Preparing to Enter The Promised Land

Numbers 26-36

Background

- At Kadesh-Barnea Israel refused to enter the Promised Land.
- In Num 14:29 God condemned adult rebels who were numbered to fight, instead to die in the wilderness. There were some notable exceptions.
- In Num 1:47-49 the Levites were not numbered to fight. So Levites, including Eleazer the son of Aaron were spared.
- Aaron death earlier is recorded in Num 20:23-29. Eleazer was the High Priest after Aaron.

Background

- Moses was also condemned to die in the wilderness for a different reason, his disrespecting God at the Waters of Meribah in Num 20:11-13.
- But Joshua of the tribe of Ephraim, and Caleb of the tribe of Judah were spared, for they trusted the Lord.
- All the children who left Egypt, and also those born since, were also spared.
- And all the Levites were also spared.
- These were all going to enter the Promised Land.

Num 26: The New Generation

- Num 26 gives the census of the New Generation who were to enter the Promised Land.
- Num 26:64 *But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest …*
- The fighting men numbered by Moses and Aaron in Num 26:1-51 were of all tribes *except the Levites.*
- All of the fighting men of the 12 tribes would perish in the wilderness. The 13'th tribe of Levites was spared.

Num 26: The Inheritance

- In Num 26:53-54, the Lord tells Moses the principal of inheritance.
- Num 26:54 *To the larger group you shall increase their inheritance and to the smaller group you shall diminish their inheritance…*
- The *size* of the inheritance was proportional to their *numbers.*
- The Law is fair.

Num 27:
Laws of Inheritance
and Leadership under Joshua

- In Israel, inheritance was through sons.
- But what if a man had no sons? A special provision is made for his daughters to inherit in this case.
- Then Joshua is appointed as leader, in place of Moses.
- In Num 27:18 we learn that, just like Moses, Joshua was special because he had the Spirit of God.
- For us, according to Rom 8:11 *if He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you …*
- We ALL have the Spirit of God.

Num 28-30: Festivals, Offerings & Vows

- Details of Offerings, what is offered, when, and how.
- It also details the Feasts, and special instructions related to each.
- Finally there are details regarding Vows made to the Lord.
- An example of a vow is the Nazirite Vow of Samson.
- Another example is a vow made by Hannah so she would have a son. That son was the prophet Samuel.
- It was a serious matter to make a vow. One was obliged to keep his vow to the Lord.

Num 31: The Defeat of the Midianites

- In Num 25 the Moabites corrupted Israel by harlotry and idolatry.
- In Num 25:6 the Midianites joined the Moabites in corrupting Israel. There were neighboring nations, east of the Dead Sea
- In Num 31, the Lord commands Moses to destroy the Midianites. Then the Lord would take him home.
- Moses would not enter the Promised Land in his flesh.
- But he did enter in the spirit! He met with the Lord at His transfiguration in Matt 17:3.

Num 31: The Defeat of the Midianites

- Israel killed the Midianite kings, plundered their goods, burned their cities, killed the men, captured the women and children.
- Moses was angry that they spared the women. These were the ones that corrupted Israel by harlotry and idolatry.
- He commanded all males, and females that were not virgins, to be killed. Virgin females were assimilated.
- It was a harsh judgment on a nation for serious sin.

Num 31: The Defeat of the Midianites

- Booty was shared among the Israelites, including the Levites who did not go to war.
- Booty was also brought to the Tent of Meeting, as a memorial before the Lord.
- In Num 31:49 the military leaders said to Moses *"Your servants have taken a census of men of war who are in our charge, and no man of us is missing"*
- Israel did not lose *a single man* in the Midianite slaughter! There was no collateral damage! God protected them!

Num 32:
East of the Jordan and the Dead Sea

- The land of the Midianites was east of the Jordan and the Dead Sea.
- It was a good land, particularly good for livestock.
- The tribes of Gad and Reuben were interested in settling down there. They did not want land west of the Jordan.
- But Moses was concerned. Did that mean these tribes would not participate in conquering the Promised Land for the rest of the tribes?

Num 32:
East of the Jordan and the Dead Sea

- The tribes of Gad and Reuben reassured Moses that while their families would settle down in the lands east of Jordan, their men of war would go with their brothers to fight for the Promised Land.
- These tribes already had their inheritance. But they were willing to join in the fight for their brothers inheritance. This satisfied Moses.
- There are times when God blesses us with plenty.
- In these times we need to be concerned about our brethren. What can we do to share the blessings of the Lord?

Num 33:
Review and Instructions

- This chapter is summary of the Israelites travel from Egypt to the Jordan.
- Their exit from Egypt was a judgment on the Egyptians.
- Num 33 is a short summary of a 40 year journey!
- The wilderness journey was a judgment on the Israelites.
- Unfortunately, the those who did not sin, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, the Levites and the children also suffered.
- Often sin affects even those who did not sin.

Num 33
Review and Instructions

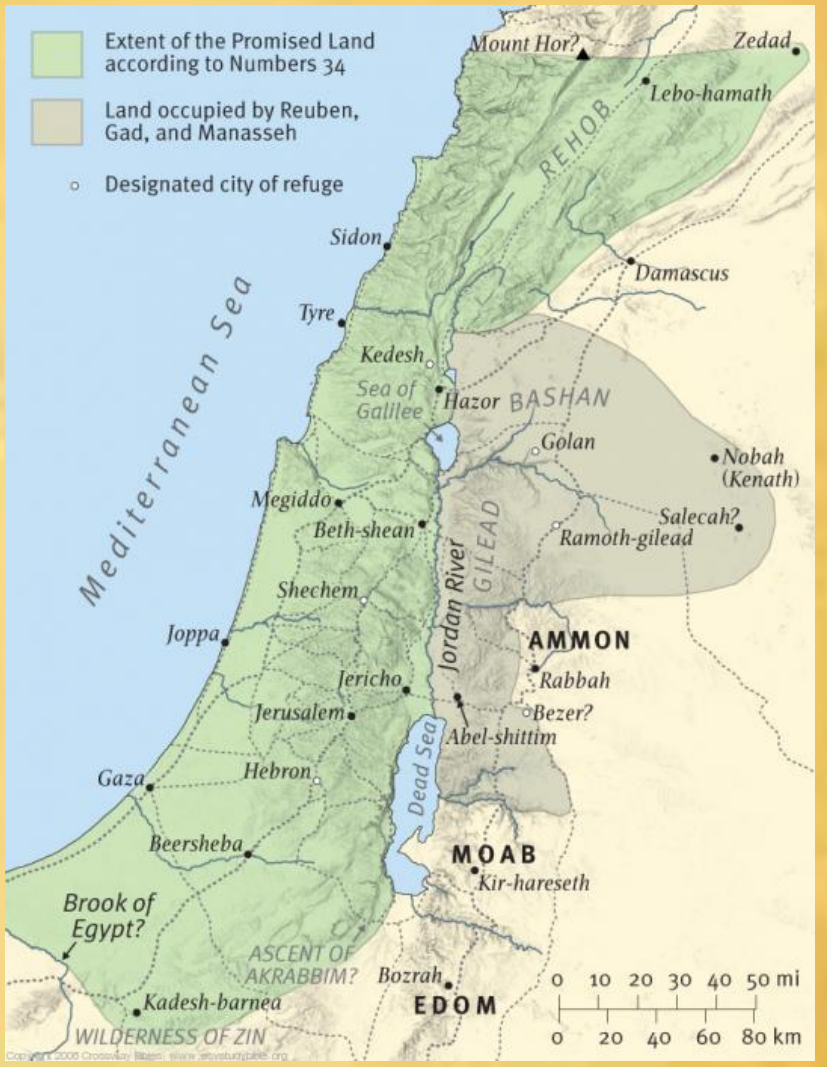
- The chapter concludes with Moses' instructions … most importantly to *drive out all the present inhabitants and destroy all their religious artifacts.*
- To prevent them from learning from the Canaanites evil ways.
- Regrettably, they did not follow this! The kingdom was divided, and they learned idolatry and other sinful ways.
- Then God drove them out into exile in Assyria and Babylon!
- Same punishment as the Canaanites! There is no partiality with God!

Num 34-35
Division of the Promised Land

- Moses specified the boundaries of the Promised Land to be occupied.
- This was from the Mediterranean Sea (Western Sea) to the Jordan.
- The lands of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh east of the Jordan were already occupied.
- These were the territories assigned to all the tribes, except for the Levites.

Num 34-35
Division of the Promised Land

- The gray is the land east of the Jordan occupied by the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh.
- The green is the land between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea for the remaining tribes (except Levites).
- White dots are the Cities of Refuge.



Num 34-35
Division of the Promised Land

- The land inheritance enabled the tribes to farm, raise livestock and make a living.
- The Levites were not given a land inheritance. The Lord was their inheritance.
- The other tribes supported the Levites.
- But the Levites were allotted 48 cities and pasture lands around them.

Num 34-35
Division of the Promised Land

- 6 of the 48 cities of the Levites were designated *Cities of Refuge.*
- Here one guilty of *accidentally* killing another could run to escape with his life.
- But there was no escape for the intentional murderer.
- That included a murder of passion, or a premeditated murder.
- The law is fair. Accidental killing is not murder.

Num 36
The Inheritance of Women

- Inheritance in Israel was usually to the *sons*.
- Daughters received their lot from the families they married into.
- Num 27 records a special provision for families who had only daughters and no sons.
- They would receive an inheritance, which would then belong to the families they married into.

Num 36
The Inheritance of Women

- But a problem arose in this law.
- What if a family only had daughters and one of them married into another tribe, transferring the tribal inheritance?
- Num 36:6 *Let them marry whom they wish; only they must marry within the family of the tribe of their father*.
- Num 36:7 *Thus no inheritance of the sons of Israel shall be transferred from tribe to tribe.*
- The law was fair. The land of the tribe stayed in the tribe.

Summary

- Most of the adults who left Egypt died in the wilderness because of their rebellion against God.
- Joshua is chosen as the new leader.
- Details on Festivals, Offerings and Vows.
- Judgment on the Midianites.
- Like Reuben, Gad & Manasseh, be sure to bless the body when the Lord blesses you.

Summary

- The inheritance of the tribes was proportional to their number.
- The fairness of the Law is illustrated in their inheritance.
- The effects of sin are felt even by those who did not sin.
- The Israelites fell into the same judgment as the Canaanites. They were driven from the Promised Land.
- The fairness of the Law is illustrated in the exile of the Israelites. There is no partiality with God.

Summary

- Boundaries of the Promised Land are specified.
- 48 Cities of the Promised Land were allotted to the Levites.
- Of these 6 were Cities of Refuge for the accidental manslayer.
- The fairness of the Law is illustrated in the consideration for the accidental manslayer.

Summary

- If a man and his wife had no sons, their daughters shared in their inheritance.
- But to preserve tribal allotments, they had to marry within the tribe.
- The fairness of the Law is illustrated in the inheritance of daughters.
- Deut 4:8 *Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?*

Conclusions

- The Law in the OT was truly fair and great. The Laws of our nation, and many others are based on this OT law.
- But the Law of the OT was impossible for us to keep.
- John 1:17 *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*
- Rom 10:4 *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Conclusions

- The Law was beautiful.
- But our righteousness is through Faith in Christ.
- Phil 3:9 *and (that I) may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.*
- Challenge: Memorize Phil 3:7-11! You will be truly blessed!