

The Book of Numbers

Instructions Before Entering Canaan

Text: Numbers 27 – 30, 36

Introduction:

1. As Israel waited on the plains of Moab, God continued to prepare them for their entering into the land of Canaan.
2. After the numbering of the people, God gave several important laws and reminders before they were to enter the land of Canaan.

I. The Selection of Joshua

(27:12-23)

- A. Moses was instructed to go up into the mount and to view the land of Canaan before his death.
 1. The mountains of Abarim were before Mount Nebo (33:47; Deut. 32:49).
 2. The mount from which Moses viewed the land was called Pisgah (Deut. 3:27).
- B. Moses' actual viewing of the land and his death would not take place until after the events recorded in the book of Deuteronomy (Deut. 34:1ff).
- C. This command is mentioned here to demonstrate how God was preparing the people for their entrance into the land of Canaan.
- D. Upon hearing God's command, Moses asked the Lord to select a new leader for the nation of Israel.
- E. God commanded that Joshua was to be appointed to this position.
- F. Note several important facts:
 1. Moses was to lay his hand upon Joshua – a public display of the passing of authority.
 2. Joshua was to be charged or instructed concerning his duties and work.
 3. The people were to see this and to be obedient to Joshua.
 4. Yet, the leadership of Joshua would be different from that of Moses.
 - a. Joshua was subordinate to the High Priest – who would use the Urim and Thummim to seek the will of God.
 - b. God would not speak to Joshua “face to face” as He had to Moses (cf. Exo. 33:11; Deut. 34:10).
- G. Thus, Joshua was chosen to lead the people into the Promised Land of Canaan.

II. Rules for Inheritance of the Tribes

(27:1-11; 36:1-13)

- A. As God instructed the people concerning the division and inheritance of the land, some questions arose.
- B. One was raised by the daughters of Zelophehad.
 1. Zelophehad had no sons, only daughters (26:33).
 2. Thus, they desired to receive the inheritance of their father, so his name would not be taken away from the tribe.
- C. When this question was brought to the Lord, He provided an answer.
- D. God declared that the daughters reasoned correctly.
- E. Thus, if a man had no sons, his inheritance was to pass to his daughter.

The Book of Numbers

- F. If there were no daughter, it would pass to his brother, then to his uncle, then to his next of kin.
- G. However, another question soon arose (chapter 36).
- H. What if the daughters married someone from another tribe? Was the inheritance to be lost from the original tribe?
- I. God responded that in order for the daughter to inherit the land of her father, she must marry within her own tribe.
- J. God declared that the inheritance was not to be passed from one tribe to another.
- K. There is an important spiritual lesson to be learned: man must be concerned with receiving – and not losing – his inheritance (cf. Acts 20:32; 26:18; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 3:18; 5:21; Eph. 1:11, 18; 5:5; Col. 1:12; 3:24; Heb. 6:12; 9:15; 12:17; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; Rev. 21:7).

III. Rules Concerning Sacrifices (28 – 29)

- A. 28:1-8 - The daily sacrifices
- B. 28:9-10 - The Sabbath sacrifices
- C. 28:11-15 - The Feast of the New Moon
- D. 28:16-25 - The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)
- E. 28:26-31 - The Feast of Weeks (Firstfruits)
- F. 29:1-6 - The Feast of Trumpets
- G. 29:7-11 - The Day of Atonement
- H. 29:12-40 - The Feast of Tabernacles

IV. Rules Concerning Vows (30)

- A. 30:1-2 - General instructions concerning vows
- B. 30:3-5 - Instructions concerning vows of unmarried young women
- C. 30:6-8 - Instructions concerning vows of betrothed women
- D. 30:9 - Instructions concerning vows of widows or divorced women
- E. 30:10-15 - Instructions concerning vows of married women
- F. 30:16 - Final summary