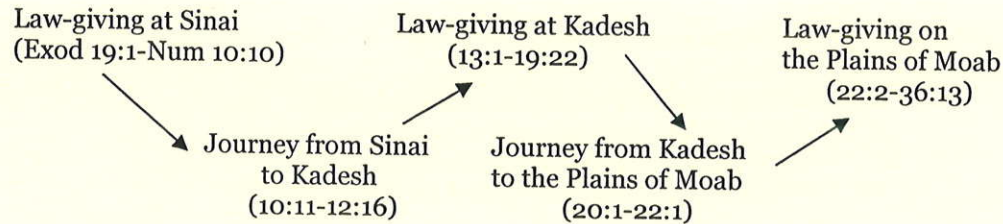


Numbers 1

Lesson 1: Delegate – and Take Stock of God’s Blessing

A. Mapping the Big Picture

1. Theme – The Wilderness: Extreme Lessons that Count
2. Chronological Outline of Numbers
 - a. Num 1-10 ... 20 days ... 1446/5 BC
 - b. Num 11-25 ... 38 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days ...
 - c. Num 26-36 ... 5-6 Months ... 1406/5 BC
3. Geographic Outline of Numbers



4. Some Keys to the Book
 - a. “God is not a man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”
Num 23:19 (ESV) / Emphasis: God’s faithfulness
 - b. “And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
‘Because you did not believe in me,
to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel,
therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land
that I have given them.’”
Num 20:12 (ESV) / Emphasis: man’s unfaithfulness

B. Scouting Out Some Details in Num 1

1. (1:1-15) God Commands Moses to Conduct a Census
 - a. (1:1) The Setting (Time & Place)
 - b. (1:2-4) The Specifics (Whom & Who)
 - c. (1:5-15) The Twelve Tribal Leaders of “Generation Exodus”
 - d. (1:16-46) Moses & Aaron Obey – The People Respond
 - i. (1:16-19) Moses & Aaron Acted & Assembled the Men – Organized & Accounted for, LORD!
 - ii. (1:20-44) The Tribal Leaders Call Out the Counts – Roll Call!
 - iii. (1:45-46) Moses & Aaron Tally the Tribal Counts
- e. (1:47-54) Spiritual Security Guards

Numbers 1

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C. Undertaking Application

1. A Word to the Wise, Who Do Memorize – See a verse to memorize?
2. Shiny Imprints & Digging for Gold – List a great truth you noticed.
3. Praying to the Lord for Wisdom – Write out a prayer.
4. Gearing Up for the Next Adventure (Num 2)
 - a. Why did God speak to just Moses and Aaron instead of to everyone (2:1)?
 - b. Why did God speak to two persons instead of to only one (2:1)?
 - c. The tribes listed in Num 1 seem to follow a combination of birth order and grouping by the 4 mothers (Leah & Zilpah, Rachel & Bilhah). How are the tribes grouped in Num 2 – and is it significant?
 - d. What could be the significance of the tabernacle's position in the camp (2:17)?

D. To Stir Application

Seven Questions

1. Are there *examples* for me to follow?
2. Are there *commands* for me to obey?
3. Are there *errors* to avoid?
4. Are there *sins* to forsake?
5. Are there *promises* to claim?
6. Are there *new thoughts* about God?
7. Are there *principles* to live by?

Four Nouns from 2 Timothy 3:16-17

8. Teaching – What does this text state as true?
9. Reproof – What does this text expose as wrong?
10. Correction – What does this text show as right?
11. Training in righteousness – What should I do?

Personalizing the Biblical Text

After determining the meaning of text (via the steps of “observation, investigation, interpretation, correlation),¹ it is important to apply (“personalize”) the text to one’s own life.

Some key questions to ask of every biblical passage one studies:

1. Are there *examples* for me to follow?
2. Are there *commands* for me to obey?
3. Are there *errors* to avoid?
4. Are there *sins* to forsake?
5. Are there *promises* to claim?
6. Are there *new thoughts* about God?
7. Are there *principles* to live by?

Another way to think through personalizing the text (to become a “doer of the Word”) is to ask oneself these questions:²

- Does this text reveal something I should believe about God?
- Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank or trust God for?
- Does this text reveal something I should pray about for myself or others?
- Does this text reveal something I should have a new attitude about?
- Does this text reveal something I should make a decision about?
- Does this text reveal something I should do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself?

Or, stated another way:³

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17).

Teaching (“doctrine”) is whatever the Word of God says on any particular subject.

First, you must find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text.

Second, when you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

Third, when you have adjusted any false concepts or teaching you may have believed and have embraced the truth revealed in God’s Word, then you have applied what you have learned.

Reproof exposes areas in your thinking and behavior that do not align with God’s Word. To apply reproof is to accept it, agree with God, and acknowledge where you have thought wrongly or haven’t been doing what God says is right. This sets you free from unbelief and from sin.

¹ From Richard Mayhue’s work, *How to Interpret the Bible for Yourself*, Winona Lake, Ind.: BMH Books, 1986, p. 64. See also John MacArthur’s *How to Study the Bible*, Panorama City, Calif.: Word of Grace Communications, 1985.

² From Donald Whitney’s book, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Colorado Springs, Colo.: Navpress, 1991, p. 56.

³ Borrowing much from K. Arthur’s book, *How to Study Your Bible*, Eugene, Oreg.: Harvest House Publishers, 1984, pp. 112-15. For a more complete explanation, see Roy Zuck’s “Applying God’s Word Today,” in *Basic Bible Interpretation*, Colorado Springs, Colo., 1991, pp. 279-292.

Correction comes many times simply by confessing and forsaking what is wrong. At other times, there are very definite steps to take in correcting your actions and attitudes. God works in you to do His good pleasure (Phil 2:12-13), so as you obey, joy will come.

Training in righteousness comes to you through studying God's Word. By being diligent in God's Word, He equips you through:

- teachings
- commands
- promises
- exhortations
- warnings
- the lives of biblical characters
- accounts of God's dealings with man.

When applying Scripture, the following questions can be useful to you:

1. What does the passage teach?

- Is it general or specific?
- Does it apply only to specific people? To a cultural problem of the day? To a certain time in history?
- Has it been superseded by a broader teaching?

2. Does this section of Scripture expose any error in my beliefs or in my behavior?

- Are there commandments that I have not obeyed?
- Are there any wrong attitudes or motives in my life that the Scriptures bring to light?

3. What is God's instruction to me as His child?

- Are there any new truths to be believed?
- Are there any new commandments to be acted upon?
- Are there any new insights I am to pursue?
- Are there any promises I am to embrace?

Cautions – When applying Scripture, beware of:

- Applying cultural standards rather than biblical standards.
- Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using a Scripture incorrectly.
- Applying Scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching.

Remember that the ultimate goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life which results in a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Martin Luther wrote that “the Bible is not merely to be repeated or known, but to lived and felt.” *But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit* (2 Cor 3:18).