

The Scriptures Summarized / Book 4 — Numbers

Title — Moses wrote this 4th book mainly about the events surrounding what we call the Wilderness Wanderings. Thus, it is entitled be-midbar in Hebrew meaning “in the desert” referenced some 45 times. Several events of this book are used as Scriptural warnings for believers to avoid.

1 Cor. 10:5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.

10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

Psalms 95:8 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.'

11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' "

Our English title comes from the Greek OT and is the root of our word arithmetic. The reasoning for this title comes from 2 separate censuses or counting's included in the book which begin and end this period.

The book documents 3 journeys of the nation which form the outline.

- I. People with Deficient Fidelity; 1-14: Their march was from MT. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea. Disobedience kept them from entering the Promised Land. These chapters includes the first census in chapters 1-4.
 - A. Ordering a Count Fighting men from each tribe;
 - B. Organizing the Camp Placement; order of march;
 - C. Offerings Dedication of Tabernacle
 - D. Observances Passover
 - E. Onward Ho! The Cloud / Shekinah Glory
 - F. Opposition Miriam & Aaron
 - G. Observation Spies sent out to survey the Land
 - H. Obstinace Rejecting the Promised Land out of fear
 - I. Outrage God's punishment on the people **Jude 5**
- II. People with a Doomed Future; 15-20: Their decades long march was an exercise in futility, just waiting for a whole generation to die. This is why it is called the wilderness wanderings. They continually travelled everywhere but never truly arrived or settled anywhere.
 - A. Reminders Tassels for their clothes
 - B. Revolt Led by Korah
 - C. Recognition Aaron's rod budded to prove he was God's Priest
 - D. Responsibility Care and Compensation for the Priesthood
 - E. Riled and Rebuked Moses' sin in striking the rock twice
- III. People with Deceased Forefathers; 21-36: This march goes from Kadesh Barnea to the Jordan River. These chapters include the second census in chapter 26.
 - A. Incidents
 1. The Bronze Snake Salvation by looking **John 3:14-15**
 2. Balaam's Error **II Peter 2:15-16; Rev. 2:14**
 3. Baal Worship **Jude 11**
 - B. Instructions Inheritance; Moses' successor; festivals; vows
 - C. Information Transjordan tribes; trip stages; inheritance issues