply that to your life. OK, so Israel rebels. Plans to kill.

They plan to kill Moses and return to Egypt. That's how that's how they're rebelling. And that's happening in in Chapter 14.

And God bans this generation from the land. He spares Joshua and Caleb, as we as we said earlier. Now there's new laws.

God gave them new laws, the Mosaic covenant for living in the land. OK. Now, we find that Torah rebels, claims equality with Moses and Aaron.

And that happens in Chapter 16. And God affirms Moses and Aaron. Earth leaves, swallows, Korah spares sons.

So basically, God punishes Korah by having the earth swallow him up. The earth just grabbed him and swallowed him down. And but he spares the sons.

And we find this in Chapter 26, verse 11. And then the new laws take effect for the priests. OK, the the Levites, the Levites are still the priests.

But they in the old laws, you find that Aaron built a molten calf. The new laws are now different for the priests going forward. And we find this in Chapter 18, verse 19.

Oh, but Israel still didn't get it. OK, so the Israel still complains. And Aaron and Miriam die.

Moses will die, too, because God told Moses, because of your disobedience, you're not going to see the land either. So God judges, heals and fights. We find all of this in Chapters 20 and 21.

And then we find God's getting Israel's attention again. Remember, all of the plagues in Egypt. Remember, this is written at the end of Egypt.

So all of the 10, all of the 10 plagues that were done in Egypt, the first three was to get the attention of not only Egypt and the Israelites. OK, but the last seven were to were to attack the worshiping of the deity system of Egypt against their gods. Well, what did what did Egypt have at this time? Every time that Egypt complained to God or complained to Moses or Aaron, it was all about, you know, I had a good in Egypt.

I want to go back and I want to I want that way again. So what they were still doing was combating the system. In other words, God, God had to retrain these people.

All right. They lived in in Egyptian rule, 430 years with God, not God, not being present. And God had to reteach these people.

So it is it's it's like teaching a child. This is the this is the children being raised up. So God had to create.

Create a way to do this. And he used Balaam to do it and he used Balaam to do it. And you guys got to think about this, because in revelations, we're fixing to get into we're fixing to get into numbers in revelating in the numbers, Balaam tried to curse Israel seven times.

Now, go back to Egypt, Egypt's seven gods that God went after. OK, the first three curses was to get the attention of Israel. The last seven was to go head to head with Satan's rule over Egypt.

OK, so God again uses Balaam to curse Israel seven times. And God only allows him to pronounce seven blessings. He used them to do seven curses and he used him to create seven blessings to Israel.

So he got the attention of the new generation. So when doing so. Then we can we can migrate through to what happened in the Levite priesthood.

In essence. Phineas, which is Aaron's grandson. Has a zealousness in his heart for God, and he becomes the high priest in the Levite structure.

And in verse 26, this is the new generation that enters the promised land under a new census of the same amount of men fighting men that the old census produced of 600,000. So in chapters 22 through 36, we find more loss. Joshua named Moses' successor.

Two and a half tribes settled outside the promised land. And it's OK. Why? Because those tribes, those two and a half tribes, settled outside of the promised land, which you're getting, which you'll know in chapters 22 to 36, those two tribes settled outside the promised land by asking Joshua if it was OK.

And Joshua granted them the authority to live outside, but next to the land of Canaan. That's what they wanted to do. All right.

So we now have a pictorial overview of numbers from the descriptions that I read. All right. So let's go back.

There are important characters in numbers that you need to grasp. OK. Remember, because bloodlines.

So you have God, Yahweh himself, which is the creator of heaven and earth, who chose Israel as his special nation and dwells in their midst. He dwells in the center of the encampment. Then there's Moses, which is a prophet and human leader of the nation of Israel.

He's the chief spokesperson for God to his people and vice versa. OK. You're telling of the Mount Sinai experience.

And then you have Aaron's, which is Moses's brother and the high priest of Israel. Basically, he's going to die because he's the one that built the molten calf. And then you have Eleazar, Aaron's son.

He takes his place when Aaron dies. And you have Balaam, which is a diviner for hire from far away. He is hired by Israel's enemies to curse God's people.

And then you have Joshua, Moses's aide and spies on the people of Canaan. God selects him to be Moses's successor. Now, there's a lot of weird things happening in numbers here.

But you'll see. There's an episode with the talking donkey, if you recall, in your Bible stories. But the main focus of the book of Israel's repeated rebellion, this book is the main focus of the repeated rebellion against the Israelites and God.

And God's continual mercy in trying to work with this group of people in a manner that would allow him to be their God moving forward. Okay. Which is quite unique.

If we had to choose one verse in numbers to sum all of this up, it would be Numbers 14, 11. And it reads, The Lord said to Moses, How long will this people spurn me? And how long will they not believe in me, despite all of the signs which I have performed in their midst? Okay. Even all of the stuff, the providing of the manna in there, the thing of getting given them water, their protection, the ability to go into the land of Canaan, all of this stuff, even all of that, the people still scourged him.

They defiled him. So the Israelites rebelled against God and Moses several times in the book of Numbers. They complain about food.

They complain about water. They complain that they will be crushed by their enemies. They complain about Moses and even make a few death threats to Moses and Aaron as well.

When the people complain, okay, guys, this is something you got to listen to about yourselves. When the people complain, God hears them and it doesn't go well. The book of Numbers has stories of God killing rebellious Israelites with fire, plague, and snakes.

Sometimes Moses calls to God for help and the people turn on him. Sometimes God's punishes them directly. This is our lives.

This is our journey. But even though the people proved to be rebellious, God extends mercy to them. God is trying to find a path to get them to understand who he really is and to trust his divine purpose for them.

Rather than killing off the whole nation in the wilderness, he waits for the rebellious nation's desire to die and preserves the younger people. We talked about that. This is what's happening in the world today.

He continues to provide manna, which, okay, that mysteriously bred from heaven. He even prevents Balaam, the pagan prophet, from cursing the people. He does provide more laws.

The book of Numbers is a string of episodes from Israel's journey. And the author, being Moses, punctuates many of these episodes with a new set of laws given to the people. Well, how else are you going to change the people unless you try to move them from one direction to another? Okay.

The first didn't work. Let's try something different. Numbers doesn't have the big, bulky set of laws we see in the latter half of Exodus and Leviticus and almost the whole of Deuteronomy, but there's still plenty of rules that we're going to see.

Moses deals with the pressures of leading a new nation. At one point, asking God why he has to bear the burden of leading them to Canaan. Moses was absolutely exhausted.

Mentally, physically, spiritually, he was done with his people. Does that seem like your life today? Doesn't mind sometimes. Okay.

He feels like an unappreciated nanny, forced to carry more than 6,000 squalling brats across the wilderness. Moses tells God early in the book, I cannot carry all these people by myself. The burden is too heavy for me.

If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me. And we find this in chapter 11, verses 14 and 15. So Moses was fed up.

Moses said, I've done your tasks that you asked me to do. Now, these people don't appreciate what I've done. And oh, by the way, don't even want to commit to your covenant, which I have given them because you told me to.

And they're accusing me. Okay. And trying to kill me.

That was a position Moses is in. So time and time again, God makes it clear to the people that Moses is his chosen prophet. Comes back to these people.

Over and over and over again. And Aaron is his chosen priest, even though Aaron is, is cursed to die. due to an episode of Moses's disobedience, he is not permitted to enter Canaan either.

We're going to get into that in detail. Yeah. We've got to go back.

To God's covenant with Abraham. Back in Genesis. God made a pact with Abraham saying that one day his descendants.

Would inherit the land of Canaan and through those people, all of the nations of the world would be blessed. This is the conversion of that inheritance, but God promises to bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse Abraham. The name Abraham only shows up once in the book of numbers, but if you look closely, you'll see that God is at work, fulfilling his promise to Abraham throughout the book of numbers.

So that is what is going on. In numbers is God's fulfillment of the covenant made with Abraham in dealing with these. Children.

Who do not want to do anything other than. What they want to do. Now, as we read and study numbers.

We'll need to keep an eye on what the book says about the land of Canaan. What happens when someone tries to curse the people God chooses and any hints of a king coming from Israel. You're going to get the prelude or the forth telling of a king coming from Israel.

In book of numbers. Now numbers is not a standalone book. Okay.

Numbers is the fourth book of the tentative. It's Israel's fought five movement or original story reading numbers without at least understanding the previous three books. Genesis Exodus.

This is kind of like turning into the fourth season of a TV series. Okay, you're not going to know what's going on. If you don't didn't see what happened beforehand.

So if you guys had not. Completely did your study on Genesis Exodus Leviticus. I would suggest that you do so in some type of detail format so that you can actually understand what numbers is telling you in Genesis.

God makes promises to Abraham. The patriarch of Israel. God specifically promises that is the sentence will be given the land of Canaan that the nation will be blessed through him and that God will bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse Abraham.

Now Abrams family grows in the book ends with about 70 of his descendants as refugees into Egypt. Remember 70 is the number of the people that walked into Egypt because of the famine. That were taken in by the youngest or by the next to by one of the sons of Joseph.

Sorry Jacob and. And was given refuge in Egypt. Now after at the end of Exodus the nation of Israel has grown grown to about two and a half to three million people.

But they've been enslaved by the Egyptian overlords remember they this is 430 years. They worship titles the entire time. They had not been exposed to God.

And now what God is trying to do is corral his people. It's like herding cats. God sends his people a prophet Moses who speaks on God's behalf to both Israel and the Pharaoh.

God frees Israel and leads them to a mountain in the wilderness, which is Mount Sinai. Where he makes a special agreement with them the most say covenant. They promised to follow his command.

They even told Moses when Moses asked them would they follow it in the encampment and all of them. You know said yes and he promises to dwell among them giving them his blessing and protection. Now the book of Leviticus focuses on how a nation of mortals.

Animals can cohabitate with the God of heaven. Now numbers picks up the story. Right as the Israelites have been at Sinai for a year.

Now we've talked about the breakout of this. I'm going to give you I'm going to go over this again. So that basically it is a it's in your mindset as we start this.

So if you will, let's let's put this in a movie format at Act 1. Scene 1 is basically Numbers 1 chapter 1 verse 1 to chapter 10 verse 10. This this scene opens up with Moses taking a senses of the people of Israel the old generation. That's the reason why we call this book numbers because we're dealing with nothing but numbers in the book.

Israel has been camping in the wilderness for a year now and it's time for them to be on the move. Moses gives the nation orders for how the twelve tribes should position themselves as they can and as they move through the wilderness with the tabernacle of God being at the center of the camp. A good deal of the new laws rituals and sacrifices take place during this scene.

Now you have in Act 2 you have them moving from Sinai to Paran and this happens in Numbers chapter 10 through 11 to chapter 12 verses 16. Now, this is not a pleasant journey. The people are like monsters there.

They complain. They send fire and plague. I mean they complain against God and Moses and God sends fire and plague on him.

It's like almost like Sodom and Gomorrah because basically what he's trying to do is herd the cats. Guys, pay attention, please. Moses' brother Aaron and sister Miriam speak out against him, him being Moses and Miriam is temporarily afflicted with leprosy.

God is trying to get the attention in this scene 2, Act 2. Guys, you got to know who I am. I just I just showed you ten plagues. Why aren't you getting it? Yet.

So this journey is not really great at all. Now. Act 3 starts with Israel's rejection of the land and we find this in Numbers 13 through 19 when the Israelites get about halfway to Canaan, Moses sends 12 spies into the land to scope it out.

Two of them, Joshua and Caleb, tell the people that the land is good and God will give it to them. God will give it to them. That's what God told them.

I'm going to give you this land. They came back with saying the land is good. They didn't worry about the giants and stated exactly what God stated to them.

I'm going to give you this land. So the other ten, however, had no confidence that they could take the land while they were looking for it from a physical perspective and not a spiritual perspective. God didn't say go take the land.

God says, I'm going to give it to you. They believe the forces protecting Canaan outmatch Israel. So they believe that the forces of evil.

Okay, out focused the abilities of God. That is exactly the position of the people. The nation as a whole, we're not very happy to hear this.

So they then turn on Moses. They refuse to take the land. And so God says, okay.

Because you will not go forward with what I have told you I will do. You will all die in the wilderness and I'll give it to your children. Then we get into.

Four, which is going from Heron to Moab. And we find this in numbers 23 to 21. Things don't get better.

They get worse. Before they get better on this trip to Moab, Moses disobeys God in front of the people. And he too is prohibited from entering the promised land.

Aaron dies and his son takes his place. Israel defeats several enemies along the way. They end up just across the Jordan River from Canaan in the plains of Moab.

Now. Act four. I'm sorry.

Act five. Israel settles across from Canaan. Find this in numbers 22 to 36.

Israel makes camp just across the Jordan River from Jericho. Oh, you remember the story of Jericho in the Bible? It's this Jericho, St. Jericho. They're a force to be reckoned with.

They've defeated some armies and a few of the tribes begin settling in the east side of the Jordan permanently. Now, as we're going to see, and you can imagine the surrounding nations are completely freaked out. The surrounding nations hire a jerk by the name of Balaam, a false prophet, to curse Israel, which doesn't work out.

Why? Because you've got to go back to the promise that God made Abraham. Then Balaam gets a different nation to send in their daughters to seduce the Israelites and get them to worship by the gods. At the core of this evil system is sex.

Everything that you will find in the Bible as it relates to deception is through immorality of sending women into the camp, regardless of where it is. Then Balaam gets a different nation to send in their daughters, seduce Israelites and get them to worship other gods. That doesn't end well for Israel at first because they get another plague.

God says, I still don't have your attention, so catch this, guys. But it's even a worse deal for the other nation. Oh, my gosh.

Five of their rulers in Balaam are killed because God just says, I'm not going to put up with it. There's yet another census because now we're into the new generation. Joshua is named Moses' successor.

And generally speaking, the whole nation is made ready for the next chapter entering of the promised land. But not just yet. Moses has a very important message for them, but it's not covered in Numbers.

It's covered in Deuteronomy. That's the reason why Numbers is continual throughout the chapter of Deuteronomy and into Joshua. So really, what is Numbers' role in Scripture? Numbers shows us how a holy God dwells with his people, tries to get their attention.

Israel rebels against God, and even Moses disobeys him. But God is faithful to bring this nation to the promised land, herding cats. God keeps his promise, the promises that he made to Abraham and Genesis along with his promises to bless and punish Israel.

Oh, my gosh. Did they ever go through punishment? Although few of us are in the nation of Israel's position today, the stories in Numbers still serve as good examples to us. Paul teaches that the events in Numbers are recorded for our instruction.

Why? Because they show what happens when we get outside of God's covenant, that we may endure and escape all temptation. And this comes in at first Colossians 10, chapter 10, verses 11 and 13. Now, we're going to pick up next week with the reading of Numbers.

And this is going to go fairly quickly because we pretty much gave a detail overview of it this morning. Then you're going to find that numbers play a key role throughout Scripture. You're going to find in our study of Revelation, all kinds of revealing about what numbers are.

All right. In Revelation. And I said that Revelation is the culmination of the entire Old Testament revealed.

And there's prophecies in the Old Testament that go from Christ first arriving on Earth to Christ's second coming. And you're going to find that Christ's second coming is more spoken about in the Old Testament than his first. Because that is the culmination of where your eternal life is going to be.

So numbers play a key role. And we're going to see that. All right, guys, that's an overview.

Took about a little over an hour and 10 minutes or so. So any questions you might have on this? Maria. Okay.

How do I say this? Observing the way the Lord is dealing with the children of Israel and that he allowed the old generation to die off. And I was just wondering, maybe because in the new land, maybe the old generation had an Egypt mentality. And that he need a new generation who will carry the laws that he's setting.

I mean, I'm just observing it like that. Well, yeah, that's a good way to observe it. But what you need to do what you need to also understand is the old generation lost control of the new generation.

Think about your children. Okay. There's a lot of things that you can take away about our lives today is the old generation lost control of their children, but God gained control of those children to move forward.

And that's exactly what happened. So hope that gives you a good understanding of that. Yeah.

And I also want to say that. I mean, he speaks to me, you know, like when they were complaining about Moses, the leadership, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And this generation saw the Red Sea stand up like Jell-O.

And I'm like, wow. You know what I'm saying? There's any people that seeing God's glory is these people. You know, I'm just like, I feel sorry for God.

You know what I'm saying? So because you see all these plagues and this all this miracles. And I'm like, it just I don't know. I just wow.

I'm just fascinated by it. That's all. Just think about your life.

Okay. Think about what you what you were doing and how that works out. Yeah.

Okay. And what you're doing. I mean, these people saw the miracles.

Saw them. You're absolutely right. They actually saw them.

They experienced the life of those and they still did this. So how more difficult it is for us having to take all of this by faith and maintain that relationship. Okay.

And if these people couldn't do it by actually physically experiencing and seeing, you know, we need to understand the difficulty. It is for us not having that. But having to be steadfast in the way of the Lord.

Okay. We just have got to to to understand, you know, it's through faith. That all of this exists.

But as you grow in your faith, so there's a realization take place. That's this. That's a real significance for me is as my faith grows in Christ.

So does my reality of truth. And in doing so, I absolutely know who he is. I don't have to worry about.

Did I see something? I see it every day. I see it every day. Those things are going on.

And when I get in set and talk to him like I do. It's just like it's all real to me. I also want to say that.

You know, because Jesus didn't come yet at that time. Now we accepted. Yes, sure.

Now, I mean, I know the difference when I didn't accept him. But now I know there is a difference when you you accept the Lord. And then, you know, your every day you have a choice.

Which way are you going to go? And you're right about that. It's an everyday thing. It's a moment by moment of talking to Yeshua.

You know, every decision, really. So, I mean, I'm just saying this like in a way that yes, we're fortunate. At least like Jesus already died.

We accepted him. What does the Israelites have? You know what I'm saying? God had to literally show who he really is. Even though he's not in their bodies.

You know what I mean? But Yeshua is inside of us. Yeah. Well, just think about this.

You know, God is present 1.5% of the time. Think about it. God was present.

He was in the camp. Yeah, that's true. And they still did this.

Right. Right. Right.

It's amazing. Suzanne, what you got? Thank you. Yes, I just want that word eternal.

If you could just give us some more on that. Well, you're guaranteed eternal life. The question is, do you have a holy life or life in hell? What about the timing? What about the timing? Because it isn't really time.

It's something greater, isn't it? Well, eternity is life without time. Okay. Okay.

This physical life has a constraint in quantum physics of time. So you are given an infinite life, eternal life outside of time, which means that it never dies. It never goes away.

There's nothing that is sitting there saying this is for 24 hours and this is blah, blah, blah. This is eternity. So you're going to go one or two places.

You're going to go to the pit of hell into the lake of fire. You're going to go be with God. And that is for a complete infinity of time.

Eternity. No time. And when we're with God in that, it's not like a static state.

It's a highly, I guess. You're going to be a supernatural spiritual being in the presence of God living in a supernatural state of spirituality. Yeah.

You don't have this body. You have a new body, which is a spiritual body that you get. And you reside with Christ for eternity.

If you make it out of the thousand year reign and the releasing of Satan from the bottomless pit, what you're going to get in Revelation. Right. Okay.

Thanks, Jennifer. So you said that God will get control of this generation. Like, you know, what we're seeing now, all this going on, like the LBGT and all that, like we've lost control of this generation.

So will we be punished for that? Oh, you're going to be punished. Everybody's going to be judged. Absolutely.

Everybody's going to be judged for your activities associated with this. Okay. So how? I mean.

Well, I guess. Okay. Well, just think about it.

I mean, okay. So think about it. Let's just.

Okay, let's just. We can go. I'm going to probably give you two examples.

Okay. By scripture, God told you how to elect your officials to be your governmental people. Yeah.

You didn't do that. You caused, I caused, everybody caused this world to be the world it is today. We're going to get judged for that because we didn't follow God's laws.

That's just one. That's on the high level surface thing. Now, let's take it to a lower level.

May step on some toes. Those of you that have gay children, you cause that. Okay.

And you're going to be judged for that. Children don't automatically go into that without leadership from somebody. And if the parents didn't provide the leadership to God, then they allowed leadership to transform itself from outside to the minds of their children, which is absolutely against scripture.

So you're going to be judged for that. Yeah. So, so like, okay, so, you know, like in the schools and stuff now where they're teaching, you know, I mean, some schools, I'm not putting them all into that category.

So we have to step up to the plate, like you said, and be like, on the school boards and everything to say, no, you, I mean, this pronoun thing, you know, I mean, I have some of the younger kids talking about it. And I try to lead them. You know, it's not right.

What, what you're being taught. So, but when you have an authority figure over there in the school saying, teaching that, what do you do about that? Well, you have to be the shining light to do that. And God says, expose the evilness.

Okay. Expose the evilness. Okay.

And, you know, search out the truth through me, which is basically saying, expose it and give them the truth. Okay. All right.

Thank you. Anything else, guys? Sure. All right.

I'm going to close out the recording and stop recording.