

## The Book of Numbers

# 12

## 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 which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we complete our study of the book of **Numbers**. The last section of this book spans from **chapters 22 to 36**, which take the children of Israel right up to the border of the Promised Land a second time, in preparation for entrance under the leadership of Joshua.

### Read chapters 22-25

In this subsection, we find the narrative of Israel's conflict with Moab. Prominent in this narrative is the story of Balaam, who is mentioned three times in the New Testament (read **2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14**).

- ☞ What did Balak, king of Moab, hire Balaam to do and why? (**22:1-11**).
- ☞ What did the angel of God say to Balaam? (**22:21-35**).
- ☞ Why could Balaam not curse Israel? (**22:12-23:20**).
- ☞ Although no curse could be called down upon Israel, how did Moab eventually cause Israel to be cursed (i.e. through God's judgment), even if only temporarily? (**chapter 25**).
- ☞ What do you think this means for the Church today?
- ☞ How are false teachers likened to Balaam? (**2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11**).

### Read Numbers 26-32

In this subsection, we find the second census of Israel's population, together with various instructions from the Lord regarding religious festivals and practices.

- ☞ The transjordan tribes (those tribes who wanted to settle on the eastern side of the Jordan River) were allowed to do so on what condition? (**chapter 32**).

### Read Numbers 33-36

In this subsection, a detailed description of the travels of Israel is given, together with preparations for entering the land of Canaan.

- ☞ What was the purpose of the "cities of refuge"? (**chapter 35**).

# Memory Verse

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor the son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it.

Numbers 23:19-20

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!