

# NUMBERS

Bemidbar--Book of Traveling Through the Desert



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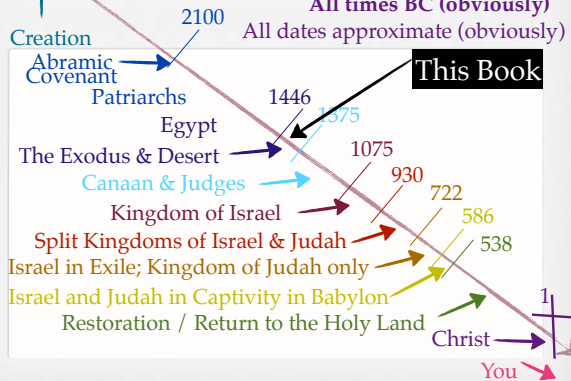
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## TIMEFRAME

All times BC (obviously)  
All dates approximate (obviously)



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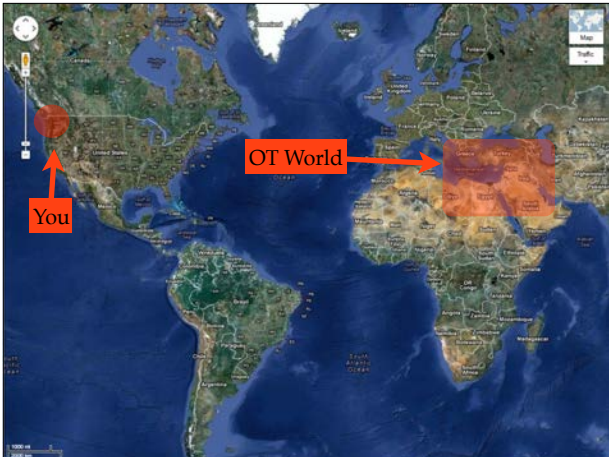
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### TYPE OF BOOK

- Moses' Torah / Pentateuch ✓
- History
- Poetry & Wisdom
- Major (Long-book) Prophets
- Minor (Short-book) Prophets

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### AUTHOR

- Moses

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## READERS & RECIPIENTS

- Israelites
- Everyone

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## STORYLINE

- Census
- People Rebel
- God Forgives

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## STORYLINE

- Miraculous Acts; Further Direction from God; Spiritual Preparation of the People
- Israel follows God step by step until Canaan is in sight (CBH)
- They stop in Moab, directly east of the Promised Land (22:1) (CBH)--Here they must wait until all is ready.

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## STORYLINE

- The God who entered into covenant with Abraham, brings correcting wrath upon His own disobedient people. Through their rebellion, the Hebrews had broken the covenant.
- Failure to follow the commandments.
- What happened to “We will obey”?

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## Major OT Themes found in this Book:

1. God is Love
2. God Creates
3. Israel (we) are supposed to be God’s Obedient Servants
4. Israel (we) are Sinful
5. God is Angry with His People for Rejecting Him
6. God Forgives and Blesses those who Follow Him
7. Israel (we) are God’s Chosen Examples
8. God Speaks through His Prophets
9. God is Always with His People
10. God is Just and Merciful
11. God Keeps His Promises
12. Israel (we) are Redeemed and Restored by the Blood of Christ
13. Israel (we) are JoGoFd
14. Israel (we) will Inherit the Kingdom of God

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## THEOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION

- “God’s grace is emphasized in Numbers through several...symbols of Jesus’ ministry. The bronze serpent (21:4-9) is a picture of the crucifixion...The rock that quenches the thirst of the multitudes...the daily manna pictures the Bread of Life who later comes down from heaven...Balaam...(24:17)” (CSSB 184)

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## SECULAR CONTRIBUTION

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## KEY VERSE

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- “The Lord replied, ‘I have forgiven them as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who **disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit** and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.
- (Numbers 14: 20-24)

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## REQUIRED READING

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- “The critical turning point of Numbers may be seen in Numbers 14 when Israel rejects God by refusing to go up and conquer the Promised Land”.
- Chapter 16--Korah’s Rebellion
- Chapter 22--Balaam and His Donkey

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## WHEN TO TURN HERE

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- Why doesn't God punish my enemies?
- Is God loving?
- Why does God love little old me, when there are billions of other people around? (Thanks, AP!)
- Where is God when we need him? (Thanks, CD!)

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## LUTHER SAYS:

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- "The fourth book...says much about the disobedience of the people and the plagues that came upon them...Indeed this is the way it always goes; laws are quickly given, but...they meet with nothing but hindrance; nothing goes as the law demands. This book is a notable example of how vacuous it is to make people righteous with laws; rather, as St. Paul says, laws cause only sin and wrath" (LW 35:238 from CSSV 184)

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## MR. MARTIN SAYS:

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- Numbers 6: 24-26
- "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."

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## LIFE LESSONS FROM NUMBERS

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- God of Wrath--
- Why does God have to show his wrath?
- Why do your parents and teachers have to be tough sometimes?

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## ACTIVITIES

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- The Numbers Game

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