

In the Wilderness and Christ Is the Answer

Numbers 8-25 In the Wilderness

- 1) At times Numbers can be difficult reading, but those who persevere are rewarded with some powerful lessons regarding faith and the consequences of sin, especially the sin of murmuring against God and His provisions for His people.
- 2) By His grace God had spared the firstborn of Israel, but was owed the Levites in their place. 8
- 3) Exceptions to God's law can only come from God. 9:1-14
- 4) As God once led with a cloud and fire, today He leads through His word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Are we following that lead? 9:15-23
- 5) The Lord should always proceed in an orderly manner. 10:1-28; cf. 1 Cor. 14:40.
- 6) Do not murmur or complain about God's provisions. 11:1-35
- 7) Don't ever resent the blessings given to another. 11:27-30; 12:1-2
- 8) Have the forgiving, interceding spirit of Moses. 12:13; 14:13-19; et al
- 9) Those who focus on the Lord and not the obstacles before them are able to triumph. 13, 14; cf. Rom. 8:31-39.
- 10) The majority of people can be wrong. 13, 14
- 11) Details matter to God. 15
- 12) Sin has consequences. 11; 14; 15:32-36; 16; 20; 21; 25
- 13) We need reminders. 15:37-41
- 14) Do not rebel against divine authority or those whom God has selected to lead His people. 16
- 15) The laws of purification in ch. 19 help us see that God's cleansing requires following God's instructions. The ashes of a red heifer had no inherent power in them, but God used them for cleansing. In a similar way the waters of baptism have no inherent cleansing power, but they were chosen by God to wash our sins from us.
- 16) The failure of Moses in ch. 20 should be a solemn warning to us regarding the importance of taking heed lest we fall. Cf. 1 Cor. 10:12.
- 17) Give God glory and treat Him with reverence. 20
- 18) When you read about the bronze serpent, consider the usage Jesus makes of it in John 3:14.
- 19) No giant is a match for the power of the Lord. 21
- 20) The love of money leads to many evils. 22; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; 2 Pet. 2:15-17; Jude 1:11
- 21) The Lord will protect His people. 22-24
- 22) False religion often appeals to the carnal side of man. 25

23) Though we don't use javelins today, we must be like Phinehas and deal with sin in the Lord's camp. 25

Colossians 1-4 Christ Is the Answer

- 1) False teaching had infiltrated the church at Colosse, but Paul calls them back to their Head and urges them to hold tightly to Christ.
- 2) Trust Jesus and love your brethren. 1:4
- 3) Never lose sight of the hope set before us. 1:5
- 4) Pray for others. 1:3, 9
- 5) We need a spirit of endurance, but that endurance needs to be accompanied by joy. 1:11
- 6) God's grace in Christ Jesus rescued us from sin and delivered us into the kingdom of Christ. 1:12-22
- 7) God intended that Christ have the preeminence—are we giving Him that honored place in our lives? 1:15-18
- 8) Don't allow anything to move you away from Christ and the hope of the gospel. 1:23
- 9) Everything we need is found in Christ and not the philosophies of men. 2:1-10
- 10) In baptism it is God who makes us alive. 2:11-13
- 11) The Old Testament laws, including the Sabbath, are not the laws of those in Christ. 2:14-17
- 12) Be holy, but don't be subject to the false restrictions of men. 2:18-23
- 13) Have a focus on Jesus and things above. 3:1-4
- 14) Following Jesus requires putting away sin and putting on the new man. 3:5-15
- 15) The word must dwell richly in us as we do all things at His direction. 3:16-17
- 16) Allow His word to be the standard in all our relationships. 3:18—4:1
- 17) Pray fervently. 4:2-3
- 18) Use wisdom in your words and your dealings with outsiders. 4:5-6
- 19) As you read all the names found in 4:7-17, realize that the body is made up of many members and all play an important role in its spiritual health.