



Week 8 - The Book of Numbers

Introduction

There are three distinct stages in the life of Israel¹:

Stage	Reference	Israel	Location	
1	Nu 1:1-10:10	The ideal	Camped at Sinai	
2	Nu 10:11-22:1	Rejecting God	Wandering through the desert (Kadesh)	
3	Nu 22:2-36:13	The new generation	On the verge of entering the promised land – in the plains of Moab	

Numbers at a glance



Research:

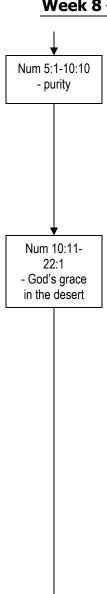
What was the role of the Levites in Chapter 3 – what is different for them from the other tribes?

It should be noted that there is little consensus on the structure of Numbers.





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Research:

What are some of the reasons for the failure of almost all of the Exodus Israelites in reaching the final destination?

Num 22:2-36:13 - From Old to New (towards Canaan)

Reflection:

What comparisons and warnings can be drawn for Christians as they move today toward their heavenly rest (c.f. Heb 3-4, 11-12)?





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- 1) Yahweh's Presence
- 2) Yahweh's Providence
- 3) Yahweh's Patience
- 4) Yahweh' Rule

Conclusion

HOLY		PROFANE
Yahweh		
Old Israel	VS.	
Moses		
Israel's obedience		
Promised Land		
Joshua/Caleb		





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Final Refection:

What is the purpose of the Book of Numbers?

For next Week:

- Read Unit 9.
- Read Deuteronomy 1-11.

Handout - Exam Pointers²:

It is now only two units away from the exam. Now is the time (if you have not already started) that you should be trying to bring your notes in order. This will help you as you move through the pressured time of revision and memorization.

References (for possible further reading)

Dumbrell, W.J. The Faith of Israel – A Theological Survey of the Old Testament. Grand

Rapids, Michigan; Baker Academic, 2nd Ed 2002, pp 50-56.

(this is a hard read -read if you feel you are managing the text well)

LaSor, W.S., Hubbard,

D.A., Bush, F.W., Old Testament Survey. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmanns,

2nd Ed. 1996, pp 99-110.

(a good read if interested in the authorship of Numbers and the purpose

of the Census figures)

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See 'PTC Exam Pointers'