

# NUMBERS

## GOD'S FAITHFULNESS CONFRONTS ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCE

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Distance from Mt. Sinai to Israel? How long did it take? Why?  
Deut. 1:2-3, 26, 29-32

Numbers resumes the history of Israel where Exodus ended.

Israel is still at Sinai where God has just revealed Himself to His people.

They were to be His people and He would be their God and dwell in their midst.

The law was the standard of conduct for a redeemed people in the midst of a pagan world – they were to be different.

The tabernacle was given so He could dwell in their midst and they could worship Him.

Now God was ready to lead them into the land which He had promised to their fathers.

Due to their *UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE*, the entrance into the land was delayed forty years – while that generation died.

Numbers tells *the story of their FAILURE and the RESULTING DELAY in the wilderness.*

It concludes at the banks of the Jordan River, 40 years later, preparing again to enter the land.

### PURPOSE

**To reveal the CONSEQUENCES of UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE among God's people.**

They should have trusted and obeyed Him.

Their failure caused serious negative consequences:

- \* Fellowship with God broken.
- \* Entrance to land delayed 40 years.
- \* That generation died (except Joshua & Caleb). They didn't enter land.

**To reveal God's FAITHFULNESS.**

Their failure did not cut them off from God.

They were punished--even to death--but the promises were still fulfilled.

God protected them in the wilderness.

God provided all they needed.

God guided them.

God brought them back to the land.

### THEME

**Though God must punish His people for their UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE, He continues to LOVE them and to demonstrate His FAITHFULNESS to them.**

- \* God's blessing is the result of obedience.
- \* The consequences of disobedience are always serious.

### 1 COR. 10:1-13 --WE OUGHT TO LEARN FROM THEIR EXAMPLE.

What should we learn from the example of Israel?

*UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE are still A TRAP*

They will stop us from enjoying God's plan for us

They will break our fellowship with God

*God is still FAITHFUL*

When we don't trust Him – HE REMAINS FAITHFUL

When we disobey –

He still provides for our needs and protects us

He waits for us to return

He will use discipline to bring us back to Him

*It is best to learn from ISRAEL'S EXAMPLE and to TRUST Him and to OBEY Him daily!*

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**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS in spite of Israel's Unbelief and Disobedience**

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MOVEMENT TOWARD LAND	1-14	POSTPONEMENT IN THE WILDERNESS	15-19	MOVEMENT TOWARD LAND RENEWED	20-36
Movement from Sinai to Canaan Preparations made Doubt and disobedience		40 years wandering Consequences of rebellion Continued faithfulness of God		Restoration of the people Renewed preparation for possessing land	
Preparation		Observance of the Offerings	15:1-31	Journey from Kadesh-Barnea to Plains of Moab	20-22:1
Organizational preparation	1-10				
Spiritual preparation	1-4				
Religious preparation	5-6				
Travel preparations	7-9:14	Importance of Obedience	15:32-41	Preparatory Events in the Plains of Moab	22:2-36:13
	9:15-10:10				
Journey from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea		Confirmation of Divine Authority		Political preparation	22:2-24:25
Description of the journey	10:11-12:15		16-18		
Disputes in the camp	10:11-10:36	The authority of Moses	16	Spiritual preparation	25
Complaint about the hardships	11:1-12:15				
Complaint about the food	11:1-3	The authority of Aaron	17-18	Organizational preparation	26-27
Jealousy of Miriam and Aaron	11:4-35				
	12:1-15	Sin Offering of the Red Heifer		Religious preparation	28-30
Rebellion and Judgment			19:1-10		
The mission of the twelve	12:16-14:45			Historical preparation	31-33
The mistake of the people	12:16-13:33				
The anger of Yahweh	14:1-10	Exposure of the Dead	19:11-22	Legal preparation	34-36:12
The pleading of Moses	14:11-12				
The judgment of Yahweh	14:13-19				
The defeat of the people	14:20-38			Conclusion	36:13
	14:39-45				