

The Journey Through the Wilderness | Exodus 12-Numbers 14

- Less than 50 days to Mt. Sinai – Ex. 12-18 – with five major tests
 - Crossing of the Red Sea – Ex 14:13-31
 - Waters at Marah – Ex 15:22-27
 - Entrance to the “Wilderness of Sin,” and the Lord provides Manna – Ex. 16:1-21 (key verse, 15, where the people reject the food and refuse to call it *lehem / bread*).
 - Battle with the Amalekites, where victory is given when Moses has his hands up - Ex. 17:1-7
 - Visit from Jethro - Ex. 18:1-27
- The Law given on the 50th day after Passover, followed by a 10 month stay at Sinai, including-
 - The golden calf – Ex 32
 - The building the Tabernacle – Ex 33-40
 - Completed on the first day of the month of Nissan, in time for the second Passover.
 - The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle – Ex. 40:34-38
 - The second Passover was celebrated at Sinai.
- The first year was followed by another 10 months’ journey to Kadesh Barnea - Exodus 19-Numbers 14
 - The book of Leviticus is a theological book, not an account of the activities of the nation.
 - During this time, the Lord sent the plague of the quail – Numbers 11:31-38
 - Also during this time, Miriam and Aaron claimed prophetic anointing, and were punished by God – Numbers 12
 - The most significant event of this period was the sending of the spies into the Promised land, and the rejection of God’s provision – Numbers 13-14.

Going Nowhere | Numbers 15-20

- These were really not years of wandering. The nation was at Kadesh Barnea the entire 38 years.
- We only know of two events in this 38 years:
 - Korah’s Rebellion -Numbers 16:2
 - Moses strikes the rock -Numbers 20:11-12
- The remaining portions of Scripture from this period contain only a few teachings for what to do when they arrive in the land.
- There was only one purpose for this 38 years: death of the unfaithful generation.
 - God doesn’t mind waiting until His people are ready to obey.
 - God doesn’t care if individuals from among His people want to follow self and die rather than follow Him and live.
- Aaron died in the 40th year after the Exodus – Numbers 33:38

On the Road, Again | Numbers 21-36

- The journey from Kadesh-Barnea to the Jordan was short in distance but took the new generation of Israelites almost two years due to military conflicts.
- Major events:
 - The bronze serpent – Numbers 21
 - The experience with Balak and Balaam – Numbers 22-25
 - Various laws and battles – Numbers 26-31
 - Rueben and Gad settle in Gilead – Numbers 32
 - A review of the journey and final instructions – Numbers 33-36

Lessons Learned

- The wilderness experience is second only to the Exodus in the formation of the Jewish national psyche.
- The experience was so profound that there is an entire book in the Bible dedicated to these years: The book of Numbers, called *Ba Midbar* in Hebrew (The Wilderness).
- One should be careful not to make allegorical application of Israel’s wilderness experience, but there are a number of *types* from the Wilderness given in the New Testament, enabling us to draw some insight into the Christian faith.