

Study Guide
Numbers 33-36

Big Idea: Keep Your Eye on the Prize

1. Aware What Lies Behind (Numbers 33:1-49).

- a. Read Nu. 33:1-2 & 5. Of the 42 "camping spots" mentioned not one of Israel's failures is stated. What does that tell you about God? (see also Phil. 3:13a-14).
- b. Notice also the words, "...set out from...", "...and camped at ...". This phrase appears each time Israel picks up and moves on. This reminds us of the temporary fashion of our journey on earth; just passing through. How does this temporal journey shape our decisions for eternity? Discuss.

2. Aware What Lies Ahead (Numbers 33:50-36:13).

- a. A Righteous Place- Read Nu. 33:50-56. How do we "demolish" the things that cause us to stumble? Discuss.
- b. A Permanent Place- Read Nu. 34:1-3 & 17a & 1 Peter 1:4. Note that heaven is our inheritance. How will it be different than what we experience today? Discuss.
- c. A Redeemed Place- Read Nu. 35:2-3. There were to be 48 Levitical cities throughout the land (kind of like local churches). How amazing that Levi (Genesis 49:7) was to be "scattered" for going on a killing spree as an act of vengeance. Years later, God redeemed the tribe by using the "scattering" as a blessing. How have you seen God redeem sinful things and use them for good? Discuss.
- d. A Safe Place- Read Nu. 35:11-12. A person accused of murder could run to a city of refuge to await a fair trial. Notice that hate is like murder in God's eyes (Matt. 5:22). How has Jesus become our "city of refuge".

3. Conclusion- Numbers 36:13

Numbers looks like this:

Chapters 1-10- Organization

Chapters 11-25- Disorganization

Chapters 26-36- Reorganization

It written as an example for us, not to fall into idolatry, but to keep our eyes on the prize. It ends with the importance of having in place rule(s) of life built around God.

"These are the commandments and the rules that the Lord commanded through Moses to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho."

How have you established life-giving ways of life, to keep your eyes on God and what matters most? Discuss.

Numbers 33-36

Proverbs

1. Wisdom in an Age of Outrage
2. The Power of the Tongue in an Age of Criticism
3. Discernment in an Age of Folly
4. Friendship in an Age of Loneliness

Numbers Outline

Chapters 1-10- Organization

Chapters 11-25- Disorganization

Chapters 26-36- Reorganization

Big Idea: Keep Your Eye on the Prize

I. Aware What Lies Behind (Numbers 33:1-49)

These are the stages of the people of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their companies under the leadership of Moses and Aaron... ⁵ So the people of Israel set out from Rameses and camped at Succoth.

I. Aware What Lies Behind (Numbers 33:1-49)

A. Places, not Imperfections

Philippians 3:13a-14

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Big Idea: Keep Your Eye on the Prize

I. Aware What Lies Behind (Numbers 33:1-49)

B. Passing, not Permanence.

These are the stages of the people of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their companies under the leadership of Moses and Aaron... ⁵ So the people of Israel set out from Rameses and camped at Succoth.

Big Idea: Keep Your Eye on the Prize

II. Aware What Lies Ahead (Numbers 33:50-36:13)

⁵⁰ ... "When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵² then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. ⁵³ And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it... ⁵⁵ if you do not ... barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, ...

A. A Life-Giving Place (Numbers 33:50-56)

B. A Permanent Place (Numbers 34:1-35:8 & 36)

Numbers 34:1-3 & 17a

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Command the people of Israel, and say to them, 'When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders), your south side shall be ... the western border, ... your northern border...your eastern border...' ¹⁷ "These are the names of the men who shall divide the land to you for inheritance..."

Ezekiel 5:5

"Thus says the Lord God: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her."

B. A Permanent Place (Numbers 34:1-35:8 & 36)

Numbers 36:2-3

²They said, "The Lord commanded my lord to give the land for inheritance by lot to the people of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the Lord to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother to his daughters. ³ But if they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the people of Israel, then their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers and added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry.

1 Peter 1:4

"... to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..."

C. A Redeemed Place (Numbers 35:1-8)

²... give to the Levites some of the inheritance of their possession as cities for them to dwell in. And you shall give to the Levites pasturelands around the cities.³ The cities shall be theirs to dwell in, and their pasturelands shall be for their cattle and for their livestock and for all their beasts.

Genesis 50:20

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

D. A Safe Place (Numbers 35:9-34)

Cities of Refuge

"When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ¹¹ then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there.¹² The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment.

1. God Values Life

2. God Values Grace

Big Idea: Keep Your Eye on the Prize

Numbers 36:13

"These are the commandments and the rules that the Lord commanded through Moses to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho."

Rule of Life

Solitude, Prayer, Lectio Divina, Examen of Conscience, Honoring the body, Discernment, Sabbath, Community.