

Exodus Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Ten: The Fortieth Year of Wandering – Numbers 20-36

From Numbers 20 and 33:

- 1) Use the following information to try and determine how many years of relative silence passed between Israel's refusal to enter Canaan (Numbers 13-14) and the beginning of Numbers 20.
 - a) According to Numbers 12:16 and 13:26, where was Israel located when the twelve spies were sent out to explore Canaan?
 - b) Based on what you have learned up to this point in the Exodus study, attempt to estimate the amount of time that passed between the time Israel left Egypt and the time Israel arrived in Kadesh (Desert of Paran/Zin) in Numbers 12:16.
 - c) Immediately after the spies' report and the Israelites' failure to trust God to give them Canaan, the Lord told the Israelites they would wander in the desert for _____ years (Numbers 14:33-34).
 - d) To what location did the Israelites return in Numbers 20:1?
 - e) According to Numbers 33:37-38, when in the history of Israel's wilderness wanderings did Aaron die?
 - f) Whose deaths are recorded in Numbers 20:1, 22-29?
 - g) Based on what you have discovered above, roughly how many years of relative silence passed between the Israel's rebellion in Numbers 13-14 and chapter 20?

- 2) Read Numbers 20:2-13. What did Moses and Aaron do that showed they “did not trust in [the Lord] enough to honor [Him] as holy” (verse 12)? Read Luke 12:47-48 and apply this teaching of Jesus to Moses' disobedience.

- 3) Read Numbers 20:14-21.
 - a) In what sense was Israel Edom's “brother”? (See Genesis 25:24-26, 36:9 and Deuteronomy 2:4.)

 - b) What additional information do we learn about this incident from Deuteronomy 2:2-19?

 - c) Is there an individual or group you would show more respect if you viewed their “territory” as God-given (even if they do not acknowledge Him)? If so, explain.

From Numbers 21 and 33:

- 4) Read Numbers 21:1-3 and God's words in Genesis 15:13-16, Leviticus 18:24-25, and Numbers 33:50-56. (The "Amorites" is a collective name for Canaanite peoples.) Why did God approve the complete annihilation of the Canaanites at Arad (as well as other Canaanite groups at this time in history)?
- 5) Compare Numbers 14:40-45 and 21:3. God granted Israel victory in a place of former defeat. What made the difference? Name the specific area of your own life in which you need to apply this lesson.
- 6) Read Numbers 21:4-9. Did the bronze snake have a power in itself to heal the Israelites? If not, what actually healed them? From John 3:14-15 and 2 Kings 18:4, what did God intend the bronze snake to foreshadow and how did Israel later profane the symbol?

From Numbers 21-24, 32:

- 7) Glance at Numbers 21:21-35. The territory that had belonged to Sihon and Og is called the Transjordan, or Gilead. It lies east of the Jordan River. According to Numbers 32, which Israelites settled in this place (see 32:1-5, 31-33) and what commitment did they make to Moses and the other tribes (Numbers 32:16-19)?
- 8) Read the story of Balak, king of Moab, and the pagan diviner Balaam in Numbers 22:1-11, 21-35 and 24:5-7, 10-13.
- a) What motivated Balak to summon Balaam to curse Israel? Did he succeed?
- b) In Numbers 22:32, the Lord told Balaam his path was a reckless one. Even though Balaam claimed his only intention was to say what the Lord told him, what secretly motivated him (see Jude 11)?

- c) The Lord captured a donkey's tongue. He also captured Balaam's tongue, so that he repeatedly blessed Israel against his will. Beyond Balaam's blessing and prediction of Israel's future military and political success, what other prediction did the unworthy Balaam seem to make (see 24:17 and Matthew 2:2)?
- d) For what task or situation will you ask the Lord of Language to capture your tongue?

From Numbers 25, 27, 31:

- 9) Shittim (in the Transjordan) was Israel's final place of encampment before they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land they had waited so long to inherit. Read Numbers 25:1-3. According to Numbers 31:16 and Revelation 2:14, who devised a second strategy to bring Israel to ruin after his first attempt was thwarted?
- 10) What reason does Numbers 25:6-13 give for the Lord's covenant with Phinehas?
- 11) According to Numbers 25:6, 16-18 and 31:1, 7, 15-16, what was Moses' last military action? Why was the Lord's vengeance poured out on the Midianites (Numbers 31)?
- 12) Have you recently experienced the advance of your enemy (the demonic realm), perhaps first attacking in one form and then another? If so, explain.

From Numbers 26-36:

- 13) Why did the Lord order a second census (consider what was about to occur in Israel's history and see Numbers 26:2, 53)?
- 14) What information, given in Numbers 26:64-65, confirms that the Lord always does what He says He will do?
- 15) Read Numbers 27:12-23. For what was Moses concerned at the end of his life? Do you share this concern? What are you doing (or what will you do) about it?