

God's Message to Us in Numbers 1-36

Halifax, NS

4 February 2018, 2:00 PM

Introduction

Today in our *God's Message to Us in Every Book of the Bible* sermon series, we are looking at Numbers, which is the fourth book in the Bible.

- In this series, our focus is primarily on what God's message is for us today—God wrote the Bible not only with the original recipients in mind, but also with us in mind.
 - In Genesis we saw creation, fall, and promise to raise up a nation from which a Son (Jesus Christ) would be born who would bring salvation to the nations.
 - In Exodus, we saw a beautiful display of God's redemption in His redemption of Israel from Egypt—and we saw God showing them how to live in the land.
 - Then with Leviticus we saw how God's people must be holy. The ceremonies of the priests at the temple show how we must come to Christ as our priest who offers Himself as the sacrifice to atone for our sin; and we saw that as God's people we are brought to live in obedience to God.
- And today in Numbers we are going to look at how God prepares us to conquer the nations for Jesus Christ.
 - I want to explain from the outset that in the Old Testament, the conquering was actually a display of God's just judgment upon the Canaanites,
 - but for us in this age, the work is bringing them to salvation in Christ.
 - So we are still storming the gates of Satan, but now that Christ has come, it is to bring them to be reconciled to the Father by calling them to trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life.
 - And in Numbers we learn how God prepares His people for this great work of subduing the world to Jesus.

Let's go ahead and get started.

- We will basically work our way through Numbers.

I. In the first ten chapters, we learn how God initially prepares His people to establish His kingdom.

A. You can see in the first two chapters how God organises them for battle.

1. It can be a little tedious to see how all the fighting men from each tribe are numbered—
 - and then in chapter 2 how all twelve tribes are told where to camp with reference to the tabernacle—basically with three tribes on the east, three on the south, three on the west, and three on the north.
 2. But the main point here is that the Lord is right in the middle of them.
 - When they set up their camp, the tent of the Lord, the tabernacle, is to be right in the middle of the camp with the Levites looking after it.
 - And when they march, the three tribes on the east and the three on the south are to go first—then the Levites with the tabernacle, and then the other six tribes from the west and the north are to come...
- They are organised with God as the centre of them.

3. So the lesson for us here is that as we seek to evangelise the world, we must keep the Lord and His worship and grace at the centre of it all.
 - We do not leave worship to evangelise, but we establish His worship where we go to conquer.
 - Jesus told us that as we go to make the disciples of the nations, He would be with us always, even to the end of the age.
 - What an encouragement that He is in the midst of us.
- B. In Numbers chapter 3-6, we are taught that we are to maintain holiness through Christ as we seek to advance the gospel.
1. Here, the priests and Levites are shown to represent all the people in the work of offering sacrifices for sin.
 - This representation is shown in that when they are numbered, the number of them is compared with the number of firstborn sons in Israel...
 - Because the firstborn son would have been the one who would serve as priest of his family—but the Levites are taking their place.
 - Instructions are given about purifying the people from defilement and excluding them from the camp if they are unclean...
 - and instruction is given about special consecration of persons and about the priests blessing the people.
 2. All of this priestly work at the centre of everything teaches us that we need the cleansing of Christ as we seek to win the lost to Him.
 - John teaches us that as we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.
 - We must not set aside holy living for the sake of trying to get more people into the church.
 - Too often that has been done in the church...
 - Even the fact that we are sinners is sometimes put off to the side for fear that it will turn people off if we speak of sin and judgment.
 - But is our goal just to get people into the church—or is it to reconcile them to God as sinners who need a Saviour?
 - Christ our priest must remain at the centre of who we are.
 - We must never set aside holiness in an effort to advance the gospel.

TRANS> Numbers 7:1 – 9:14 continues this theme that God must be at the centre of all.

- C. These chapters remind us that everything is to be done for God.
1. Here God instructs His people as they are preparing to march into Canaan to bring their offerings before Him.
 - Chapter 7 goes through each tribe, showing how the leader of each brought grain offerings, burnt offerings, sin offerings, and peace offerings.
 - It is very striking as it says of the leader of each of the twelve tribes: **7:13-17: His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; 14 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense; 15 one young bull,**

one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; 16 one kid of the goats as a sin offering; 17 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year.

- And in chapter 8 the Levites themselves are consecrated to God...we are set apart to Him because our priest, Jesus, is set apart to Him.
 - And in chapter 9:1-14, there is the celebration of the second Passover, one year after the first one that was the actual Passover in Egypt.
 - By commemorating it, they remember how God had mercy on them so that they could go forth from Egypt to be *His* people...
 - 2. All this shows us today that we are to do our conquering of the world for God.
 - It is not for us—the offerings reminded them, and remind us today, that we are to offer ourselves to Him.
 - We can be so self-centred, even when we go forward for Christ—but instead of being self-centred, we are to pour out our lives from Him as Christ our priest has poured out His live for the Father and for us.
- D. And in chapter 9 verse 15 through chapter 10, we are reminded that we can only go forward with God’s help—in His grace and strength.
1. There are two things here that stand out...
 - a. First, there is the mention of the cloud and the fire—which went before them to show that the Lord was present with them.
 - He was there to lead them into battle.
 - Without Him, they could not expect to gain the victory—nor can we.
 - b. Second, in chapter 10, there are the silver trumpets which are to be blown when they set out from their camp to march toward Canaan and to go to battle.
 - These trumpets are a kind of sacrament in which by blowing them, they receive the promise (or are reminded of God’s promise) to go with them.
 - Look at chapter 10, verse 9: **When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.**
 2. How important it is for us to go forward as a church in the assurance that God will go with us.
 - This whole of these ten chapters is nicely summed up in verses 35-36 with the confident faith of Moses: **So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: “Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.”** ³⁶ **And when it rested, he said: “Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel.”**
 - Isn’t that a tremendous encouragement?
 - God is in our midst—He cleanses us from sin as we go forth in this world for His kingdom, looking to Him to give us strength.

TRANS> But alas, Numbers brings us to the reality that very often we do not go forward with God. The second thing we learn in Numbers is this:

II. We see an example of how the church gets sentenced to the wilderness by God.

A. It begins with murmuring.

1. Joe Morecraft gives a good definition of murmuring:
 - It begins with unbelief—we do not believe God’s promises.
 - Then ingratitude sets in—we forget what God has done for us.
 - Discontent with providence follows—we say, “I could do a better job at running my life than God is doing.”
 - And then resentment—we resent that God has put us into this situation.
 - Nothing can satisfy you when you murmur.
2. The murmuring of Israel is described in chapters 11 – 13.
 - a. First they murmur about what God has provided for them—it was not good enough:
 - Look at 11:4-6: **Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”**
 - They want to go back to Pharaoh’s service!
 - They are not looking at eternity—but only at this world.
 - They have forgotten the covenant that through them God is bringing salvation to the world... all they can see is that they don’t have as much of this world as they did in Egypt.
 - God is very displeased when we lose sight of His promises and cease to be content with what He has given us.
 - b. Then in chapter 12 there is murmuring in the very household of Moses...
 - Aaron and Miriam decide that they should contend with Moses about his marriage to an Ethiopian woman...
 - God responds by turning Miriam into a leper until she and Aaron repent and Moses prays for her cleansing.
 - Murmurers often complain even of faithful leaders—they find fault with them even when God has clearly accepted them.
 - c. And thirdly, in chapter 13, there is the murmuring of the men that God sent to spy out the land of Canaan.
 - They acknowledge that the land is a good land, but they insist that it is too much for Israel to conquer—
 - the cities are fortified, the people are warriors and there are giants there... in verse 32, they call it a land that devours its inhabitants!
 - They forget the promises of God!
 - Only Joshua and Caleb encourage the people that God can give them the victory—not that you can do it, but that God can do it.

B. And all this murmuring leads to a refusal to go forward for God!

- The account is given in chapter 14.

1. Listen to their terrible words against the LORD in 14:1-4: **So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”**
 - What unbelief—what ingratitude—what discontentment—what resentment!
2. Moses and Aaron fall on their faces and Joshua and Caleb exhort the people to trust God, saying: **“If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey.”**
 - The LORD threatens to destroy the people, but Moses intercedes for them and the LORD instead sentences them to the wilderness for forty years:
 - In 14:28-31, He says: **“Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.’ ”**
3. Following this, the people have a change of heart and decide that they *will* go in to conquer the land...
 - It is very foolish because God has sentenced them to the wilderness—
 - Moses warns them that they cannot go in their own strength.
 - But they go anyway and utterly fail...
 - They are like those that try to reform and moralise the country rather than winning the people to Christ...
 - They go out as social activists to conquer for Christ in their own strength and they utterly fail.
 - No, brothers and sisters, we must get on our knees and plead that people will come to Christ—our goal is not to reform society, but to win people to Christ—then we can reform our society!

C. But what is it to be sentenced to the wilderness?

1. The wilderness is the place God sends us where we cannot establish the rule of Christ.
 - Surely the church in North America is in the wilderness today!
 - We are so weak and powerless—and it is clearly because of our unbelief that we have been sent to the wilderness.
 - We need to plead with the LORD to restore us and send us forth with power to bring our people back to Christ.
2. The wilderness can be personal, it can be local, or it can be national.
 - a. When you murmur in your own heart—as defined already: you doubt God’s promises, you are ungrateful for what He has done, you become discontent and resentful... you are unable to go forward for Jesus Christ.
 - You are stuck in a rut and you do not grow.

- b. A whole congregation can be characterised by this—and so can the church in a whole region or nation.
3. But the wilderness is a place of punishment and of correction.
- God sends us there to refine us so that we can for forward for Him at a later time—or as it was with Israel, in the next generation.

TRANS> And that leads us to the next thing that we learn from Numbers...

III. In the wilderness, God teaches us not to murmur.

A. Numbers 15 is an interesting chapter to follow the sentence to the wilderness.

1. It begins by talking about voluntary offerings of thanksgiving!
 - Instructions are given about drink offerings, which represent pouring out our lives for God in Christ, and grain offerings, which represent our gratitude to God for His provision for us in Christ.
 - It is the very opposite of murmuring, and God teaches Israel how to express their gratitude to Him spontaneously when they come to the land.
 - It is ingratitude (which is a part of murmuring) that brings down God’s people in those times when they have, in rare times, seen their whole nation begin to live for the LORD.
 - We are coming from a time like that in the west—and are being brought into the wilderness because of our ingratitude and unbelief—like so many other times in history when God’s people advance, we became proud instead of giving the glory of God.

➤ So God is teaching them about voluntary thanksgiving...
2. Numbers 15 goes on to talk about forgiveness—showing that there is forgiveness for unintentional sins (15:22-29), but not for presumptuous sins (15:30-31).
 - It is both encouraging and terrifying at the same time.
 - a. It is **encouraging** that there is forgiveness with God even when we have fallen into murmuring as those who really are in Christ.
 - Even though we are in the wilderness, God is still with us and He is still committed to us—that is one of the things we are going to see about the wilderness here in Numbers.
 - We can still fear God because there is forgiveness with Him.
 - b. But it is **terrifying** because when God sentences us to the wilderness there are many people that are completely cut off for their murmuring.
 - Take a look at Num 15:30-31 where it speaks about the consequences of presumptuous sin: “ **‘But the person who does *anything* presumptuously, *whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.*** ³¹ **Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *shall be upon him.*’ ”**
 - Look at us today in North America—and in the west at large.
 - We have been sentenced to the wilderness—and you can see that there are many families whose ancestors truly knew God, but are now completely cut off.

- We are all in the wilderness, but many no longer know Christ and His salvation at all any more.
 - Paul tells us in 1 Cor 10:5 that this is how it was with Israel to guard us against murmuring: **But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**
 - We have not heeded Paul's warning.
 - The census reports for Nova Scotia from just a decade or so ago showed that over 85% of us were baptised—but is it clear that most of us are dead in our sin. God is not pleased with most of us.
 - c. Why is there such a difference between unintentional sin and presumptuous sin?
 - Unintentional sin is the sin of those who are committed to God in heart but fall into sin because of their weakness.
 - They murmur about their condition, but they do not reject God as their God.
 - Those who sin presumptuously do reject God.
 - Their murmuring is an expression of an unregenerate heart that is not joined to Christ in a saving way.
 - It is an expression of their rejection of Christ and that is why it leads to their being cut off from God forever.
 - When God forgives us, He reconciles us—we do not remain as those who reject Him, but come to Him as His people who love Him.
- B. Consider briefly some of the examples that are given in Numbers of many in Israel dying in their sin and others being forgiven in the wilderness.
1. In chapter 16-18, we have the murmuring against God's appointed leaders.
 - a. Korah of the tribe of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram of Reuben decide that a democracy would be better than a theocracy.
 - All the people are holy and should make decisions instead of receiving instructions through God's appointed prophet (Moses) and atonement being through His appointed priest (Aaron).
 - Understand that Moses and Aaron represent Christ and His rule.
 - Do we do what the people want, or do we follow Christ?
 - Do we come to God on the basis of our own works or on the basis of Christ our priest and His holy offering?
 - b. The result of this rebellion is that Korah and companions stand to offer incense (even though they are not priests) and are consumed in the fire;
 - And the ground opens up to swallow Dathan and Abiram.
 - Then the people—the next day—in 16:41 complain that Moses and Aaron have killed the people of the LORD.
 - We are told in verse 49 that 14,000 people die in this rebellion besides those who died with Korah.
 - c. The Lord shows clearly in Numbers 17 that Aaron is His chosen priest by causing his staff to blossom, and in chapter 18, He commands His people to support the priests and the Levites with their tithes.
 - It is a serious thing to reject those that God has called to serve Him.
 - If they are speaking the word of God, to reject them is to reject the Lord who sent them—it can betray a heart that is opposed to Christ.

2. The next incident is one in which God's appointed leader—even Moses himself—does not treat God as holy at Kadesh.
 - You can find this in chapter 20.
 - The people murmur again because there is no water—in verse 3-5 they lament that they did not die in the wilderness or remain in Egypt!
 - Moses and Aaron humbly intercede, but then Moses loses it and is sentenced to die without going into the Promised Land.
 - Look at verse 10-12: **And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?”** ¹¹ **Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.** ¹² **Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”**
 - Leaders have a stricter standard—they must not become murmurers!
 - You undermine your leadership as God's representative when you murmur.
 - You forget your place as one who represents God—the murmuring of the people is against God, and He will deal with them.
 - Moses was not cut off from God, but he was forbidden to enter Canaan.
 - Leaders are not above God's law—they have an ever greater responsibility.
3. In chapter 21, we see the people at their complaining again.
 - We are told in verse 4 that they are discouraged along the way, and they begin again to murmur that they ever left Egypt to be God's people...it's horrible!
 - The Lord responds by sending poisonous serpents among them that bite them and bring death to thousands.
 - Moses is instructed to make a serpent and lift it up on pole.
 - When they are bitten and they look at the serpent lifted up, they are healed.
 - In John 3, this is shown to represent Christ—that by looking to Him who, although our judge, was Himself cursed for us and lifted up on the cross.
 - By looking to Him who was provided for our sins, we are forgiven.
 - But those who did not look died for their murmuring.
 - Here we see forgiveness for unintentional sin and death for presumptuous sin.
 - It is very sad in our day when we see people reject Christ and cut off from His congregation, but how great is God's mercy for pardoning those who look to Christ.
4. There is also the incident recorded in Numbers 25 about Baal of Peor.
 - Here, Balaam attempted to bring Israel under God's curse by seducing them through temple prostitutes and their fertility rites for Baal.
 - Satan is busy with that ploy in the church today!
 - I read of surveys indicating that 65% of pastors have a porn addiction.
 - No wonder the church is so weak today if even the leadership are seduced by prostitutes.

- Men and women who give themselves to immorality are always murmurers.
 - They feel that God has not given them what they want, so with lots of self-pity, they crave what He has not given them.
 - All Satan has to do is put the temptation out and these self-pitying ingrates lick it up like hungry dogs.
 - In verse 9, we are told that 24,000 died on account of this sin before the plague was finally stopped by Phinehas (more about him later).

TRANS> So you see that in the wilderness, God teaches us the consequences of murmuring and that it can lead to us being completely cut off from Him.

- If only we could learn to rejoice in the goodness of our Lord through Jesus Christ instead of murmuring!

C. Yet, in the wilderness, we also see God's unrelenting commitment to His people!

1. We see through Israel's example that even in the wilderness He gives us victory over certain enemies.

- In Numbers 21:1-3, God gives Israel victory of the Canaanites at Hormah, and in Numbers 21:21-35 King Sihon of the Amorites and King Og of Bashan, come against Israel and are defeated.
 - By these victories, God shows that He is able to defeat the strongest of enemies, even giants such as Israel was afraid of in Canaan.
 - By raising up these enemies against them and giving them victory, God was preparing them to go into Canaan without fear.
 - There are victories in the wilderness!
- It is not that we are able to see Christ reign over our nation in the wilderness, but He gives us smaller victories to encourage us that He is still with us.
 - There are people that come to salvation—there are wicked men that are put to silence when they oppose God.
 - We have our victories in the wilderness—we want Christ to reign fully over all, but until He does, we rejoice when we see His power.

2. God also shows them that He is committed to them by providing for them in the wilderness.

- Even though they complained and Moses also did at Kadesh, the Lord still gave them water from the smitten rock—showing how Christ provides for us even though we sin.
 - All along He gave them the manna as well...
- And of course there is the provision of cleansing for their sins that continued.
 - All the time they camped, the tabernacle was among them and the priests were there offering sacrifices and showing that God was pardoning them.
 - They represent Christ who intercedes for us on the basis of His sacrifice for us—even while we are in the wilderness.
 - We saw the incident with the bronze serpent in chapter 21—representing how Christ our judge was Himself judged for us that we might be delivered from death for our sin.
 - And in chapter 25, there is the incident with Baal of Peor where they go after the temple prostitutes...

- This plague is stopped by Phinehas, who, according to 25:10, takes a javelin and thrusts it through a man and a prostitute after the man took the woman into his tent before the eyes of all.
 - In this case, it was atonement for the people, not by the sacrifice of Christ, but by removal of presumptuous sinners from the people.
 - God raised up Phinehas to purify the people by removing the wicked, and the community was restored and the plague stopped.
 - Num 25:11 sums it up where God says: **“Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.”**
 - We are instructed today in 1 Corinthians 5 to remove the wicked from among us so that the whole congregation can be forgiven.
3. God shows His commitment in yet another wonderful way in Numbers 22-24.
- There is not time to go into all the details, but in short, Balak, the king of Moab, sees that the LORD is with Israel.
 - He is a spiritual man and decides that the best way to stop them is by cursing them—so he hires a Balaam, a prophet, to do that for him.
 - Balak provides the sacrifices that Balaam asked for which he then offers to the LORD and proceeds to call down God’s curse on Israel.
 - But every time he tries to curse them, a blessing comes out of his mouth for Israel instead—just the opposite of what Balak wanted!
 - So Balak tries again—in different locations—four times he tries—and four times a blessing is pronounced.
 - There are even some very clear prophecies of Christ here.
 - By this wonderful account we see how committed our LORD is to His people—even when they are sentenced to the wilderness!
 - He still loves them and He still has wonderful plans for them.
 - He does not forsake the people that He foreknew, the people that He chose to be His own.
 - His commitment is deep enough that He sent Christ to redeem them.
 - It is true that presumptuous sinners will be cut off from God’s people, as we have seen, but He will always be committed to His people as a whole—in fact, part of His commitment involves cutting off the presumptuous ones who do not want to belong to God.
 - Their murmuring is an expression of who they are at their core, while the murmuring of regenerate people is an expression of weakness—at heart, they are committed to the Lord as His people.
 - Christ cleanses them for their murmuring.

TRANS> And Numbers shows us something else that is very wonderful.

IV. Numbers shows us that there is an end to the wilderness.

A. In chapter 26-36, the LORD begins to prepare His people once again for the conquest.

1. In Numbers 26 itself, He numbers the fighting men from each tribe again.
 - This shows that He is getting ready to lead them to Canaan again to drive out the Canaanites and establish His kingdom there.
 - This reminds us that though we may be in the wilderness, the time comes when God will lead us in triumph and Christ will reign over all.
 - In Romans 11, Paul says expressly that though God cut off many in Israel and only has a remnant who believe, that He is able to restore them to His kingdom of Christ again.
 - The principle is laid down that He will not forsake those He foreknew—
 - This indicates that He will save them as a whole—not every person, but the nation, such that they could be called a Christian nation.
 - And if this principle is true of them, it is surely true of all the other nations that have come to know Christ in the past—that God will not forsake their forefathers, but will also restore them as nations.
 - This will certainly be true in the resurrection—but there is good reason to think that God may bring Israel and all nations to be Christian nations even before He comes at the last day.
 - It is certainly something for us to seek—not just that people would be brought to Christ, but that all *nations* would come to Him.
 - What a blessing in Numbers 27 to see how the four daughters of Zelophehad show their faith that God will bring Israel into Canaan!
 - They are so sure of it that they begin to inquire about their inheritance there because their father has died and they have no brothers to inherit the land.
 - The LORD makes provision for them to indeed carry on their father’s inheritance—but the point for us is that they are confident that Israel is going to come out of the wilderness.
2. In Numbers 27:12-23, God also provides leadership in view of the promise to bring them into Canaan.
 - Moses is going to die, as God said, but Joshua is raised up, and the LORD shows His people that Joshua will bring them into the land.
 - Moses says: Num 27:16-17: **“Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”**
 - And the Lord does do this—He gives them Joshua to lead them into the land.
3. In Numbers 28-30, the LORD again renews the priestly offerings and the spiritual feasts that Israel is to keep...
 - Reminding them of what we saw when He did this forty years before...
 - That His whole purpose in bringing them into the land is that they might serve Him as a holy people.
 - They are to be those who are reconciled to God through His mercy.
 - Just as we are to be His people who serve Him and worship Him through His mercy in Christ to us today.
 - Our lives are to be **for** Him, both individually and corporately—even though as a nation, we are in the wilderness until He delivers us.

4. In the rest of the chapter, we see God beginning to march them through the wilderness again to Canaan...
 - In chapter 31, God tells them to exercise His vengeance on Midian—
 - This is a harbinger of what they will do to the nations at Canaan.
 - And in chapter 32, there is another harbinger as the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of Manasseh are given the lands that they conquered when they were in the wilderness on condition that they go and fight with the rest of Israel.
 - This is followed by a history of God's faithfulness to them while they were in the wilderness in chapter 33.
 - If He kept them in the wilderness, He would bring them into Canaan as He promised.
 - All this is so certain that in chapter 34-35, that the LORD maps out the inheritance of each tribe in Canaan.
 - And then in 36, we have the dear daughters of Zelophehad, once again showing their faith in what God had promised to do.
- B. Oh that all of you might share in this faith of the daughters of Zelophehad!
- That all of you might look to Christ in whom we shall inherit the whole earth!
 - He will reign until all His enemies are made His footstool.
 - Not one will stand.
 - This world does not belong to Satan, it belongs to Christ.
 - Let us learn to pray sincerely that God's kingdom would come and that His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - That He would be obeyed here as He is there!
 - That is what is promised to us.
 - That is our inheritance.
 - We will not be in the wilderness forever.
 - He will bring us out that He might bring us in to our inheritance.