

## Numbers Outline

**Introduction:** Numbers, the fourth book in the Pentateuch, tells the story of the two generations of Israelites wandering in the wilderness. The name numbers refers to the significance of the census in the book. Many divide the work into two main sections: Chapters 1-25 describe the old generation of rebellion; and Chapters 26-36 describe the New Generation of Hope. There is much overlap between Numbers and Exodus and Deuteronomy, each book providing us with a different perspective and interpretation of the Israelite journey to the promised land.

### Section One: The Rebellious Generation

- Chapter 1: The first census
- Chapter 2: The description of how Israel camps
- Chapter 3: Focus on the Levites and the priesthood
- Chapter 4: Focus on the Kohathites in charge of the tent
- Chapter 5: The leprous, the unclean, and the ritual for adultery and jealousy
- Chapter 6: The Nazirite vow and the Aaronic benediction
- Chapter 7: Tabernacle offerings
- Chapter 8: Description of sacrifice
- Chapter 9: Keeping the Passover and the cloud and fire of God's presence
- Chapter 10: Traveling from Sinai
- Chapter 11: Complaining about food; the tradition of the 70 elders, manna and quail
- Chapter 12: Miriam and Aaron's mutiny
- Chapter 13: Spying in the land- grapes, the "bad report"
- Chapter 14: The people rebel; defeated by Amalekites
- Chapter 15: Offerings and fringes
- Chapter 16: Korah's mutiny
- Chapter 17: Blossoming/budding staff of Aaron
- Chapter 18: Further description of Aaron, priests, and the priestly duties
- Chapter 19: Laws regarding death; the red heifer
- Chapter 20: Water from the rock; Moses not allowed to enter promised land
- Chapter 21: The snakes and the raising of the bronze serpent
- Chapter 22: Balak hires Balaam
- Chapter 23: Balaam prays for Israel
- Chapter 24: Balaam continues to pray for Israel
- Chapter 25: Mixing with the Moabites and the worship of Ba'al

### Section Two: The Generation of Hope

- Chapter 26: Second Census
- Chapter 27: Inheritance law- the daughters of Zelophehad
- Chapter 28: More on offerings
- Chapter 29: Holy festivals
- Chapter 30: Significance of vows
- Chapter 31: Success over the Midianites
- Chapter 32: Gad and Reuben and the sheep
- Chapter 33: Traveling in stages
- Chapter 34: The boundaries of the promised land
- Chapter 35: Cities for the Levites and cities of refuge
- Chapter 36: More on inheritance and Zelophehad; no marrying between tribes

Texts to know: The Aaronic benediction (6:22-27); the story of the bronze serpent (21:4-9); and Balaam and his donkey (22-24)