

**NUMBERS 26-30**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Numbers chapter 26 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

We are coming upon some forty years that the children of Israel have been delivered from their bondage in Egypt and now the children of Israel are camped on the east side of the Jordan River at a location known as Shittim or Acacia Grove, it is the same place.

The Generation that refused to enter the Promise Land by faith some 38 years earlier has died in the wilderness in their unbelief. And now God is preparing the next generation to enter into the land of Canaan, the land that God had promised them.

And that really is the focus of these remaining chapters here in Numbers as the children of Israel are waiting for God to call them to go forward and enter into the land.

And as I said when we began our study here in the book of Numbers, this last section of the book is all about - ***THE NEW GENERATION RAISED UP***. And that will cover the rest of the book of Numbers, chapters 26-36.

With that said, let's begin reading in Numbers chapter 26, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

**NUMBERS 26****VERSES 1-4**

As this chapter opens up, we are told that the events here happened after the plague that occurred back in Numbers chapter 25, as Israel committed harlotry with the women of Moab.

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote, *“The expression ‘after the plague’ is to be regarded as the turning point from the first generation to the second, the shift from the fathers and mothers to sons and daughters. God was about to begin a new work with a new people. The younger generation would begin to have their day.”* (Allen)

So now we come to the second census of the children of Israel.

The first census took place in Numbers chapter 1 some 38 years earlier or so and the total number of those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above was 603,550.

Out of that number, 603,548 died in the wilderness, they would not enter the Promise Land. And for Moses, he too would not enter the Promise Land, his death is recorded for us in Deuteronomy chapter 34.

Only Joshua and Caleb from that group would enter in, they were men of faith.

Thus, this census is counting the next generation of men who could go to war, 20 years old and above, and they would enter into the land.

#### VERSES 5-11

We start out with the tribe of Reuben and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 43,730 men.

During the first census they numbered 46,500 men.

So what we see here is that there was a loss of 2,770 men or a loss of 6% from the tribe of Reuben.

We are also told that Dathan, Abiram, who lead the rebellion against Moses and Aaron were from this tribe, and they died along with Korah. But we are also told that the children of Korah did not die.

VERSES 12-14

Next, we have the tribe of Simeon and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 22,200 men.

During the first census they numbered 59,300 men.

Look at those numbers! There was a loss of 37,100 men or a loss of 63% from the first census for the tribe of Simeon.

Why such a large number for this tribe?

It could be that the tribe of Simeon was heavily involved in joining themselves to Baal of Peor and thus, God judged them for that.

Keep in mind that the man who took the harlot to have sex with her in his tent, past Moses and the children of Israel who were weeping over this sin, was from the tribe of Simeon!

That is a possibility, but we really are not sure. Whatever they did against the Lord, they paid for it!

VERSES 15-18

Next, we come to the tribe of Gad and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 40,500 men.

When you compare that with the first census, their numbers were 45,650 men. We see that there was a loss of 5,150 men or a loss of 11% from the tribe of Gad.

VERSES 19-22

Next, we come to the tribe of Judah and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 76,500 men.

In the first census their numbers were 74,600.

So for the tribe of Judah, we see that there was a gain of 1,900 men or a 3% increase.

Also, Er and Onan died and did not leave any offspring. They were evil before the Lord, and you can read their story in Genesis chapter 36.

#### VERSES 23-25

We now come to the tribe of Issachar and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 64,300 men.

In the first census there were 54,400 men.

And what we see here is a gain of 9,900 men or a 18% increase for the tribe of Issachar.

#### VERSES 26-27

Next, we come to the tribe of Zebulun and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 60,500 men.

When you compare that with the first census, they had 57,400 men.

Here we have another gain of 3,100 men or a 5% increase for the tribe of Zebulun.

#### VERSES 28-34

Here we have the tribe of Manasseh and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 52,700 men.

At the first census they had 32,200 men.

There was a gain of 20,500 men or a 64% increase of men.

VERSES 35-37

We now come to the tribe of Ephraim and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 32,500 men.

When we look at the first census, they had 40,500 men.

We see here a loss of 8,000 men or a loss of 20% of men.

VERSES 38-41

Next is the tribe of Benjamin and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 45,600 men.

In the first census they had 35,400 men.

Once again, we have a gain of 10,200 men or a 29% increase of men.

VERSES 42-43

We now move to the tribe of Dan and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above from the tribe of Dan were 64,400 men.

In the first census they had 62,700 men.

Here we see a gain of 1,700 men or a 3% increase of men.

VERSES 44-47

Here we have the tribe of Asher and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above were 53,400 men.

During the first census they had 41,500 men.

We see another gain here of 11,900 men or a gain of 29% men.

VERSES 48-50

And lastly, we have the tribe of Naphtali and all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and above 45,400 men.

In the first census they had 53,400 men.

Once again, we see a loss and here it is a loss of 8,000 men or a loss of 15% of the men.

VERSE 51

Now we see the totals of all those men who could go to war, 20 years old and up from the 12 tribes of Israel.

They now totaled 601,730 as compared to the first census of 603,550.

In those thirty-eight years there was a loss of 1,820 or a loss of 0.3%.

In other words, during those thirty-eight years there was zero population growth for the nation.

Why was there a zero-population growth in the nation when God said that He would multiply them?

Because it was a reflection of their spiritual state that was stagnant as they wandered in circles all those years. They were truly barren, unfruitful until that older generation died out and the next generation was willing to walk by faith and enter into the Promise Land.

VERSES 52-56

So this next generation was going to enter into the Promise Land and we are told that the larger the tribe the larger portion of land they would get as an inheritance.

That is interesting to me because half of the tribes had losses or gains of 15% men, but Simeon lost 63% and Manasseh gained 64%.

Why did God do that?

I believe it was related to their abiding in Him, the blessing for abiding and the barrenness for not abiding. God still does that today, blessing those that walk by faith, those that are abiding in Him.

So we see that specific areas of land would be divided by lot, which comes from the Hebrew word *GOWRUI* (go-rawl') and it speaks of a stone.

Thus, many feel the High Priest divided the land using the Urim and Thummim, those special stones spoken of in Exodus 28:30, **“And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the Lord. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the Lord continually.”**

And when the land is being divided up by lot in the book of Joshua, we see Eleazar the High Priest is involved, which seems to me that the Urim and Thummim were used in this process, (Joshua 14:1-2).

#### VERSES 57-62

Once again, we see that the Levites were not numbered with the other men because they were not to go to war.

Also, there was no inheritance given to them and as we have seen, the Lord was their inheritance.

One last point here and that is that the Levites now have 23,000 males who were 1 month old and up but when they first were counted in Numbers chapter 3, they had 22,000 or they gained 1,000 males or an increase of 4.3%.

#### VERSES 63-65

As I have said and as we have read, that older generation all died in the wilderness because they refused to walk by faith, they died in unbelief.

And thus, they obviously had no inheritance in the land, they never made it into the land, except for Joshua and Caleb, they will have an inheritance because they were men of faith. Only those two out of the 603,550 men from the first census!

### **NUMBERS 27**

#### VERSES 1-5

We just got done looking at the census and how the land would be divided and because of that there was a problem.

Zelophehad died in the wilderness, not in the rebellion of Korah but due to his own sin and most likely the sin of unbelief, of not wanting to enter the Promise Land because of fear.

And Zelophehad did not have any sons, only five daughters.

What that means is that they would not get any land for it was passed on to the sons, not the daughters, so they bring this problem to Moses.

Now it seems obvious what should be done, Moses should give them the land that is due to them.



But Moses doesn't do that; he brings it before the Lord to see what the Lord would say.

What a great lesson for us to learn because the obvious is not always the correct response.

It may not be what the Lord desires.

#### VERSES 6-11

God tells Moses that if there are no sons then the inheritance shall go to the daughters and if no daughters then to his brothers, and-so-on so the land would stay in the family.

Now this is great but if a woman was to get married to a man from another tribe, then what happens?

God will deal with that in Numbers chapter 36, but the basic idea is this, “**Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance.**” Numbers 36:9.

When you read what these women did, they had a lot of faith!

Why do I say that?

Because they are concerned about the land before they even took a step into it. They believed God would bring them in. That is why they wanted to make sure they would receive their father's inheritance!

#### VERSES 12-14

God told Moses back in Numbers chapter 20 that because he did not represent Him before the people correctly at the waters of Meribah that he would not enter into the land of Canaan, the Promise Land but he would die in the wilderness.

But the Lord does allow Moses to see the land of promise. He tells Moses to go up on Mount Abarim, which was a chain of mountains in that area.

According to Deuteronomy 34:1-2, Moses is told to go up Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah, with Jericho on the other side of the Jordan River. So it seems like these two mountains are in the same area, next to each other. And this is the area that Moses will be buried.

Let me share with you what Deuteronomy 34:1-6 says, **“Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.”**

#### VERSES 15-17

That truly is the heart of a man of God, a servant of God.

Moses could have been mad, he could have been angry with God, but he wasn't. God said to Moses to look at the land, you will not enter in, and Moses responded by asking the Lord who will lead the people, who will shepherd them.

You see, sheep without a shepherd will die and Moses is concerned for the people, that God would raise up a man to lead them. To have a heart that is not concerned with his own well-being or status, but he is looking out for others.

That truly is the heart of Jesus and what He desires for us to manifest in our own lives.

Paul, in Philippians 2:1-4 tells it like this as he wrote, **“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”**

#### VERSES 18-23

Now it was time for Moses to fade off the scene and Joshua to be raised up.

What I want you to notice here is that the *Spirit of the LORD* was upon Joshua already; he was a man of God.

It wasn't that Joshua was picked and hopefully he will rise to the occasion. He was already involved in the work of God and all Moses did was recognize what God was already doing in him.

And as he laid his hands on Joshua, he was letting the nation know that they were now to follow him, he would be their shepherd.

I do the same thing as I watch for leaders. I watch what God is doing in their lives and as God leads, then I will lay hands on them and just acknowledge what God has already done in their lives and is doing in their lives! God raises up leaders!

**NUMBERS 28****VERSES 1-8**

Here we see the daily burnt offerings, one lamb in the morning and one in the evening, with a grain offering and drink offering.

We saw this back in Exodus chapter 29. And the idea here is that they were to begin and end their day with this devotion to the Lord.

Folks, we should also begin and end our day with devotion to the Lord for providing our atonement, not through the many sacrifices but the sacrifice, Jesus Christ.

In fact, we should seek the Lord all the time as the Psalmist said in Psalm 55:17, **“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”**

**VERSES 9-10**

Besides the morning and evening sacrifices, two more lambs were sacrificed with the grain and drink offerings every Sabbath day.

**VERSES 11-15**

Also, at the beginning of the month, a lunar month, they would sacrifice two bulls, one ram, seven lambs, with the appropriate grain and drink offerings. And in verse 15 we see the goat that was sacrificed for the sin offering.

VERSES 16-25

Now God is once again instructing them on the feast days and the sacrifices that were to be made.

This was covered in Leviticus 23:5-8 regarding the spring Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits.

VERSES 26-31

Now we are told that this is the Feast of Firstfruits, but it is also called the Feast of Weeks. Is this the Feast of Firstfruits or is it the Feast of Pentecost?

I believe that this is the summer feast of Pentecost or Weeks as we see here in Numbers 28:26.

And we looked at that in Leviticus 23:15-22.

**NUMBERS 29**VERSES 1-6

Now we begin the three fall feasts of Israel.

The first is the Feast of Trumpets and we looked at that in Leviticus 23:23-25.

According to one writer, he tells us, ***“Later in Jewish tradition this feast became the time of the new year (Rosh Hashanah). The blowing of the trumpet on this feast is the blowing of the shophar, the ram’s horn, rather than the silver trumpet of Numbers 10.”*** (Allen)

VERSES 7-11

The next fall Feast was the Day of Atonement.

And we covered that in Leviticus 23:26-32.

VERSES 12-39

The Feast of Tabernacles is the last fall feast and it lasted for seven days.

And we covered that in Leviticus 23:33-43.

I know we went over that quickly, so let me give you a quick overview of these Feasts so you can see how they all apply to Jesus. We did cover this in our Leviticus study, but it is good to be reminded.

The Feast of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are sometimes used interchangeably for both Feasts, but they are two separate Feasts.

The Feast of Passover took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, and it was celebrated to commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

God instructed Moses and the children of Israel that each family was to slay a lamb and place the blood of that sacrifice upon the doors of their homes. The pattern He instructed them to follow caused the blood to form a cross, interestingly enough.

As they did this, the Lord told them that the Angel of Death would pass over their homes. If they didn't obey the Lord, then judgment would come in the form of death to the firstborn of that family.

Thus, this Feast looked back historically to how God delivered His people from their bondage in Egypt by the sacrifice of the lamb.

But this feast also looked ahead prophetically to the coming of the Messiah to shed His blood to free the people from the bondage of sin they were in. Thus, as the blood of Jesus is applied to our lives the judgment of God passes over us!

Remember what John the Baptist said as he saw Jesus coming, “... ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29.

As we look at the Feast of Passover, we see the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary as *THE* Lamb of God who sacrificed Himself for our sins.

In other words, God took our sins and poured them upon Jesus and He took the righteousness of Jesus and poured that upon us!

***JESUS IS OUR PASSOVER LAMB!***

Beginning on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan and running for seven days, or the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan, was the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

On the first and last day of this Feast there was a holy convocation. Keep in mind that leaven speaks of sin in the Scriptures and in this Feast and the Feast of Passover there is no leaven to be found. In fact, before this Feast, they will go through their homes and sweep away any leaven that is found in their home!

Keep in mind that the first three Feasts speak of the first coming of Jesus Christ.

That means the Sinless One, Jesus, is the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world.

The sinless One who gave His life at 3 pm was placed in the tomb on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

***JESUS IS THE SINLESS ONE. HE IS OUR UNLEAVENED BREAD!***

Next, the last of the three spring feasts was the Feast of Firstfruits and this feast occurred on the day after the Sabbath or the first Sunday after Passover's Sabbath.

This Feast was the celebration of the barley harvest, not the wheat harvest that took place in May or June. The idea here is that the firstfruits belonged to the Lord and as you gave to Him your best, it would ensure a bountiful harvest.

Now, how does this relate prophetically speaking?

Jesus rose from the grave on the Feasts of Firstfruits!

Paul, in I Corinthians 15:20-23 makes this point about Jesus being the firstfruits as He tells us, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”**

***JESUS CHRIST IS OUR FIRSTFRUITS OF WHAT IS TO COME – A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST OF SOULS!***

The only summer feast is the Feast of Pentecost or Feast of Weeks, that occurred fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits. In this Feast they would bring a new grain offering to the Lord and wave two loaves of leaven bread before the Lord. Interestingly enough, in these Feasts, this is the first-time leaven is used, and there is an important reason for that. Also, we see that two loaves of bread are offered.

And what those two loaves of leavened bread speak of is that in Christ we have united together both Jew and Gentile into the body of Christ! The church, made up of sinners, was born on Pentecost!

***THE FEAST OF PENTECOST!***



Now we move to the last three feasts, the fall feasts.

The first is the Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah and this took place on the first day of the month of Tishri on the Jewish ceremonial or religious calendar and thus, it corresponds to our September/October. When the trumpets sounded, it called God's people together for this celebration. It is also known as the "*Day of Judgment*" or the "*Day of Sounding the Shofar*" and the "*Day of Remembrance.*"

As Passover is the start of the religious New Year, Rosh Hashanah is the start of the civil New Year.

I also believe the Feast of Trumpets does not give to us a picture of the Rapture of the Church, but it does give to us a picture of the second coming of Jesus Christ as He gathers the children of Israel together, blowing the trumpet to alert them that the Messiah has come!

### ***THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS!***

Then comes the next fall feast and it began on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month or Tishri, the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. This Feast was more of a day of affliction; affliction over their sin and the need for atonement that could only be made by the shedding of the blood of the sacrifice and the confessing of the sin upon the scapegoat and sending him away into the wilderness, showing that their sins were forgiven.

The picture of Christ is beautiful. He shed His blood for our sins on the cross of Calvary and because of that our sins have been cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more! I believe the picture of the Day of Atonement is a picture of Israel's national repentance, that they receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the atonement that is only found in Him!

### ***THE DAY OF ATONEMENT!***

This last Feast is called the Feast of Succoth or Tabernacles, also the Feast of Booths, *SUCCOTH* in Hebrew. It began on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month or Tishri, and it lasted for seven days. During this Feast the Jews would live in temporary booths, as they did in the wilderness. It reminded them of how God brought them through those times and into the Promise Land.

I believe the picture here is the future Kingdom Age that God has prepared for Israel and all those who believe.

### ***THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!***

So that was just a quick overview of the Feasts of Israel. They were a shadow of what was to come – JESUS!

### VERSE 40

Moses is preparing this next generation to enter into the Promise Land, showing them what they needed to do in regard to the atonement, the sacrifices, the feasts and-so-on.

Thus, every year in their sacrifices they used about 1 ton of flour; 1,000 gallons of wine and oil; some 1657 lambs; 101 bulls; 31 rams and 21 goats!

And that was just what the priests offered; this did not include the sacrifices made by individuals and households!

And do you know what?

After all this, it was never enough. Day in and day out, year after year they offered these sacrifices until Christ came and He was ***THE*** sacrifice that made atonement for us and thus, the sacrifices were not needed any longer! He died once for sins!

**NUMBERS 30****VERSE 1**

God gave this information to Moses, and he was passing it on to the heads of the tribes in Israel who then were to pass it on to the people.

**VERSE 2**

So often we make foolish vows and we do not come through with that vow we promised the Lord.

Folks, the idea here is integrity, if you say something, then do it. Let your yes be “**yes**” and your no be “**no.**”

It is not that we should never make a vow, but don’t make a foolish vow.

In Psalm 56:12 we are told, “**Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You.**”

And in Psalm 61:8 the psalmist wrote, “**So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows.**”

These are good vows; we should vow to praise the Lord with every breath that is in us!

**VERSES 3-5**

An unmarried woman living in her father’s house can have her vow overruled by her father, why?

Because he is the spiritual leader of the family, of the home and he should see if this was a good vow or a foolish one to protect his daughter.

VERSES 6-8

A husband can also negate the vow made by his wife and again the idea here is that he is the spiritual leader of the family and should help correct any foolish vow made by his wife, or if it was a good vow then he was, in a sense, ratifying it, encouraging her to fulfill it.

VERSE 9

Here we see that a widow or divorced woman, one who has no male head of her household, is bound by her vows.

The idea here, since there is no male head in her home that God is her head or will guide her.

VERSES 10-16

The idea here is that the man of the home was responsible for the women in his home. Thus, if they made a vow and he did not stop it, it was his responsibility to see that she carried her vow through!

Keep in mind that the husband is the spiritual leader in the family. It is not that he is more spiritual than his wife or smarter than his wife. It is the order of the family that God set up and if you want order in the home, then obey the Lord!

It is not a dictator and slave relationship. The wife is to submit to her husband and the husband is to love his wife as Jesus loves the church and died for her. It does not get better than that!

**Tribes of Israel – First and Second Census (Numbers 1, 3 and 26)**

TRIBE	1 <sup>ST</sup> CENSUS	2 <sup>ND</sup> CENSUS	CHANGE	PERCENT
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-2,770	-6%
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-37,100	-63%
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,150	-11%
Judah	74,600	76,500	+1,900	+3%
Issachar	54,400	64,300	+9,900	+18%
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	+3,100	+5%
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	+20,500	+64%
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-8,000	-20%
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	+10,200	+29%
Dan	62,700	64,400	+1,700	+3%
Asher	41,500	53,400	+11,900	+29%
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000	-15%
Levi	Not counted	Not counted		
<b>Total</b>	<b>603,550</b>	<b>601,730</b>	<b>-1,820</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>