A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Numbers)

I. General Introduction to Numbers

-Title: Hebrew: בְּמִדְבַּר: "in the wilderness" (Num. 1:1); LXX: avri,qmoi (arithmetic); Latin: numeri; English:
Numbers

-Author/Date: Moses ("the Lord spoke to, commanded Moses" *passim*; Num. 33:2; 36:13), sometime during the final year of Moses' life (Deut. 1:3)

-Theme/Purpose: the consequences of unbelief and disobedience to a holy God; God's patience, justice, goodness, and mercy to unfaithful people.

-Structure:

I. Preparation of the Exodus Generation to Enter Canaan (1-9) [20 days]
   A. First Census (1)
   B. Organization of Israel (2-4)
   C. Sanctification of Israel (5-9)
II. Failure of the Exodus Generation to Enter Canaan (10-25) [~ 39 years]
   A. Journey Begins (10)
   B. Israel's Failure (11-25)
       1. Prior to the Sending of the Spies (11, 12)
       2. In Connection with the Sending of the Spies (13, 14)
       3. Subsequent to the Sending of the Spies (15-25) [38 year gap between chs. 19, 20]
III. Preparation of the Wilderness Generation to Enter Canaan (26-36) [~ 5 months]
   A. Second Census (26)
   B. Reorganization of Israel (27-30)
   C. Conquest and Division of Israel (31-36)

II. General Overview of Numbers

Census #1/ → Pre-Reconnaissance Failure → Reconnaissance Failure → Post-Reconnaissance Failure → Census #2/
Preparation   Preparation
(1-9)   (10-12)   (13, 14)   (15-25)   (26-36)

III. Prominent People and Themes in Numbers

-People: Moses (11:10-15; 20:1-13), Joshua (27:18-21), Caleb, Korah, Balaam

-Themes: Human Sinfulness (unbelief); God's Character: justice, wrath (11:1, 33; 12:9, 10; 14:37, 40–45; 16:31, 35; 21:6; 25:9); patience, mercy (14:18)

IV. Christ in Numbers

-The Brass Serpent (21:1-9) See John 3:14, 15.

-The Prophecy of Balaam (24:17)

-Manna (11:6-9 with John 6:32-35; 1 Cor. 10:3); Rock (20:1-13 with 1 Cor. 10:4); Red Heifer (ch. 19); Cities of Refuge (35:9-34 with Heb. 6:18)

→Numbers is a mirror in which we see ourselves (1 Cor. 10:1-12).