



Sowing the Word



So it was always: the cloud covered it by day,
and the appearance of fire by night.

Numbers

Numbers 8-10 February 18th-24th, 2010

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of
God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to
understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

Table of Contents

Outline.....3

Daily Reading and Helps.....4-10

With the Word Commentary.....11-13

Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Online Help:

Numbers: The Incomplete Christian Life by Ray C. Stedman

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/2987/0204.html>

http://preceptaustin.org/numbers_commentaries.htm

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Outline

- I. Israel at Sinai: PREPARATION (1–10)
 - A. Counting - a Census of the people (1)
 - B. Arranging - ordering campsites around the Tabernacle (2)
 - C. Assigning - Counting the Levites, their duties assigned (3–4)
 - D. Maintaining - Standards for purity (5)
 - E. Separating - Nazirites (6)
 - F. Supporting - Offerings for the Tabernacle from Israel's leaders (7)
 - G. Inaugurating - Dedication of the Levites (8)
 - H. Guiding - Passover, Fiery cloud, silver trumpets (9:1–10)

- II. Sinai to Kadesh: FRUSTRATION (11–20:13)
 - A. Complaining - Complaints and solutions (11)
 - B. Criticizing - Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses (12)
 - C. Rebelling - Rebellion at Kadesh-barnea (13–14)
 - i. God gives hope - Additional laws for the Land (15)
 - D. Striving - Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (16)
 - i. God's Calling - Aaron's staff buds (17)
 - ii. God's Appointing - Duties of Levites (18)
 - iii. God's Cleansing - Purification by the ashes of a red heifer (19)
 - E. Misrepresenting - Moses strikes the rock (20:1–13)

- III. Kadesh to Moab: ANTICIPATION (20:14–36:13)
 - A. Blocking - Edom denies passage to Israel (20:14–21)
 - B. Replacing - Death of Aaron (20:22–29)
 - C. Saving - Bronze serpent (21:1–9)
 - D. Enabling - Israel defeats Sihon and Og (21:10–35)
 - E. Protecting - Balak and Balaam (22–24)
 - F. Disciplining - Israelites seduced by Moabites (25)
 - G. Counting - Second census of the people (26)
 - H. Discipling - Joshua to succeed Moses (27)
 - I. Worshipping - Regulations for worship and vows (28–29)
 - J. Committing - Regulations for vows (30)
 - K. Empowering - Israel defeats the Midianites (31)
 - L. Quenching - Settlement of Transjordan tribes (32)
 - M. Remembering - Review of the wilderness journey (33)
 - N. Expecting - Settlement of Canaan described (34–36)

With the Word Bible Commentary

Numbers 8

Not everybody is called to be a priest or a leader. Some are called to be helpers, such as the Levites. The gift of helps (1 Cor. 12:28) is important in God's work and must never be despised. God considered the Levites as His gift to Aaron (v. 19). We should be thankful for those God gives to help us in our work.

Substitutes. The Levites were first of all given to the Lord as substitutes for all the firstborn in Israel (vv. 16–18; 3:11–13). The firstborn belonged to God, but He allowed them to be redeemed (Exod. 13:1, 11–13). You have your work to do for Christ, but don't forget those who represent you as they serve the Lord in different places.

Servants. The Levites were given to Aaron as workers (vv. 11, 19). They could not do all that the priests did, but they had their tasks and were expected to fulfill them faithfully.

Sacrifices. They were presented to God as "living sacrifices," wave offerings to the Lord (vv. 11, 13, 15, 21). No matter what work you do for the Lord, it should be like offering up a sacrifice of worship to Him (Phil. 4:10–20).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Nu 8:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Numbers 9

God teaches us in different ways. There are commandments to obey (vv. 1–5), and we must know them and do them. Passover was the annual reminder that God had redeemed Israel from bondage and they belonged to Him. Think of the thousands of lambs that were slain so that the people might obey God! Think of the Lamb of God who died for the whole world (John 1:29)!

There are also exceptions to consider (vv. 6–14). The legalist makes no exceptions, and the anarchist makes everything an exception; but the child of God waits on the Lord for His orders. Each problem in life is an opportunity to learn how to wait on God and discover His will. Let's not fear exceptions. Our job is to be obedient even if what we do does not always appear to be consistent.

There are leadings to follow (vv. 15–23). Note the sequence: obeying the Lord, waiting on the Lord, following the Lord. God has His times and His routes, and we must watch for His leading. Perhaps the most difficult time for us is when God tarries and we have to wait (v. 19). It is also the most dangerous time, for human nature wants to rush ahead. We must "rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him" (Ps. 37:7).

***The Will of God:** Never be afraid of the will of God; God's will is the expression of God's love, and it comes from His heart (Ps. 33:11). It is food, not medicine (John 4:31–34), and nourishes us as we obey. Oswald Chambers was correct when he said, "Doing God's will is never hard. The only thing that is hard is not doing His will." Are you doing His will now?*

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Nu 9:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Numbers 10

The people of Israel were to set out for their God-appointed inheritance. They would go through an unknown land that was dangerous, but God gave them the help they needed.

His command (1–13). The priests used the two silver trumpets to communicate God's will to the people. The blowing of the silver trumpets would gather them together, move them forward, summon them to battle, or call them to enjoy the feasts of the Lord. They heard the trumpets and watched the cloud, and they were safe.

His word (14–28). God had already told them how to organize the march, and all they had to do was obey. If we don't obey in the things God has told us, He will not reveal anything new to us (John 7:17).

Experience (29–32). Hobab was a brother of Zipporah, Moses' wife; and Moses asked him to come with Israel and share his "wilderness wisdom." Hobab's wisdom did not take the place of God's leading. Rather, Hobab assisted in the everyday problems of a people who were not accustomed to wilderness life. God promises to guide us, but that doesn't mean we should be deaf to the wisdom of experienced people. Hobab did Israel good, and Israel brought good to him (Judg. 1:16; 4:11).

Prayer (33–36). The ark represented God's presence and His throne. Moses prayed to God when the people marched forward and when God told them to stop. That's a good example for us to follow as we move through each day.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Nu 10:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.