

the Ecclesia in the Wilderness



The Ecclesia in the Wilderness

Book of “Numbers” ?

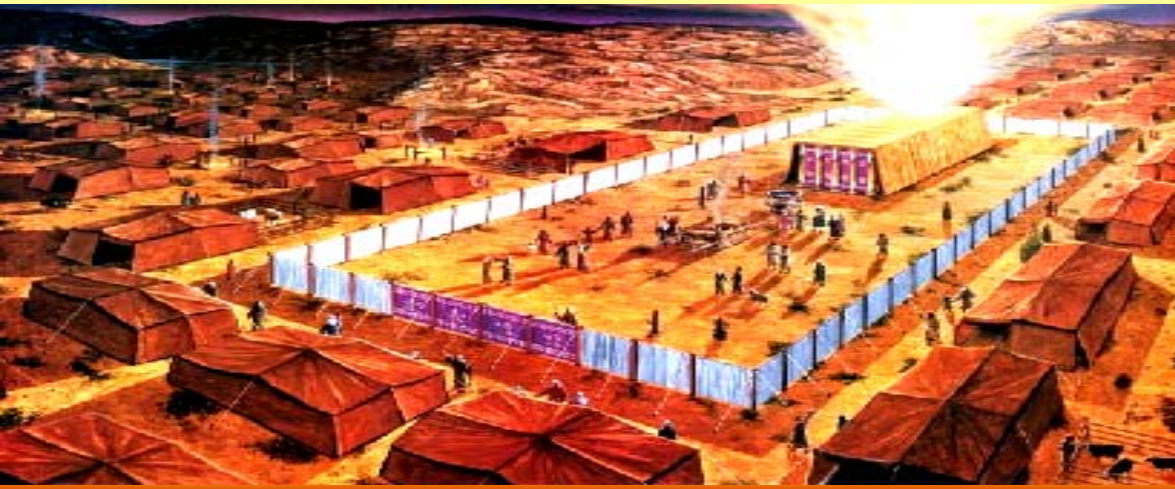
Hebrew Title = ‘*Bemidbar*’

“In the Wilderness”



the Ecclesia in the Wilderness

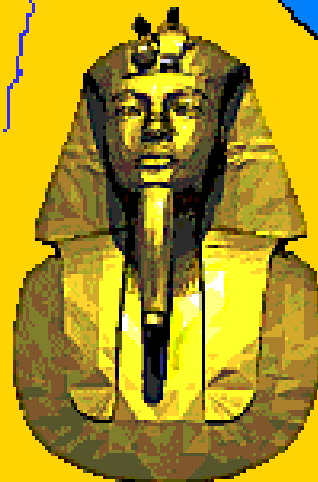
(Act 7:38) This is he, that was in the **Ecclesia** in the **wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers: who received the **lively oracles** to give unto us:



The Wilderness Journey



Why the Wilderness??



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There are **11 days** journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea. (**Deut. 1:20**)

... and **40 yrs.** longer to reach the Jordan!



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Why the Wilderness??

“The way of **the wilderness** is a bitter journey. Every man who truly follows the Lord comes to that part of his journey sooner or later. Perhaps his sin brings him there; perhaps the trial of his faith or the chastisement of the love of God... The experience is necessary to our proper growth. By it self-reliance and vanity are destroyed and the dross is purged from our faith.

The wilderness is made for hope not for despair. The extremity of man's experience brings him to the rock in a weary land, to the table furnished by the hand of God, to the well of water in a parched place
...Many a man has found God in the wilderness when he had lost him in the city.”

bro. H. Tennant, The Man David



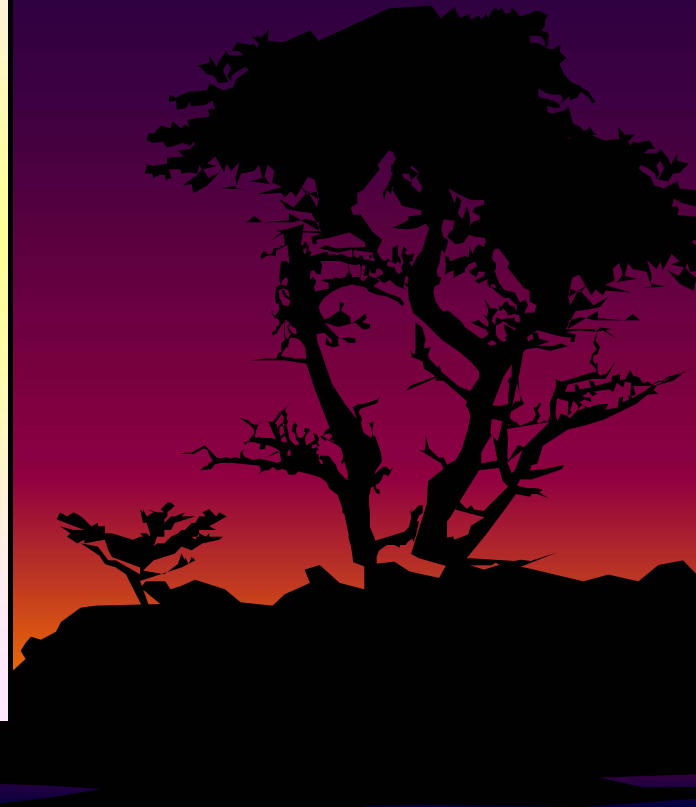
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(Psalm 63:1)

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

63:2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.



The Ecclesia in the wilderness



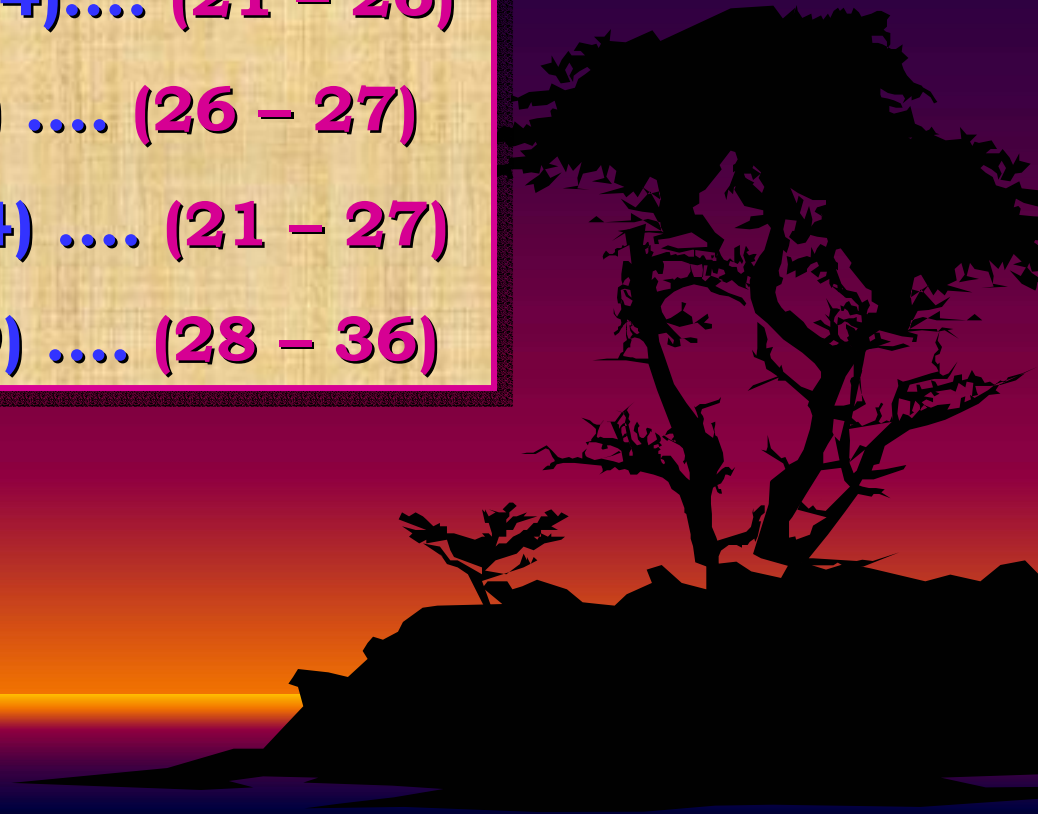
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2x Generations: (1 - 14)... (21 - 26)

2x Numberings: (1 - 4) (26 - 27)

2x Journings: (10 - 14) (21 - 27)

2x Instructings: (5 - 9) (28 - 36)



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Dates ??

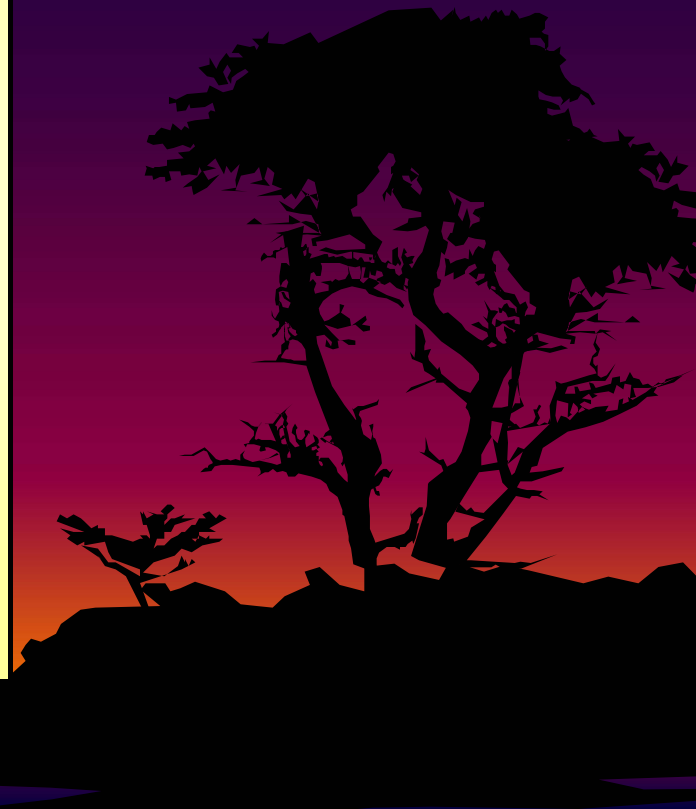


- **Exodus** from Egypt 15th day of 1st month
- Arrival at **Sinai** .  1st day, 3rd month
1st year
- Completion of **Tabernacle** 1st day, 1st month,
2nd year
- Command to **Number Israel** .. 1st day, 2nd month,
2nd year



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Moreover, **brethren**, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that **all** our fathers were under the cloud, and **all** passed through the sea; And were **all** baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did **all** eat the same spiritual meat; And did **all** drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. **But with many** of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown **in the wilderness.** (1 Corinthians 10:1-5)



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Num. 25:9,14

Num. 21:8

Num. 14:2

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, **and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.** Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were **destroyed of serpents.** Neither murmur ye, as **some of them also murmured,** and were destroyed of the destroyer. **(1 Corinthians 10:1-5)**

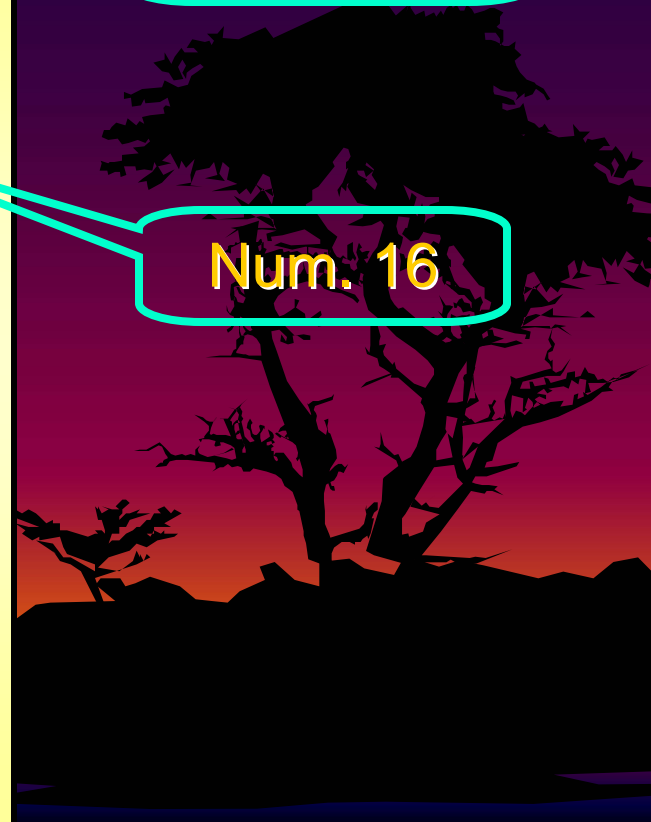
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Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Core**.
(Jude 1:11)

These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; **(Jude 1:5)**

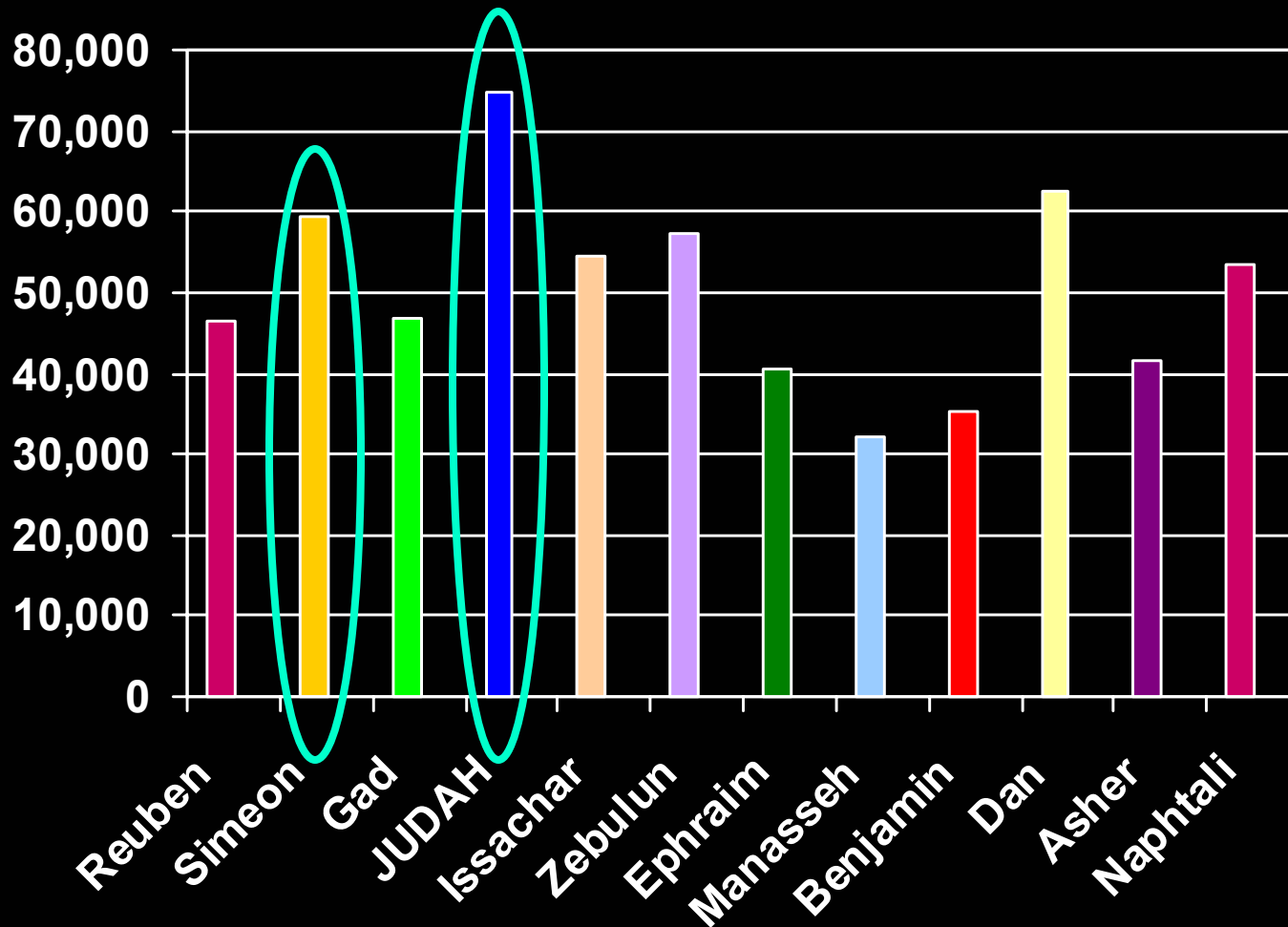
Num. 22-24

Num. 16



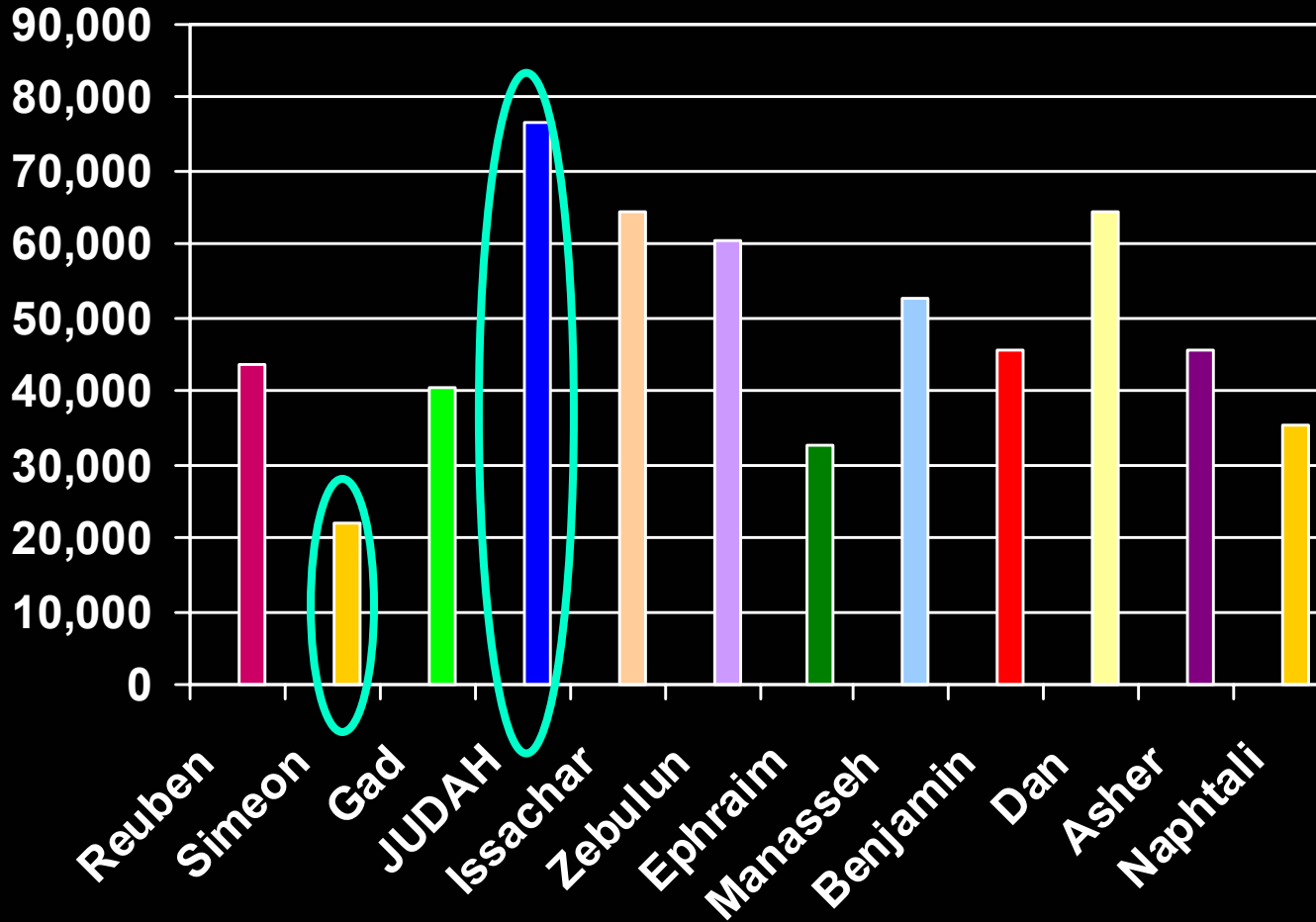
Numbers 1

Numbers Tell the Story!

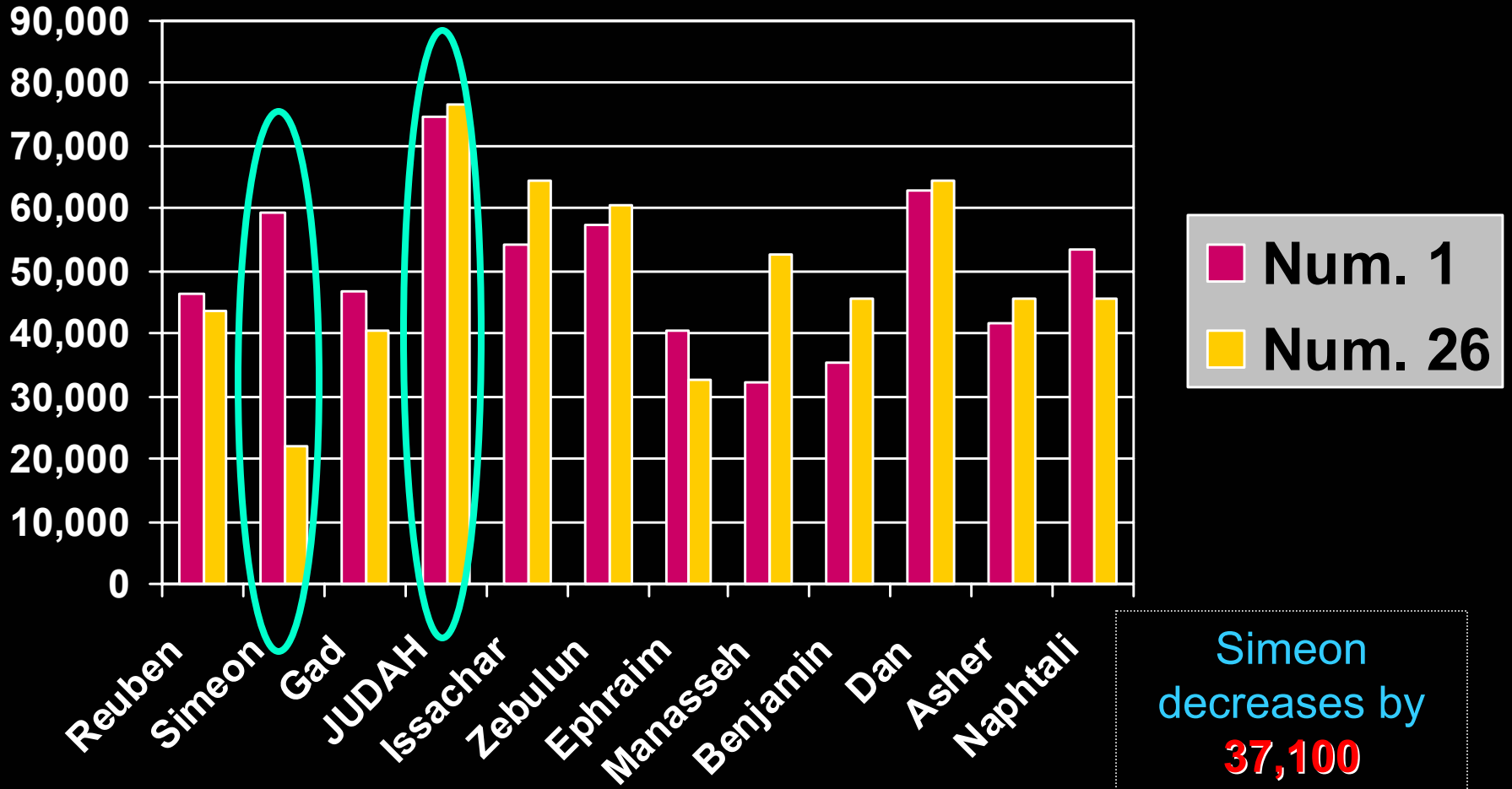


Numbers 26

Numbers Tell the Story



Numbers Tell the Story

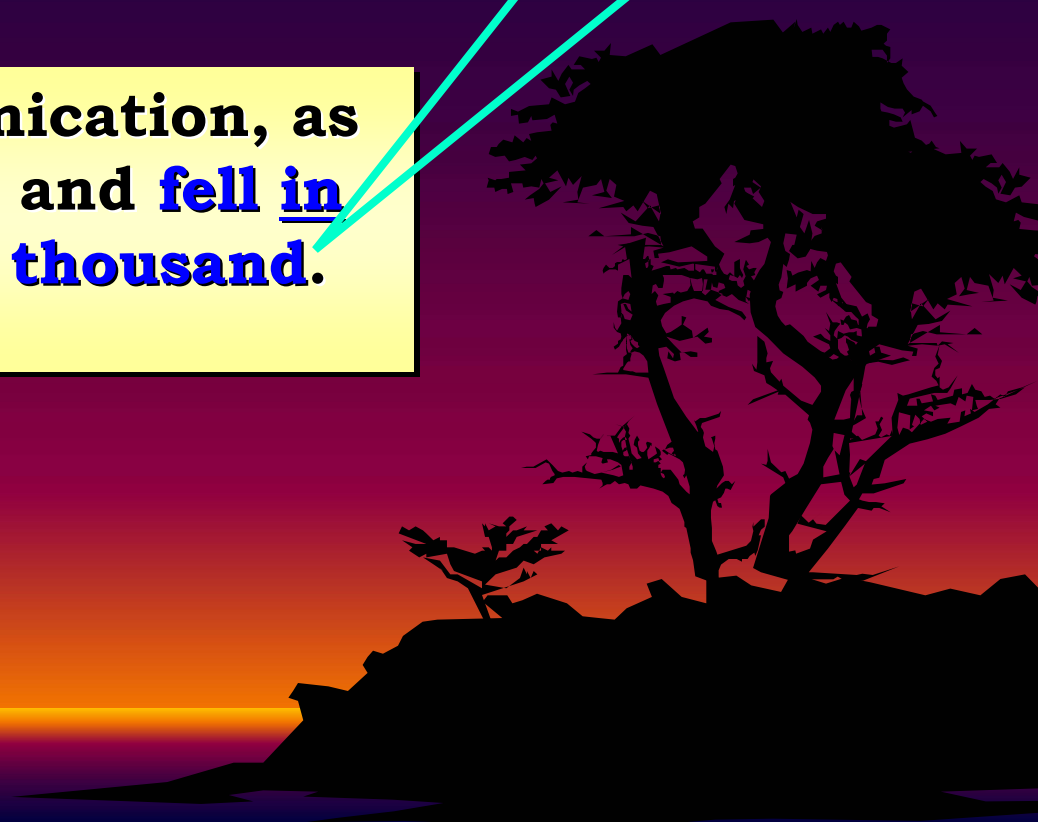


The Ecclesia in the Wilderness

Num. 25:9,14

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

(1 Corinthians 10:8)



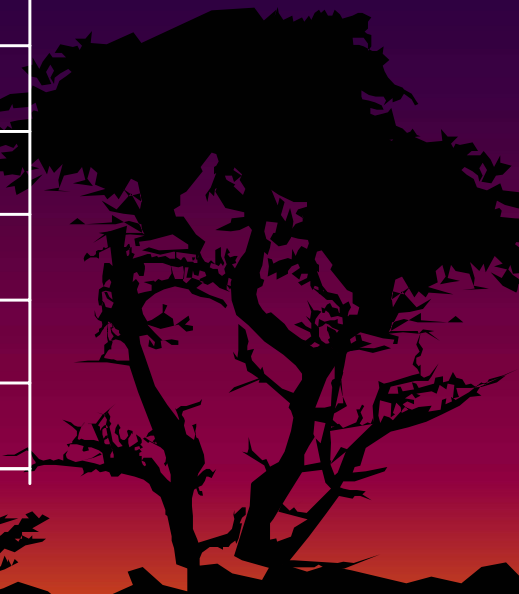
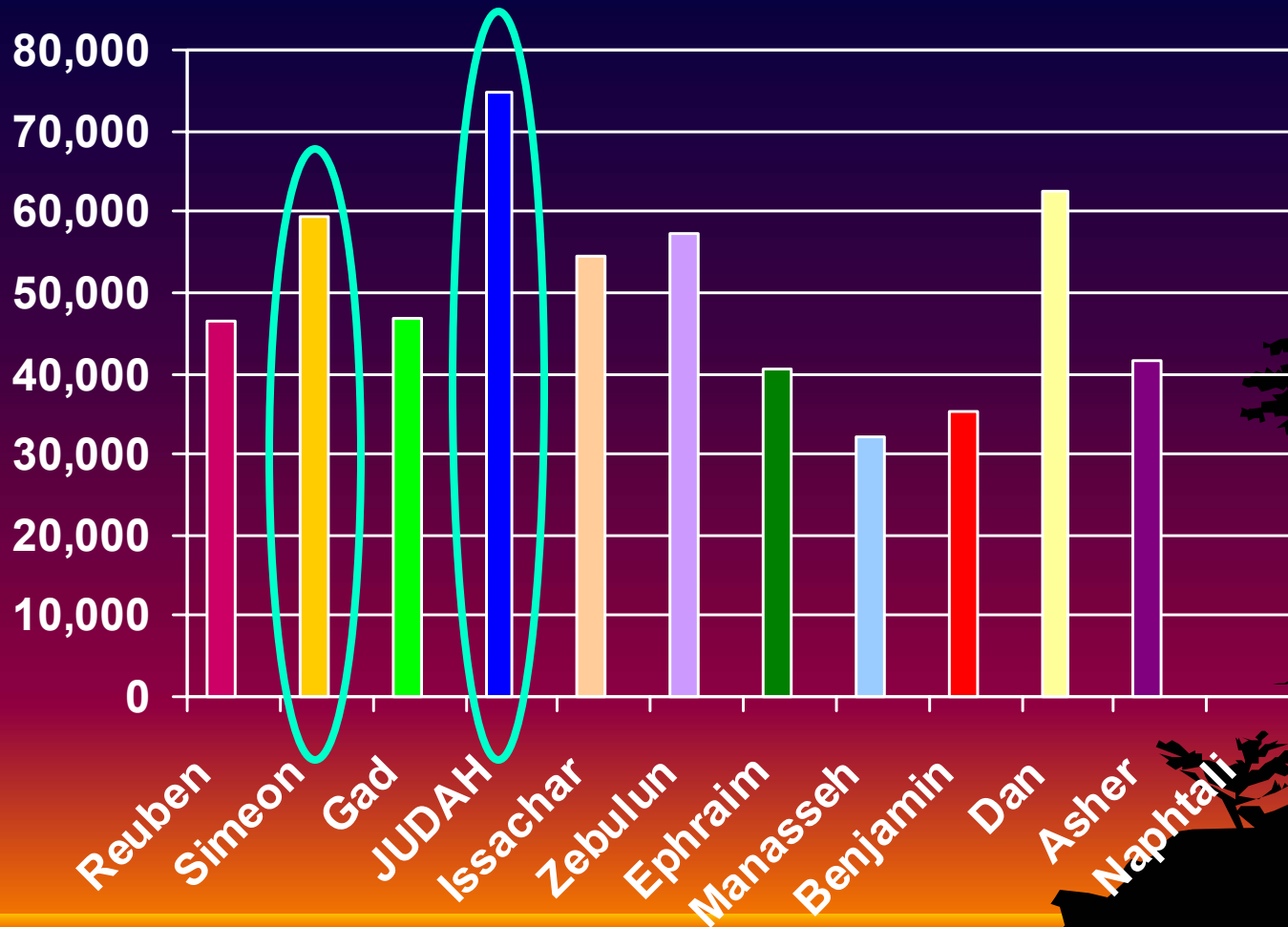
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Study 2

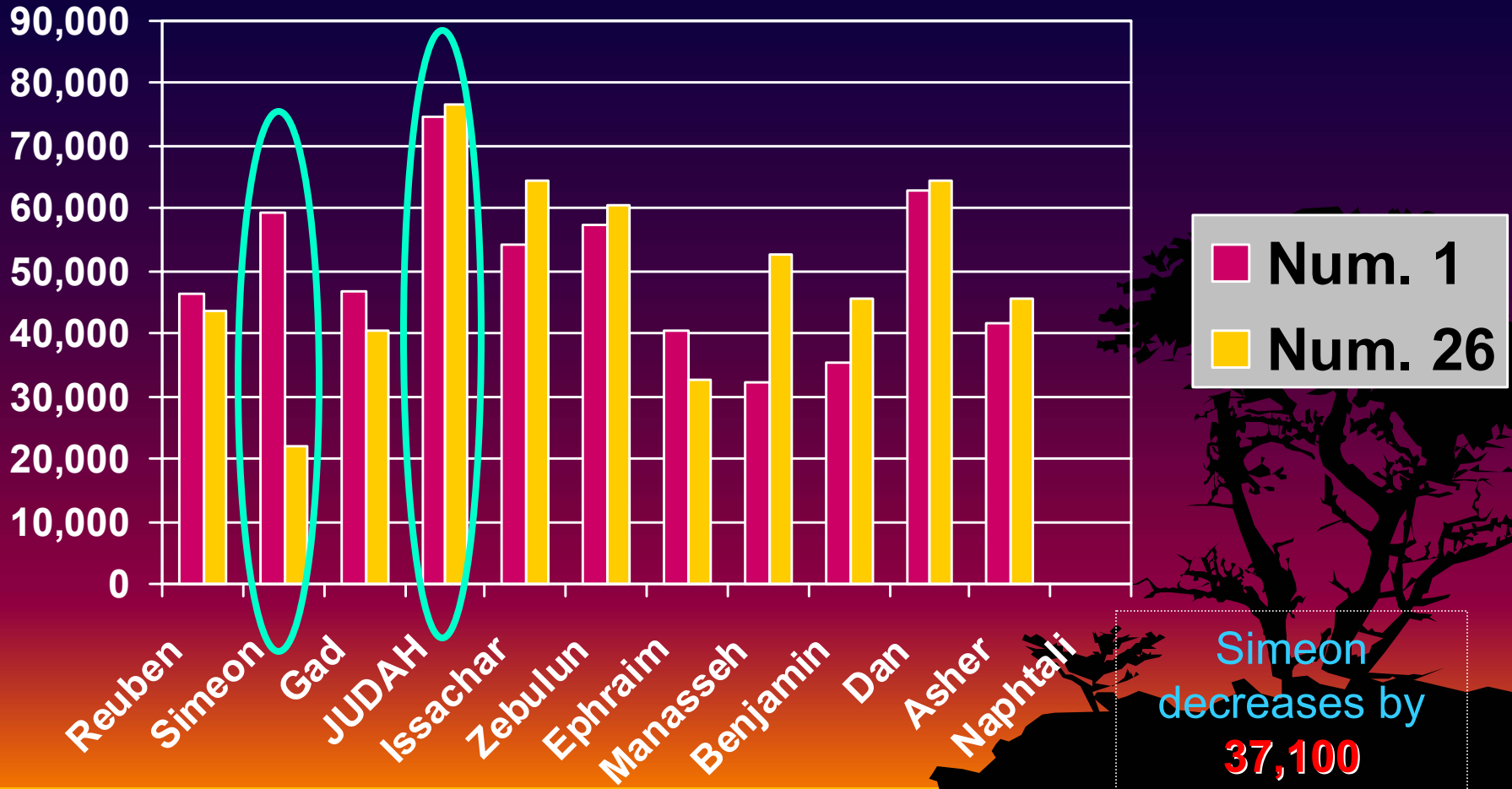


Numbers 1

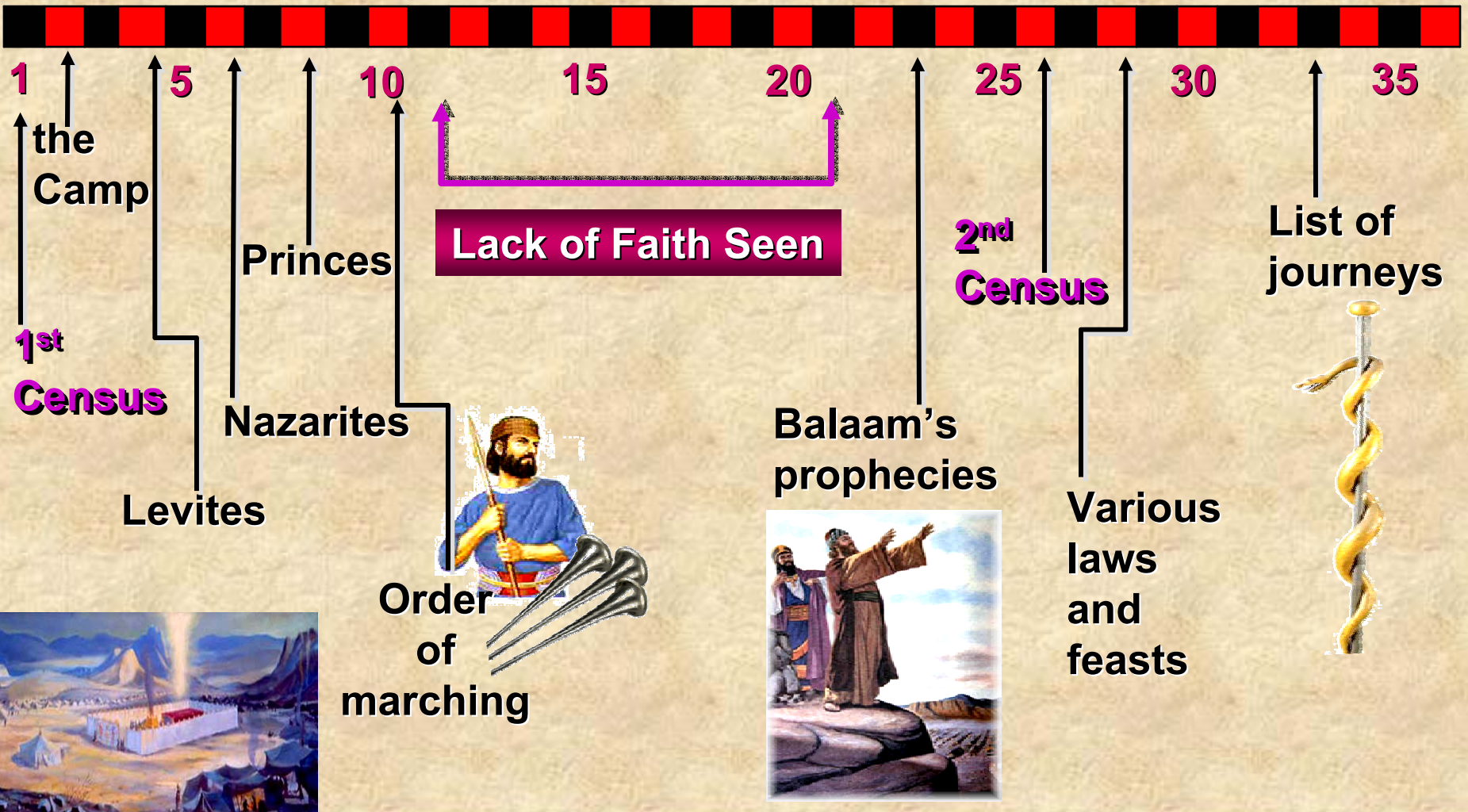
Numbers Tell the Story!



Numbers Tell the Story



Outline of NUMBERS



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Purposes of the Census

- 1) To determine & call those **qualified for battle** (Num. 1:4)
- 2) To **order the Tribes** in marching and camping formations (Num. 2)
- 3) To establish numbers for coverage of the Redemptive (**Atonement**) offerings (Ex. 30:11-16 – esp. vv. 11,16)

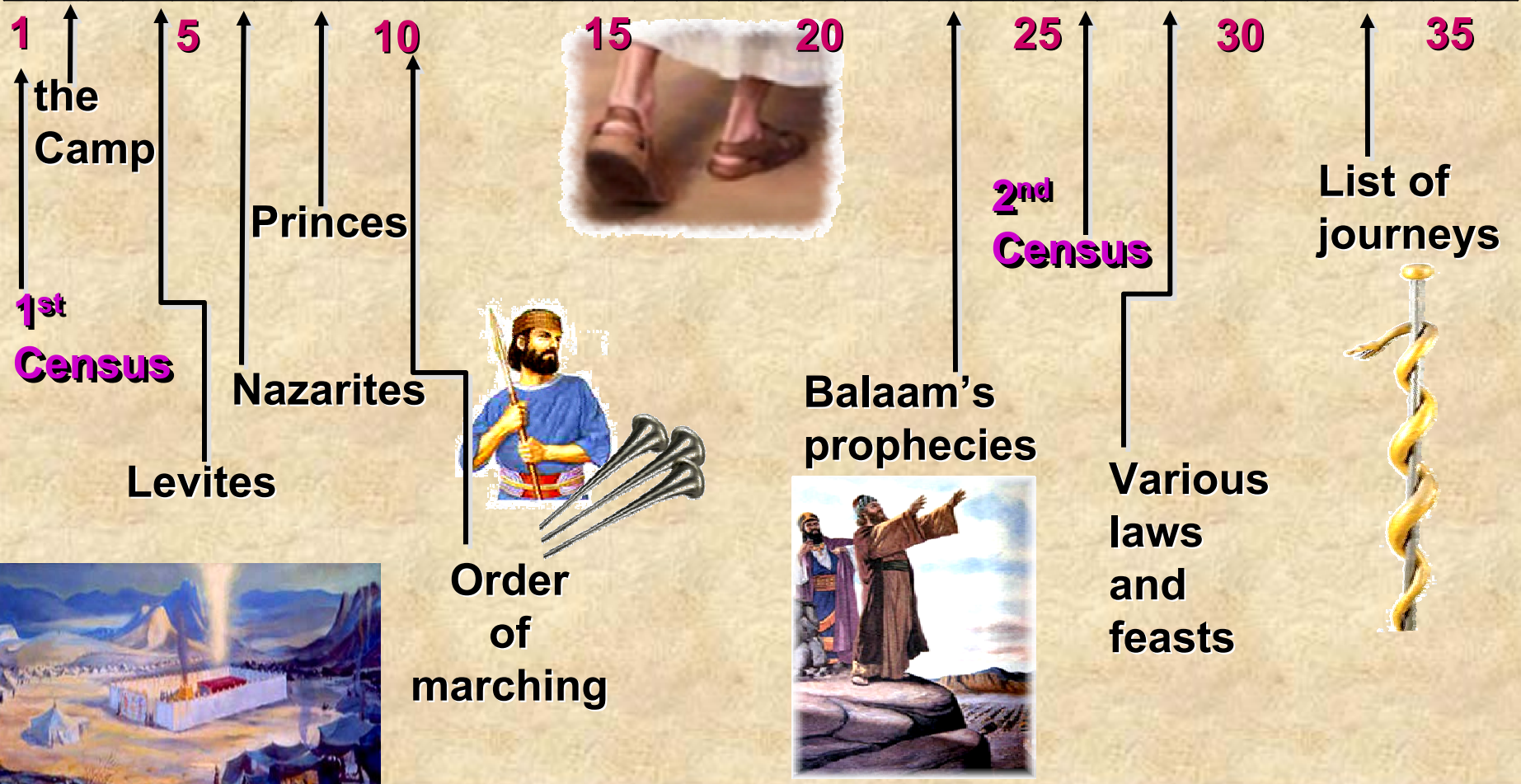


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“The Number of their Names”

- 1) **Acts 1: 15, 17** “number of their names”
- 2) **1 Timothy 5: 9** “on the roll” or “register”
- 3) **Phil. 4: 3** “..names are in the book”
- 4) **Revelation 7: 4 – 8** “I heard the number of them”

Outline of NUMBERS



Outline of NUMBERS



Cleanness in
the Camp

&
Law of Jealousy

Princes

LEVITES

Passover

1 - 2	3 - 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1st a Passover!

- **Why ?** History lessons!
- **Redemption Principles**
- ***“...and ye are not your own...ye are bought with a price”*** cp. (Num. 33:3)

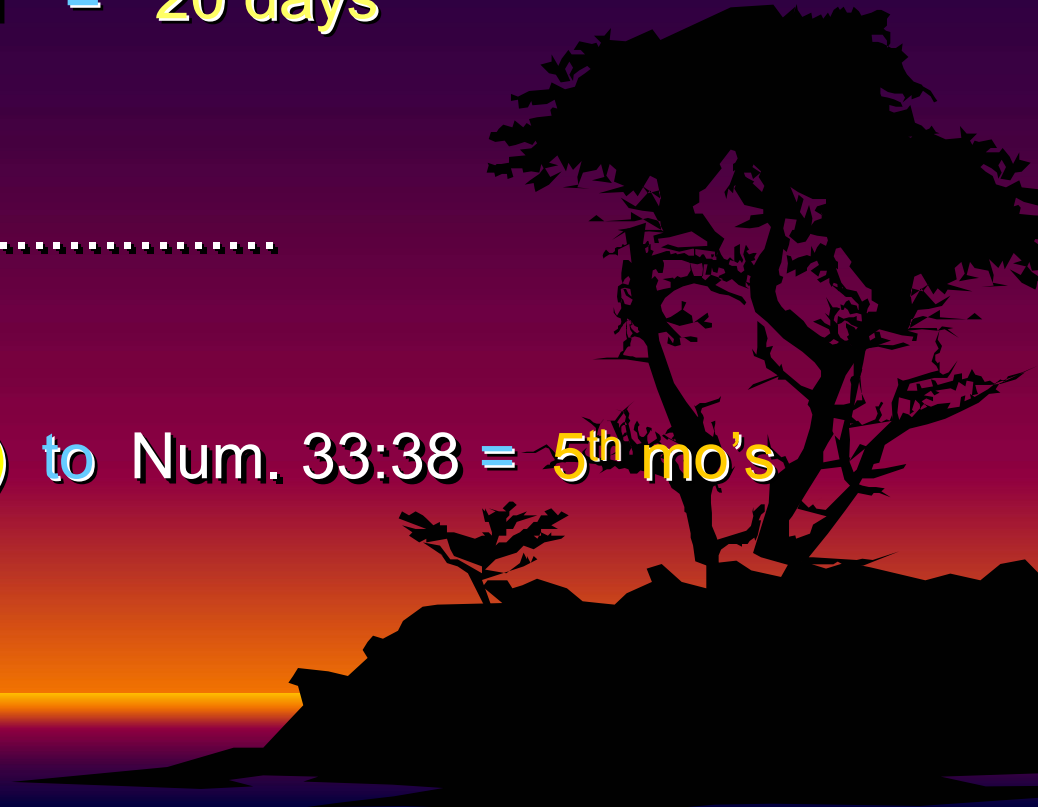
The Camp
Marches

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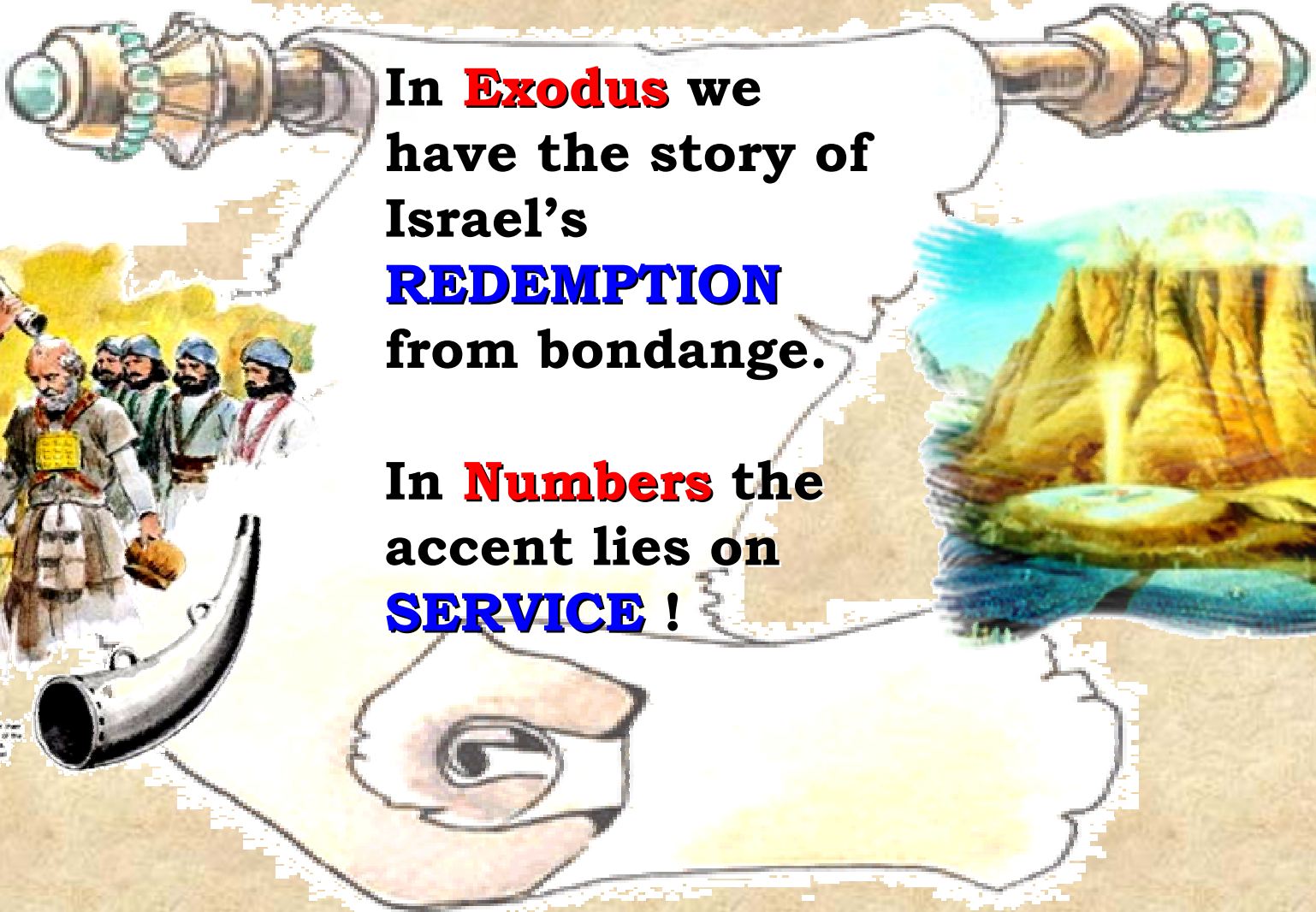
Times



- Num. 1: 1 to Num. 10: 11 = 20 days
- 38 yrs pass
- Num. 20:1 (1st mo. 40th yr.) to Num. 33:38 = 5th mo's



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In **Exodus** we have the story of Israel's **REDEMPTION** from bondage.

In **Numbers** the accent lies on **SERVICE** !



Prophets and singers as well as priests were admitted with all to prepare hymns for their offer service to God. Perhaps in memory of the first hymn sacrificed for Aaron and his sons, a psalm is here used to inspire the holy war. Both home also carried wine and water.



Dan

Asher

Naphtali

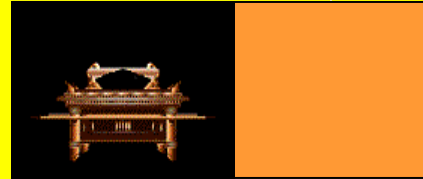
Benjamin

Merarites

Judah

Manasseh

Gershonites



Moses, Aaron

Isaachar

Ephraim

Kohathites

Zebulun

Gad

Simeon

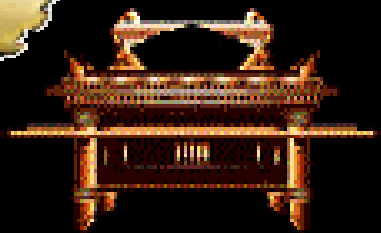
Reuben

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Holiness

In God's Dwelling

- **Num. 5: 1 - 3**
- **Num. 15: 40 - 41**



Dan

Asher

Naphtali

Benjamin

Judah

Manasseh

the Camp

Issachar

Ephraim

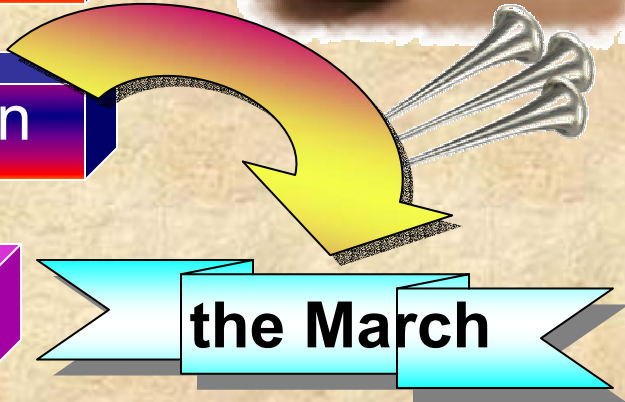
Zebulun



Gad

Simeon

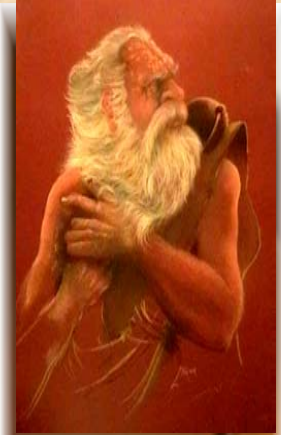
Reuben



NAPHTALI	ASHER	DAN	BENJAMIN	MANASSEH	EPHRAIAM	Kohathites	GAD	SIMEON	REUBEN	ZEBULUN	ISSACHAR	JUDAH
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Gershon & Merari

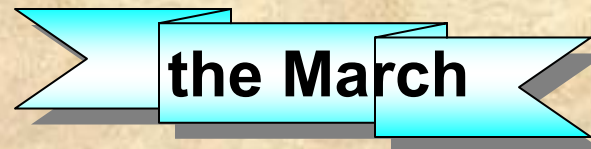




Psalm 68



- (1) **Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.**
- (5) **A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.**
- (6) **God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.**
- (7) **O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness;**



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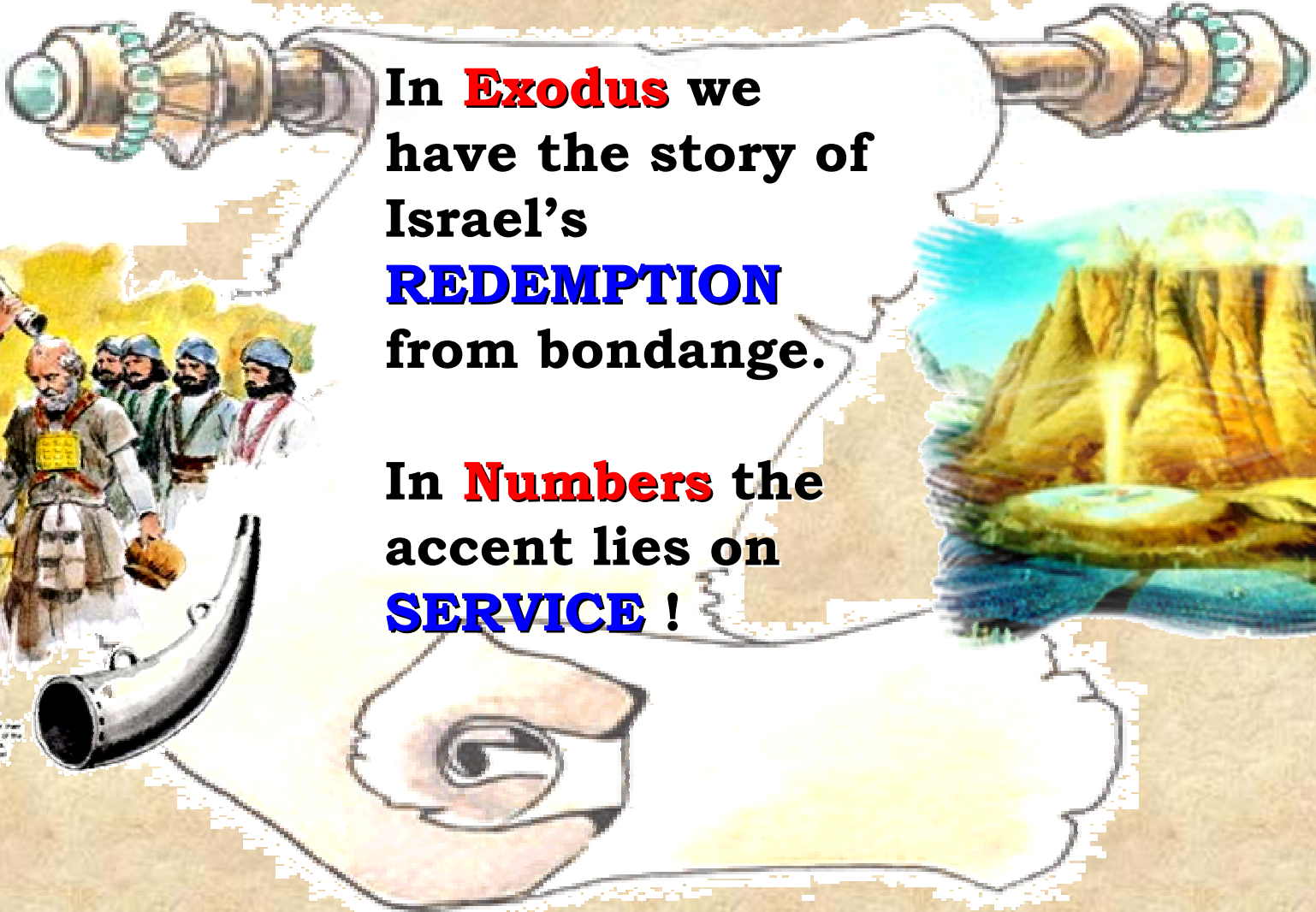
And US ??

- **Priesthood**
- **Soldiers**
- **SERVANTS:**

**(Acts 7:7; Gal. 5:13;
Col. 3:24)**



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In **Exodus** we have the story of Israel's **REDEMPTION** from bondage.

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Study 3



Dan

Asher

Naphtali

Benjamin

Judah

Manasseh

the Camp

Issachar

Ephraim

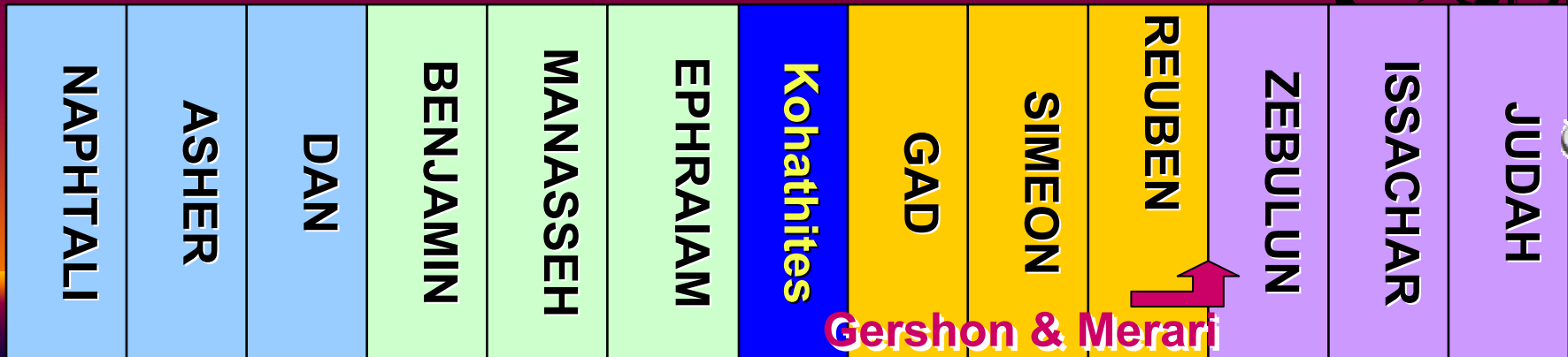
Zebulun

Gad

Simeon

Reuben

the March



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A Military Arrangement ?

- **Num. 1:3, 22,45; 4:23,30**
- **Women? Ex. 13:18; 38:8**
- **Precedent: Ex. 15:1 – 3**

A Military Arrangement ?

- **Joshua 1:14**
- **Judges 3:1-3**
- **Num. 21:14**



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Jesus in the Wilderness



Psalm 91:11,12



Mark 6: 40



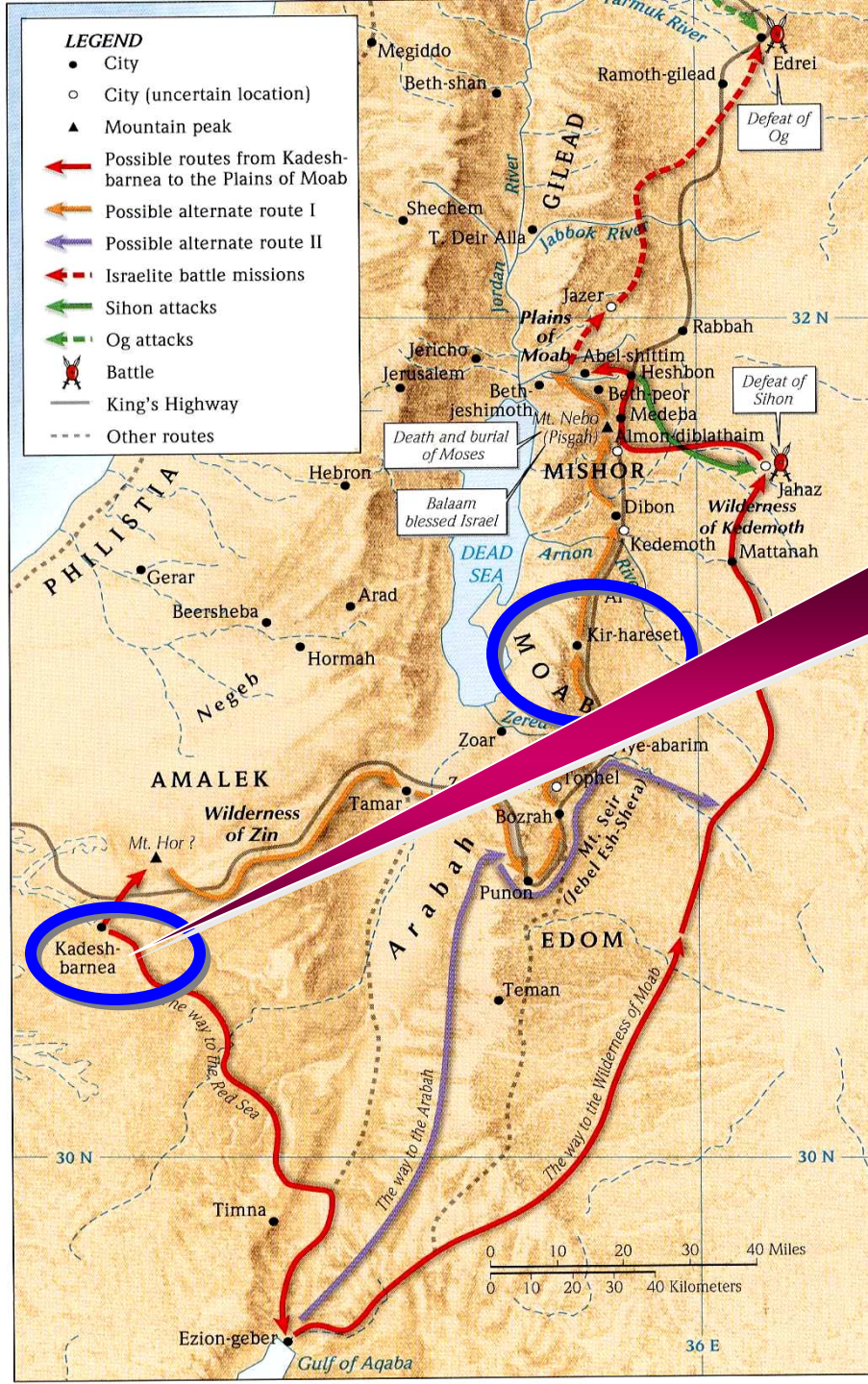
Luke 9:14



Crisis of Doubt vs Faith !

Kadesh Barnea Israelites' place of crisis in the Wilderness of Sin

Num 13:26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the **wilderness** of Paran, to Kadesh



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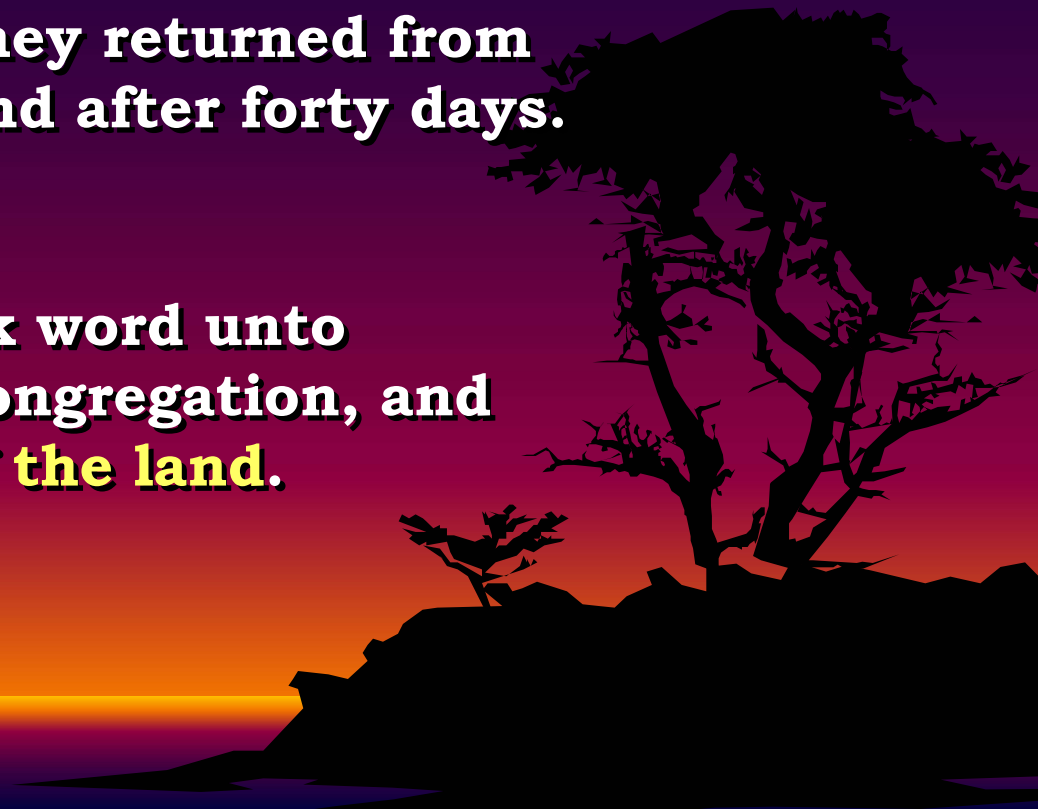


Giants or Grapes ?

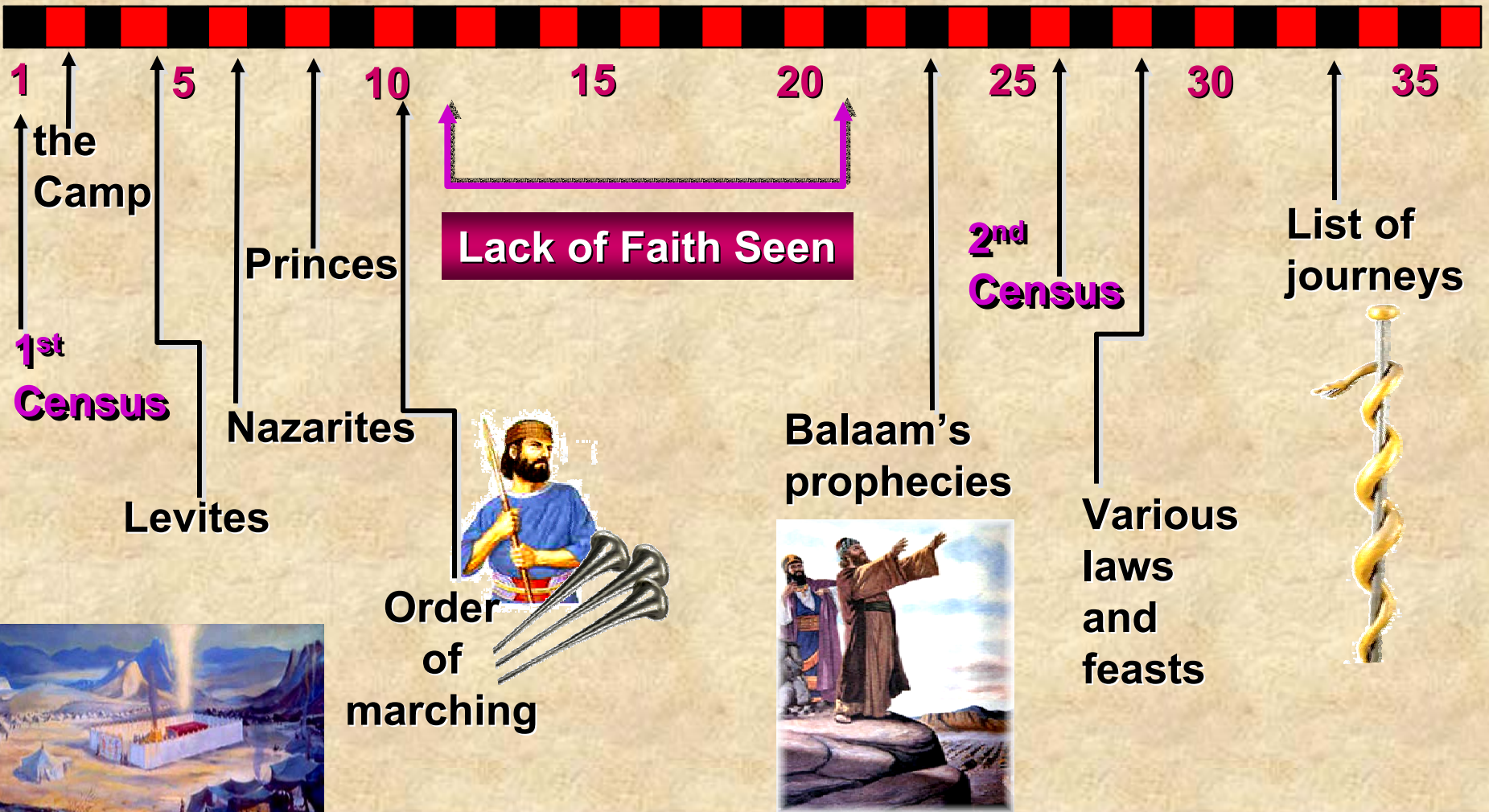


Num 13: 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

Vs 26 ...and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.



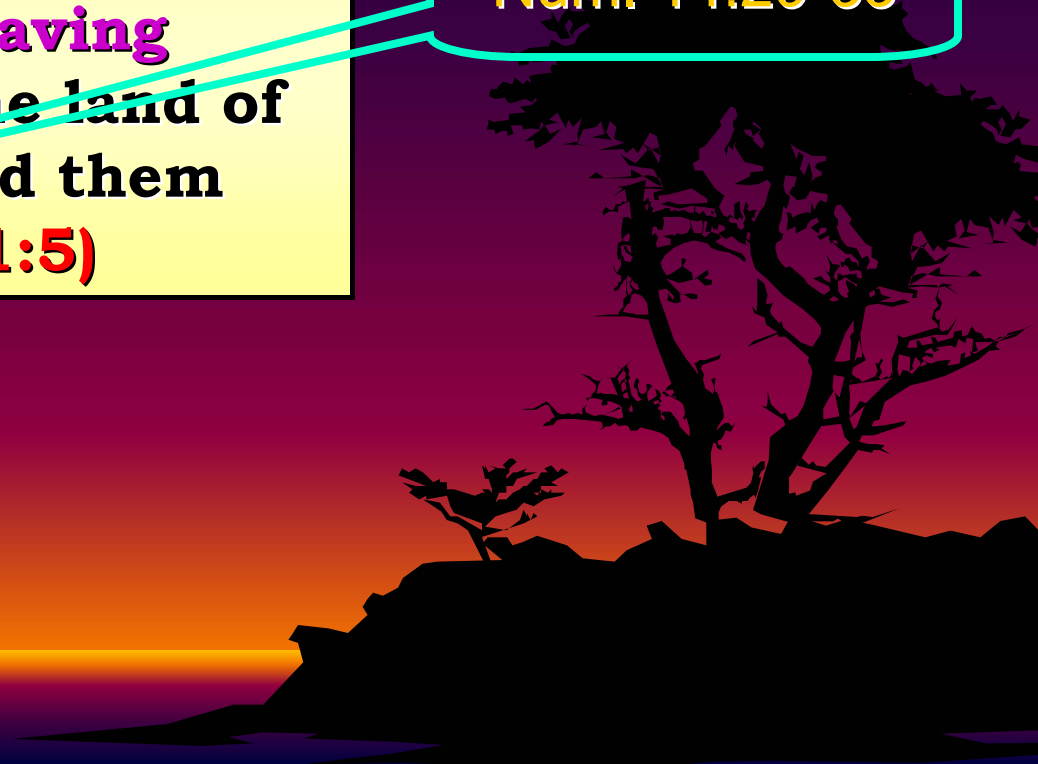
Outline of NUMBERS



The Ecclesia in the Wilderness

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, **having saved the people** out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that **believed not. (Jude 1:5)**

Num. 14:29-33



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Num 13:28 Nevertheless **the people be strong** that dwell in the land, and **the cities are walled, and very great:** and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.



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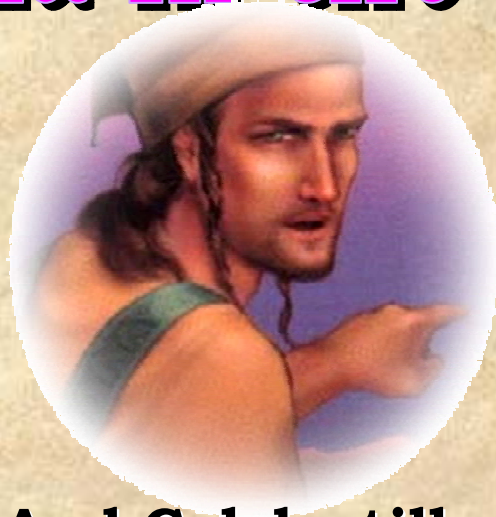


Knowledge Not the Same as **Vision**

“Thus the 12 experts read the same data, but ten reached a different conclusion than the other 2. What was the difference? **Vision!** Possessing facts does not necessarily lead to Vision – or Wisdom.”



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Num 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us **go up at once**, and possess it; for **we are well able to overcome** it.

Num 13:33 And there we saw the **giants**, the sons of Anak, *which come of the giants*: and we were in our own sight as **grasshoppers**, and so we were in their sight.

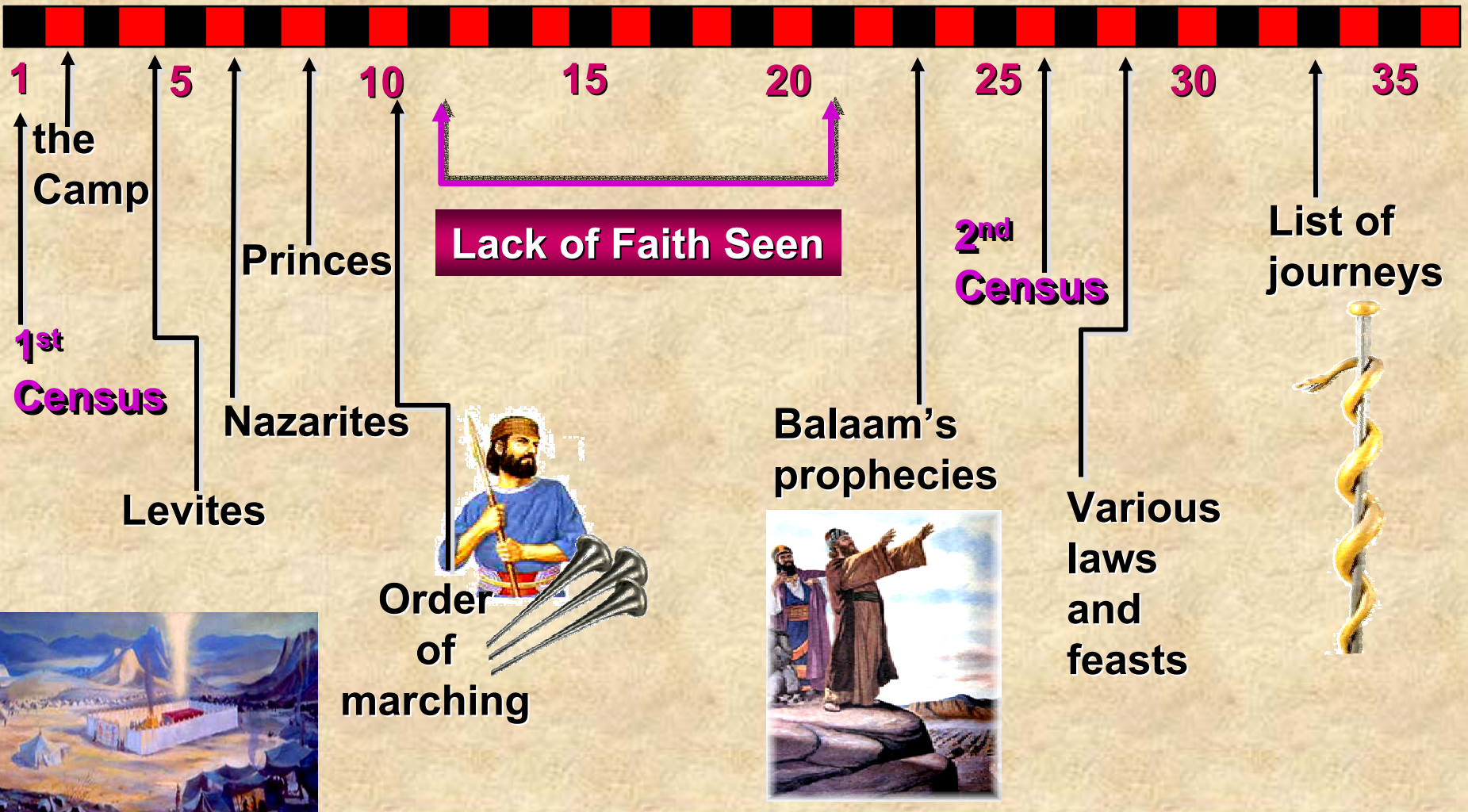


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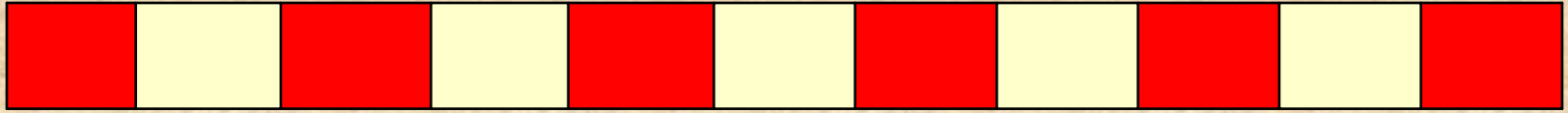
Study 4



Outline of NUMBERS



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Chp. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Lack of Faith

- Taberah** (Chp. 11)
- Miriam's revolt** (Chp. 12)
- Spies' report** (Chp. 13)
- Korah's revolt** (Chp. 16)
- Water from Rock** (Chp. 20)
- Fiery serpents** (Chp. 21)



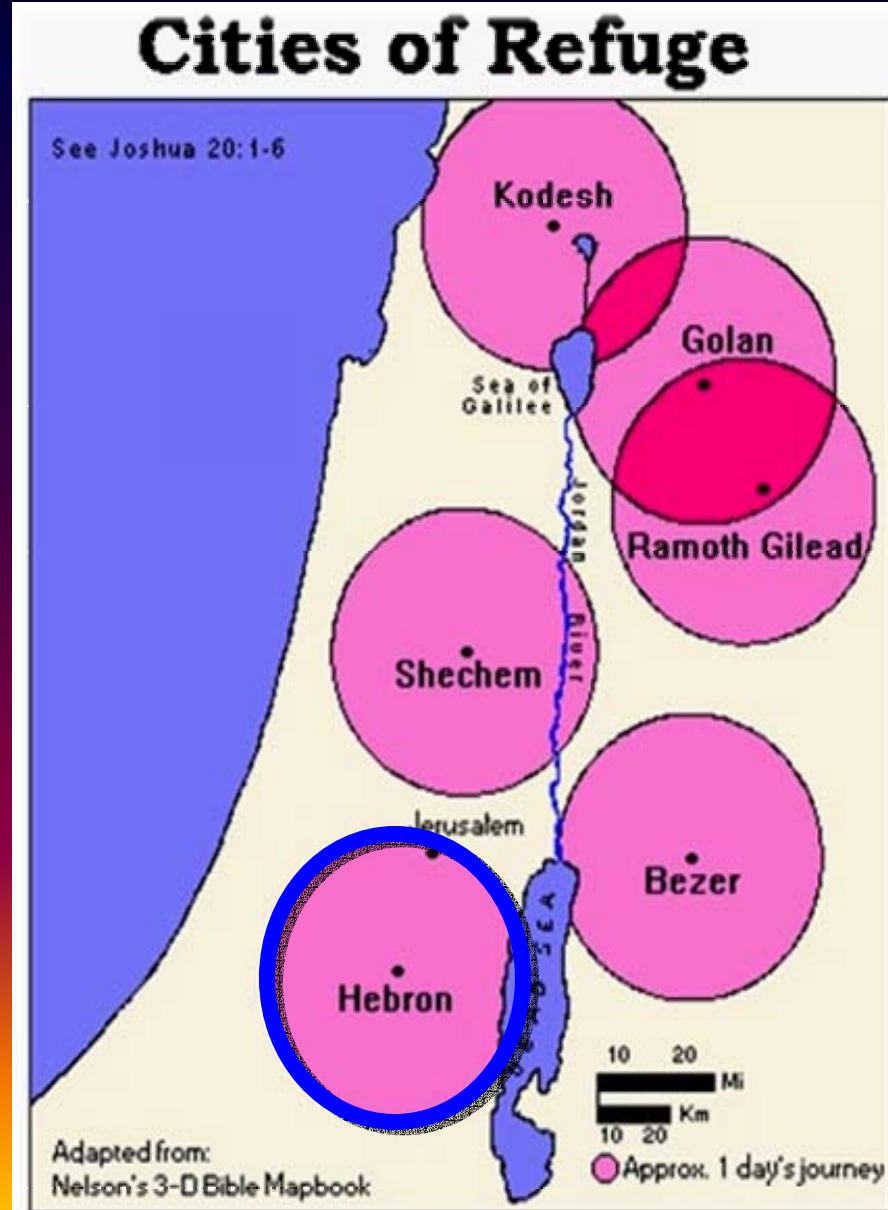
Deut. 32:20

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Giants or Grapes ?



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What of the Women of Israel?

Women? **Ex. 38:8**

Numbers 1

Faithless men

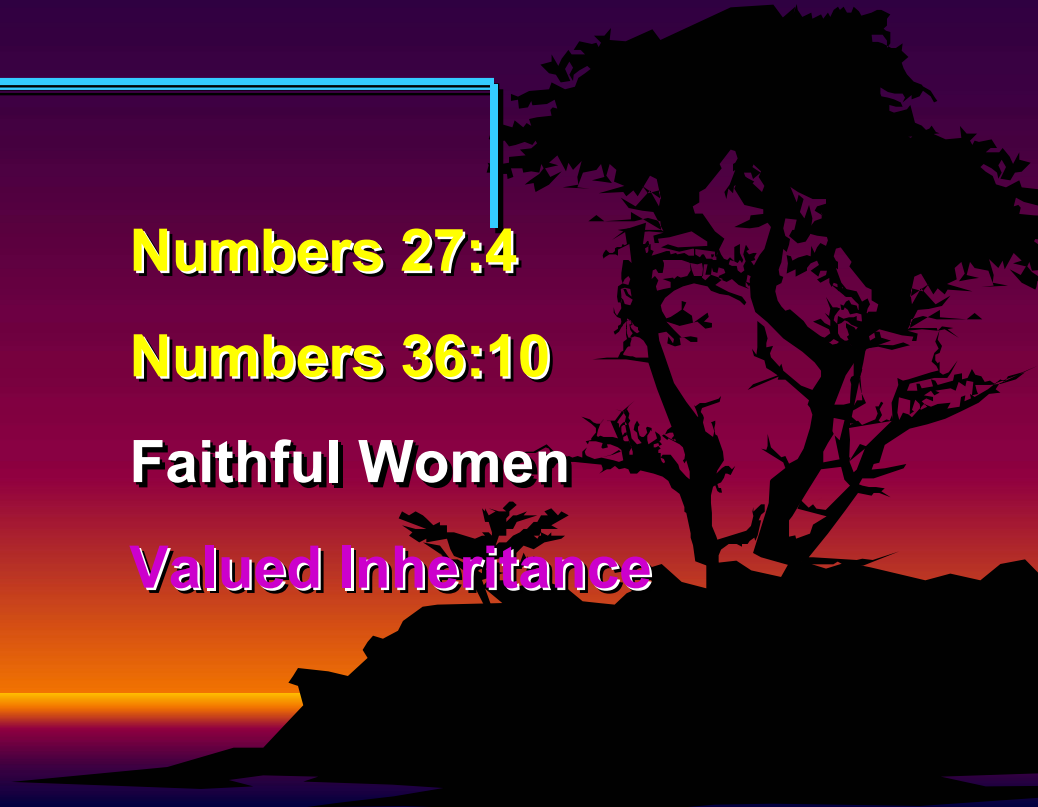
Despised Inheritance

Numbers 27:4

Numbers 36:10

Faithful Women

Valued Inheritance



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Keys to the Inheritance

Zelophehad's Daughters!



- Numbers 27: 4

- Compare: (Num 27: 12, 13)

Recall the inheritance of Levites:

- (Num. 1: 47 & 18: 20)



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Sins that Cost

● **Lack of Faith**

● **Rebellion**

● **Jealousy**



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The Law of JEALOUSY ?

Preliminary Points in Numbers 5

- 1) this is not a “human viewpoint” (vv. 1, 5, 11, 21)
- 2) Context: (vv. 1 - 4) ~ physical defilement by either male or female
- 3) Context: (vv. 5 – 10) ~ Trespass and Restitution to a neighbour – But! (v. 8)
- 4) Context: (v. 6) ~ “unfaithfulness to the LORD”
- 5) Context: (v. 7) = open confession; (v. 13) = secret sin unconfessed
- 6) Central Point: (verse 3)



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The Law of JEALOUSY ?

Closer Look at Numbers 5

- 1) No Scriptural eg's of this Law being applied in human relations!
- 2) God was "married" to Israel (Hosea 1: 2)
- 3) JEALOUSY? (Exodus 34:14) (swa Num. 5:14)
- 4) Numbers 5:19 (confirmed by a Vow)
 - Exod. 24:7, 8 & Deut. 27:15 (see mg.)
- 5) "Secretly": Deut. 13:6 with Num. 5:12
- 5) 2 Corinthians 11:2 ~ jealous for the Ecclesial Bride

Numbering...



Psalm 90:12

“Teach us to
Number our days
that we may
apply our hearts
unto wisdom.”



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Study 5



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The Law of JEALOUSY

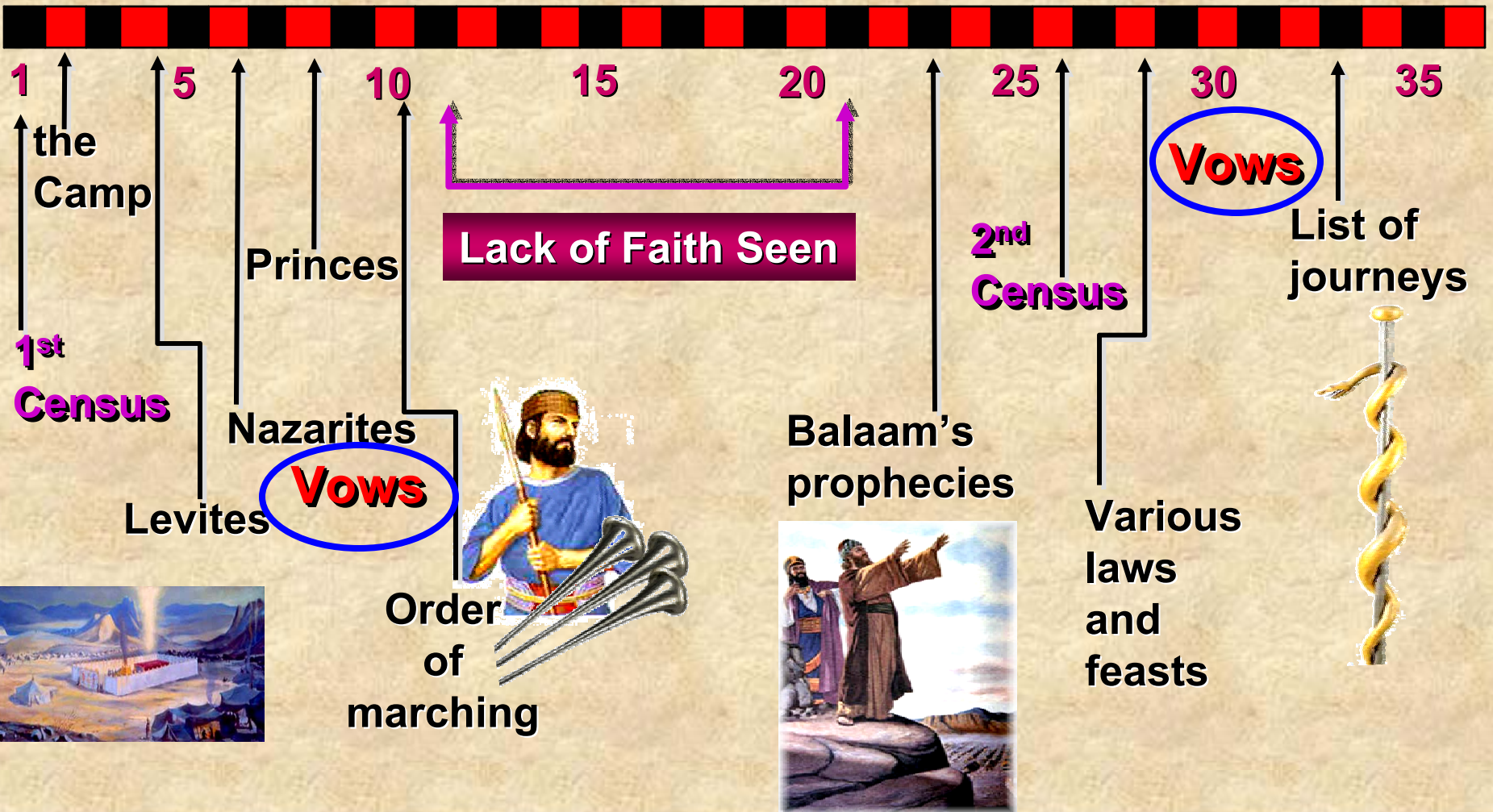
(An issue of Faithfulness to a
'Covenant')



... link to:

Zelophehad's Daughters!

Outline of NUMBERS



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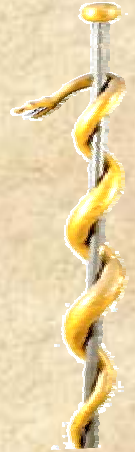
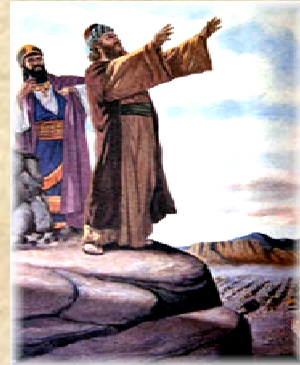
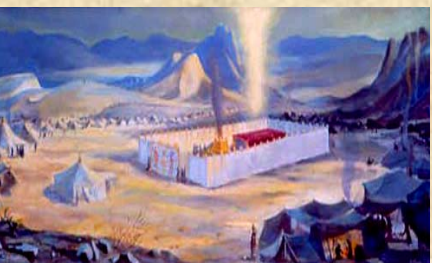
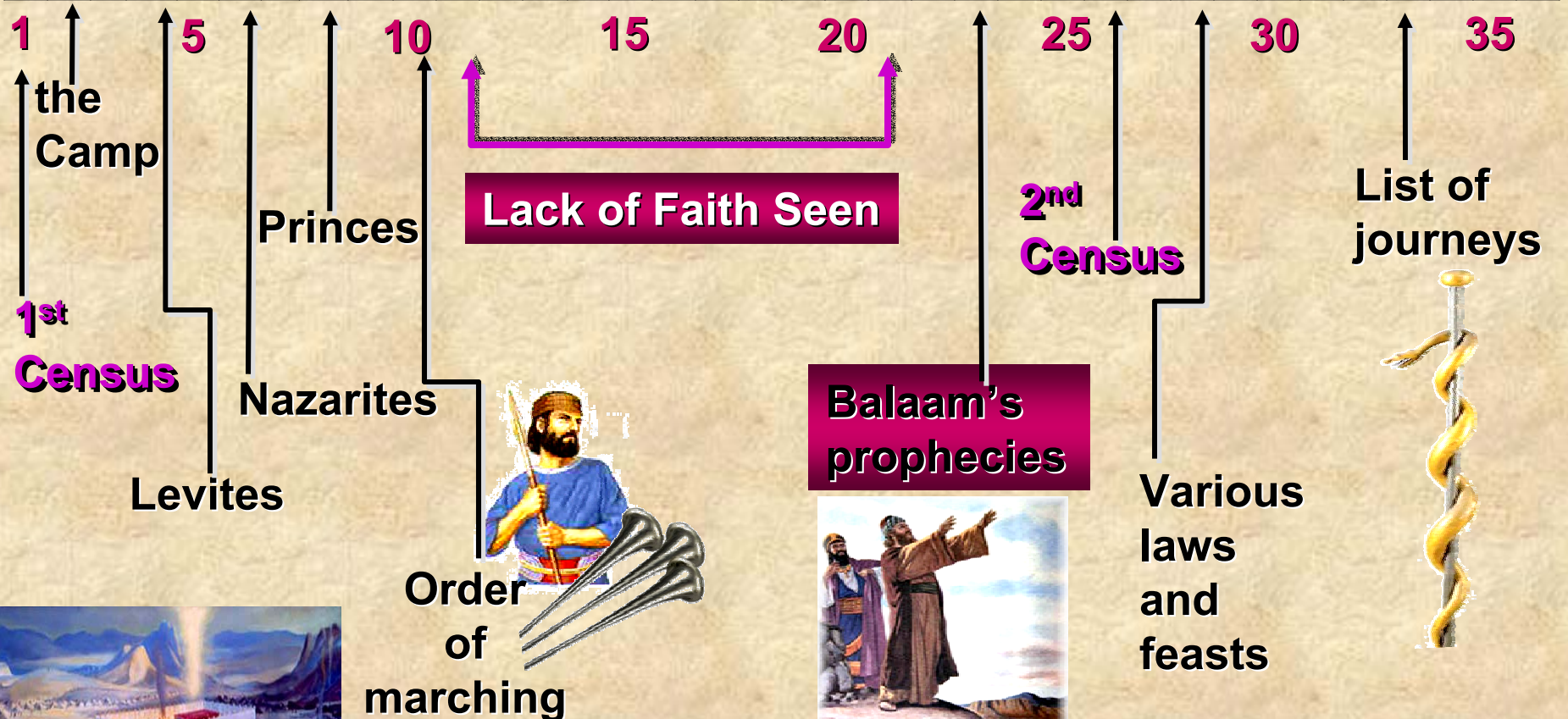


The Point of “Vows”?

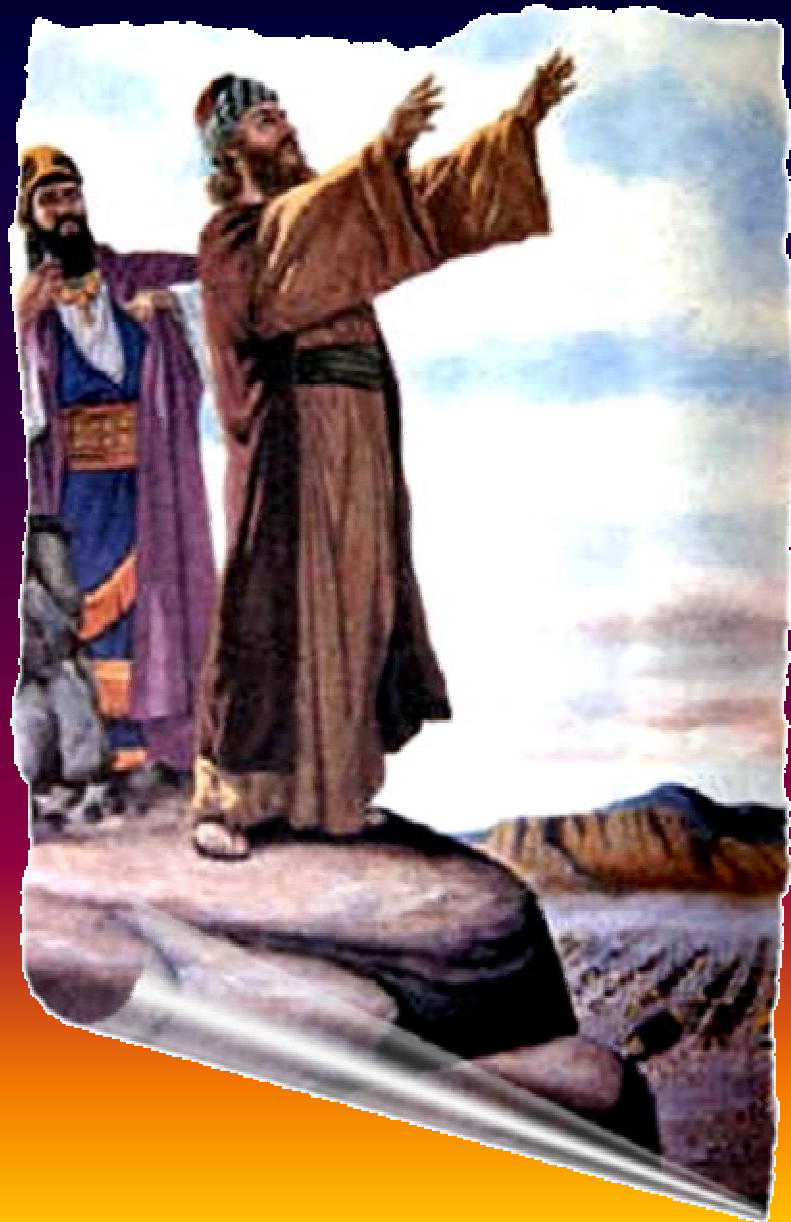
- Nazarite Vow (6:21)
- Relate to the “Law of Jealousy” (confirmed with a Vow) (Num. 5:19)
- Exodus 24: 7 – 8
- Numbers 30: 2



Outline of NUMBERS



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Balaam's 7 Oracles Concerning Israel

- Num 23:1 - 10
- Num. 23:13 - 24
- Num. 24:2 - 9
- Num. 24:15 -1 9
- Num. 24: 20
- Num. 24:21, 22
- Num. 24:23, 24

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Bamoth Baal
Num. 22:41

Pisgah
Num. 23:14

Mt. Peor
Num. 23:28





Balaam - 'son of Beor'

Facsimile from: [The Christadelphian Magazine, 1990, p. 55](#)

In the country of Jordan, at an excavation site known as **Deir 'Alla**, fragments of a text from the prophet Balaam were found which date back to at least 800 years before Christ.

The discovery consists of 119 broken plaster fragments inscribed with an ancient text written in the Aramaic language. One of the fragments is inscribed with the words "**Warnings given by Balaam, the son of Beor. A seer of the gods.**"

Also included in the text is the Aramaic word "**Shadday**", which translated into English is "the Almighty". This is consistent with Balaam's oracles given in the Old Testament."

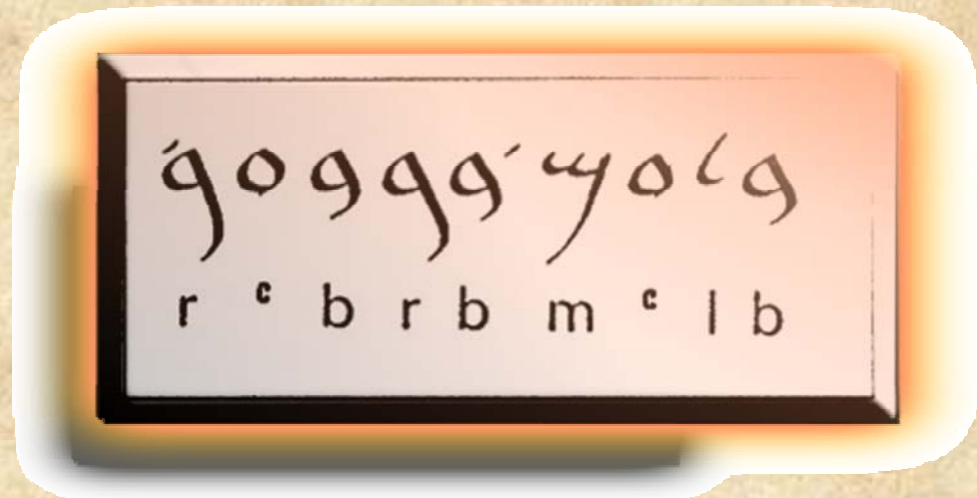
Balaam - 'son of Beor'

In 1967, an archaeological mission found in Deir Alla, Jordan, an ancient Aramaic (Ammonite dialect) inscription written in red and black ink on plaster walls, telling about a hitherto unknown prophecy from a *Book of Balaam*, foretelling destruction for disobedience to the gods.

The restored text discovered in Deir Alla reads:

"Inscription of Balaam, son of Beor, the man who was a seer of the gods. Lo, the gods came to him at night and spoke to him."

"Bal'am, bar Beor"



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Bamoth Baal
Num. 22:41

Pisgah
Num. 23:14

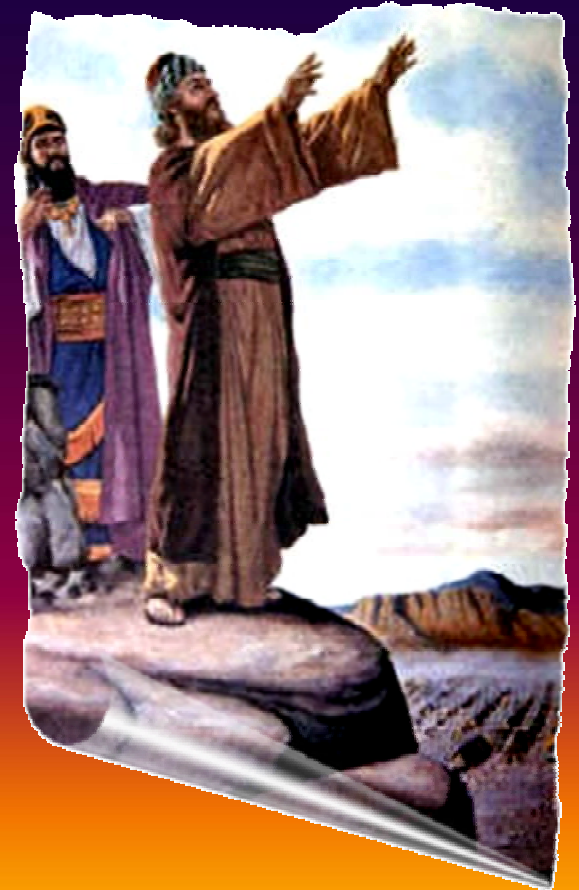
Mt. Peor
Num. 23:28



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Balaam's 7 Oracles Concerning Israel

- Numbers 23: 7 - 10
- Numbers 23: 18 - 24
- Numbers 24: 3 - 9
- Numbers 24: 15 - 19
- Numbers 24: 20
- Numbers 24: 21, 22
- Numbers 24: 23, 24



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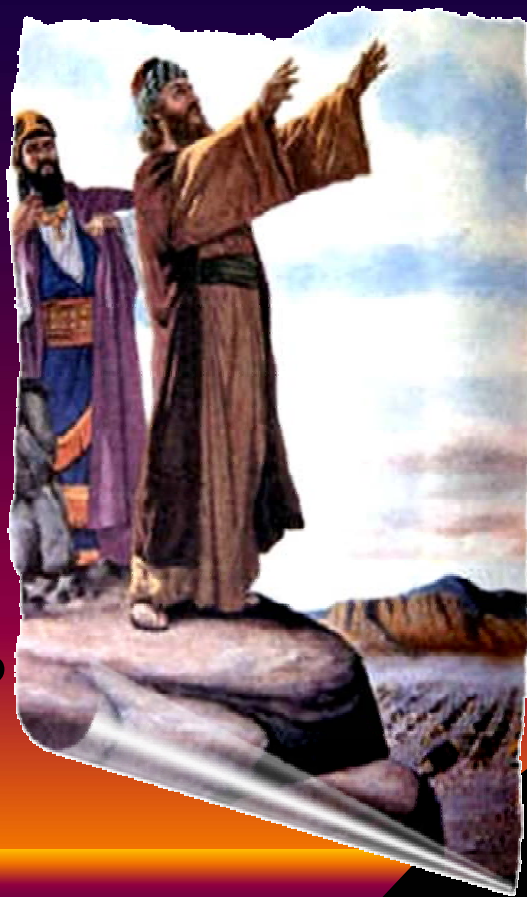
□ 11 references to “Balaam” *outside of the 7 Oracles*

O.T. Insights:

- Num. 31: 16
- Psalm 106: 28
- Nehemiah 13: 2

N.T. Insights:

- 2 Peter 2: 15, 16
- Revelation 2: 14



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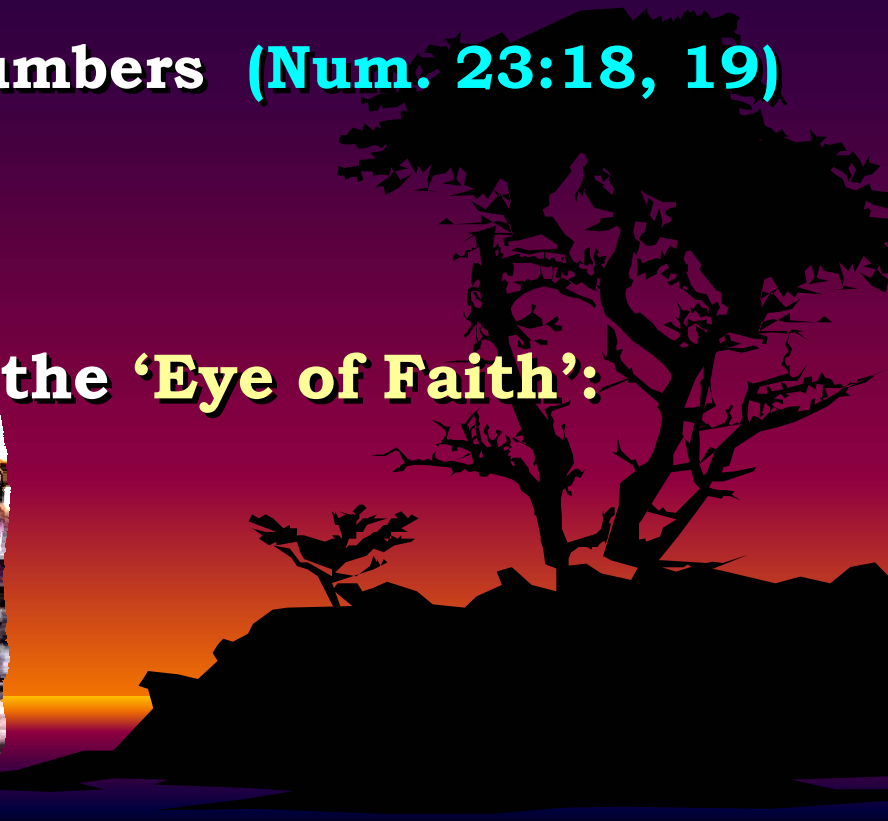
□ MAIN ISSUE in Summary:

Infidelity to God -- *their* “Husband”

- **Connect to: the “Law of Jealousy” & (Ex. 34:14)**
- **“Vows” in the Book of Numbers (Num. 23:18, 19)**
- **Connect to: (Num. 5: 3)**

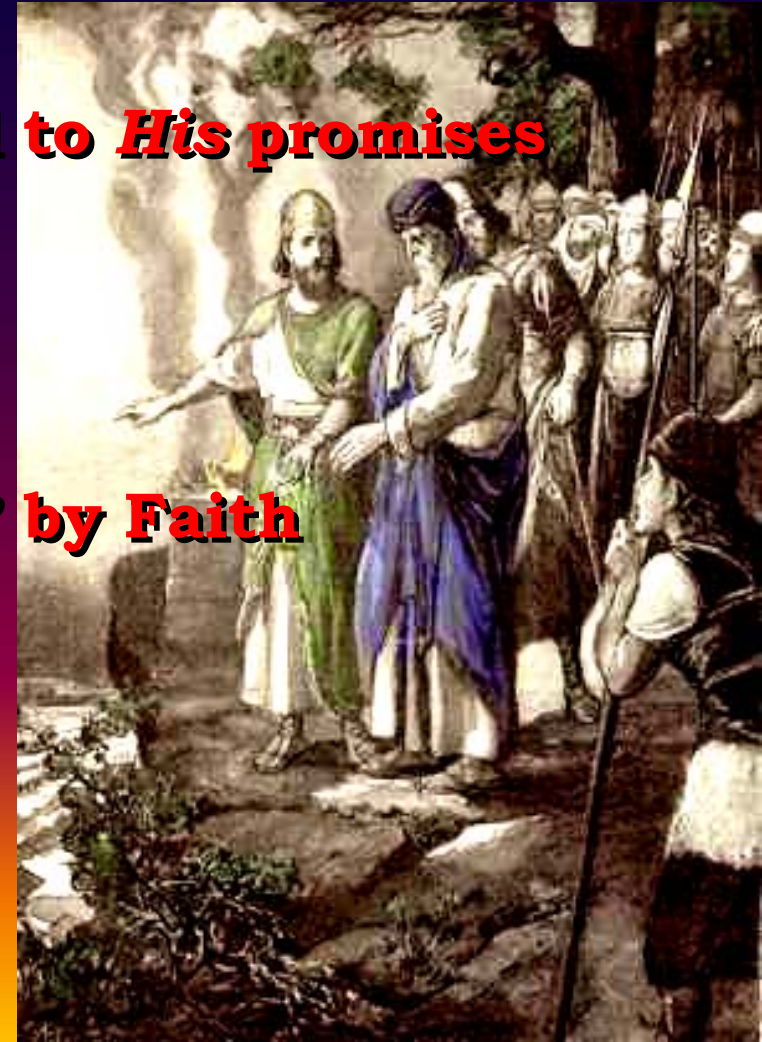
Israel’s Future seen through the ‘Eye of Faith’:

- **Num. 24: 8, 9**
- **Num. 24: 17 - 20**



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- the Theme of **God is faithful to *His* promises**
- the Theme of **“Inheritance” by Faith**



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Knowledge is Not the Same as **Vision!**

“Thus the 12 experts read the same data, but ten reached a different conclusion than the other 2. What was the difference? **Vision!** Possessing facts does not necessarily lead to Vision – or Wisdom.”



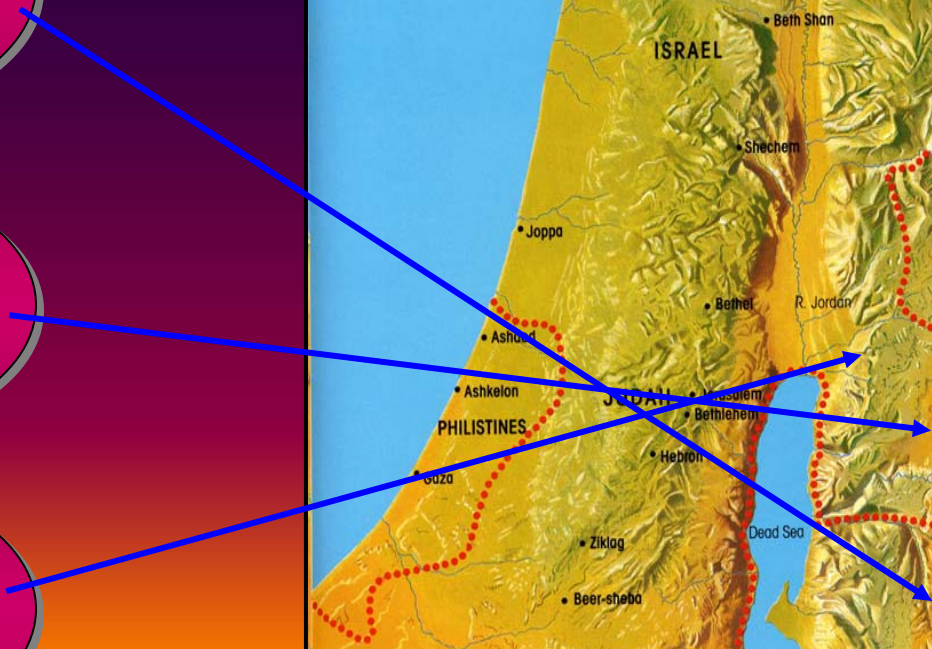
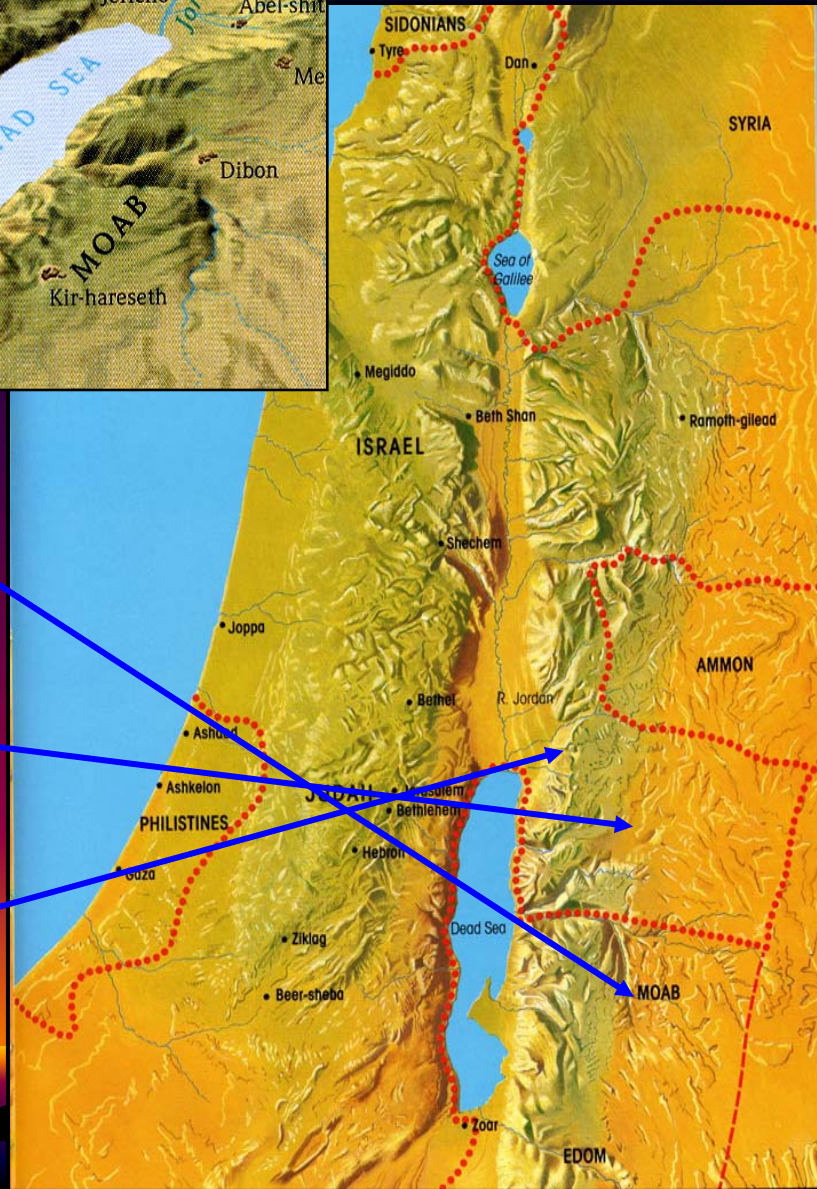
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Bamoth Baal
Num. 22:41

Pisgah
Num. 23:14

Mt. Peor
Num. 23:28



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“Do you ever wonder whether you are making progress in you faith? If so, you will benefit by reading the **Book of Numbers**. It tells what happened to the Israelites on their way to the Promised Land, an experience that was **as much a spiritual journey as a physical migration**.



The **first lesson** to be gained from this account is that **God rewards faithfulness**. Two men, Caleb and Joshua, made it to the Promised Land because they remained committed to the promises of God, even though everyone else around them was giving in to fear and rebellion.

A **second lesson** is that **God always accomplishes His purposes**. He can overcome the obstacles of nature and undo the mistakes of fallible human beings. When necessary, He can bypass the stubbornness of sinners.

When it comes to the journey of faith, distance matters less than direction. The crucial question is, **Are You moving toward or away from the Lord?”**



Numbering...

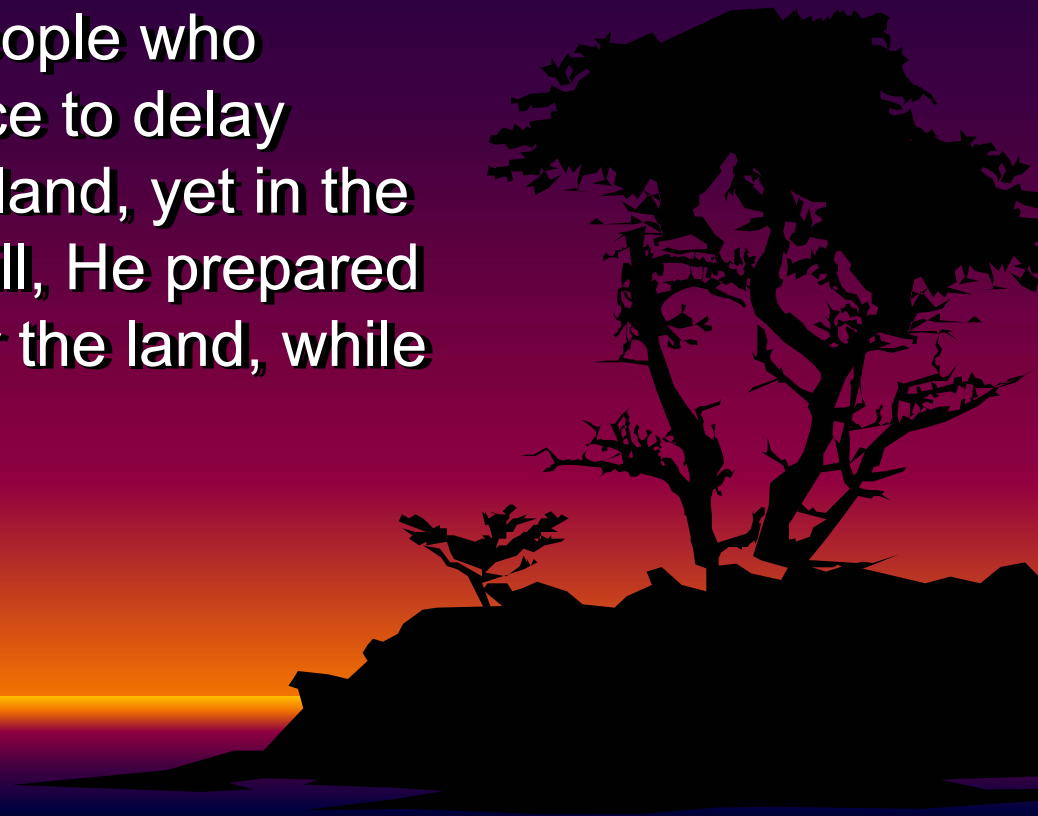
Psalm 90:12

“Teach us to
Number our days
that we may
apply our hearts
unto wisdom.”



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“**Numbers** continues to reveal Yahweh in His presence among the people who permits Israel’s disobedience to delay entrance into the promised land, yet in the discipline of His gracious will, He prepared the next generation to enter the land, while punishing the rebels.”



Psalm 90

(4) For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

(5) Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning *they are* like grass *which* groweth up.

(6) In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

(7) For *we* are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

(8) Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret *sins* in the light of thy countenance.

(9) For *all* our days are passed away in thy wrath: *we* spend our years as a tale *that is* told.

(10) The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

(11) Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, *so is* thy wrath.

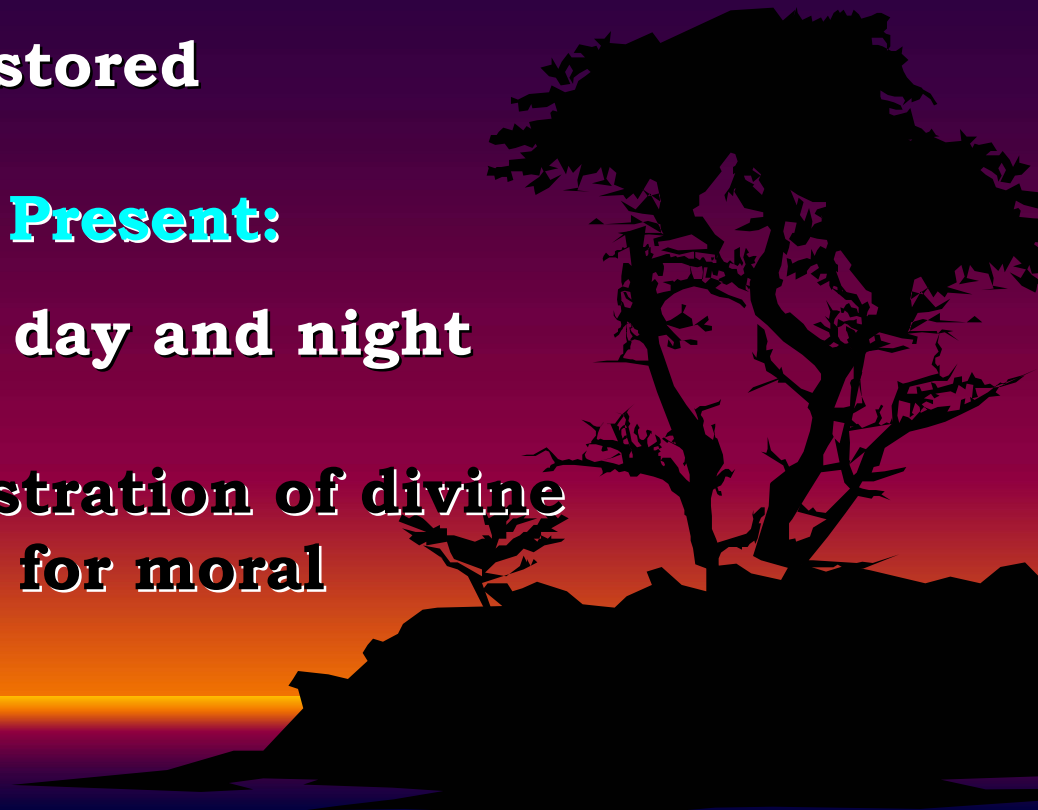
(12) So *teach us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom.



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- **The Story of a forgiven past:**
 - ✓ acceptance of Aaron's confession
 - ✓ Moses prayer on behalf of his people
 - ✓ Miriam healed & restored
- **The Story of a Guided Present:**
 - ✓ Cloud overshadows day and night

“God’s grace is a demonstration of divine generosity, not a reward for moral perfection.”



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John 3:14, 15 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have eternal life.”

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Why the Wilderness??

“The way of **the wilderness**”



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