God's Purpose in the Book of Numbers

Key Verses: Numbers 10:33-36

Outline of Numbers

Part One: Encamped at Sinai (Num. 1:1-10:10).

Census, Organization, Duties and Dedication of the Levites, and Passover.

Part Two: Travel from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea (Num. 10:11-12:16).

Israel departs Sinai as the "church militant" (Num. 10:11). The people complain (Num. 11:1-3). God gives quail (Num. 11:31).

Miriam and Aaron complain (Num. 12:1-2).

Part Three: Encamped at Kadesh-Barnea (Num. 12:16, 20:22).

The spies and the people rebel (Num. 13:32-14:4). The rebellion of Korah (Num. 16:1-3, 31-33, 41; 1 Cor. 10:10). Water from the rock (Num. 20:8-13).

Part Four: Travel from Kadesh-Barnea to the plains of Moab (Num. 20:22-22:1).

Death of Aaron (Num. 20:29). The bronze serpent (Num. 21:5-9, 1 Cor. 10:9).

Part Five: Encamped on the plains of Moab (Num. 22:2-36:13).

Balak and Balaam (Num. 24:17). The people attach themselves to Baal-Peor (Num. 25:1-5, 9; 1 Cor. 10:8). Census of the new generation (Num. 26:2, 63-65). Review of the Journey (Num. 33:1, 5, 14-15, 36-38, 49-51).

The Meaning of It All

Paul's commentary on Israel in the wilderness is in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Consider especially 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, and 13. We are the church militant,=living in the wilderness. Stephen's commentary on Israel in the wilderness is in Acts 7:42-43.

God's Purpose for the Book of Numbers

God taught and is teaching His redeemed people life in the wilderness of this life by testing their covenant love for Him.