

The Book of Numbers

10

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we will begin reading the book of **Numbers**. This book gets its name from the two censuses that are taken at the beginning of the book (in **chapters 1-4**) and toward the end of the book (in **chapter 26**). The reason for two censuses being taken is that the book of **Numbers** spans two generations – the generation that left Egypt (and later died in the wilderness) and the generation that would enter the Promised Land under Joshua.

The book of **Numbers** was written by Moses, and may even be called “the memoirs of Moses in the wilderness.” He recounts the story of the travels of the people of Israel after they left Mount Sinai, through 40 years of wandering in the wilderness due to unbelief (a major theme of the book), right up to the time the second generation is encamped on the plains of Moab, near the Promised Land, ready to enter under Joshua’s command.

The book is divided into three main sections:

- The first approach to the Promised Land – **Chapters 1-14**
- Wandering in the wilderness – **Chapters 15-21**
- The second approach to the Promised Land – **Chapters 22-36**

Today we will be reading the first section – **chapters 1-14**. Pull up a comfortable chair, read through the first section in one sitting, and then answer for yourself the following questions:

- How did Moses hear from God? (**1:1; 7:89; 12:6-8**).
- How did the people know it was time to break camp and continue their journey toward the Promised Land? (**9:15-23**).
- What does **11:4-5** reveal of the attitude of the people of Israel and the reason for their continual complaining?
- What was the principal reason for the people of Israel believing the report of the 10 spies, rather than that of the 2 spies? (**13:25-14:4; Hebrews 3:19**).

Memory Verse

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and
be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face
toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!