

Our God Goes Before Us

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Numbers 9

From Mount Sinai to the border of the Promised Land, Numbers takes us on a practical journey of God's daily presence with His people. Through fits of disobedience and rebellion, discipline and repentance, God prepares Israel to enter the promised land. By the end of Numbers, Israel is ready to enter the land God promised so long ago to Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3**).

The book of Numbers in relation to the Pentateuch:

Genesis: Creation; the call of Abraham and foundation of Israel; Ends with Israel's move to Egypt.

Exodus: How Israel left Egypt by God's deliverance and received His laws.

Leviticus: Largely contains the laws that would govern Israel as a Theocracy under God.

Numbers: The 40 years in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy: Sequel of Numbers ending with the death of Moses (**Second giving of the Law**).

I. Live Your Life in Continual Remembrance of Christ (Numbers 9:1-14)

- A. The distinctly human problem of forgetfulness
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 8:11-14**, *"Take care {be attentive; be focused} lest you forget {suppress; dismiss from the mind; stop remembering} the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,*
 - 2. **James 1:23-24**, *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*
- B. Forgetfulness leads to a hard heart, ingratitude, and spiritual drift and ruin.
 - 1. **Psalm 78:11**, *They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.*
 - a) Trust in our own power rather than God's power (**78:22, 42**)
 - b) Drift in inconsistency rather than remaining steadfast in adversity (**78:36-37**)
 - c) Test, rebel, and turn away rather than keep His laws (**78:56-57**)
 - 2. **Judges 3:7**, *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.*

II. Cherish God's Daily Presence with You (Numbers 9:15-16)

- A. The tabernacle of Moses {the tent of meeting; testimony} was constructed during Israel's first year of journey in the wilderness (**Exodus 40:34-38**)
- B. Just as the OT saints dwelt with the presence of God, NT saints have God's presence in them.
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7**, *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*
 - 2. **Matthew 28:20; John 16:13**

III. Discern God's Direction for You in His Word (Numbers 9:17-21)

- A. Israel followed a visible cloud by day and rested at night by a pillar of fire (God's presence).
- B. NT Saints have a *"more sure word of prophecy!"*
 - 1. **2 Peter 1:19** *And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,*
 - 2. **Psalm 119:105**, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

IV. Practice Obedience Out of Love for Christ (Numbers 9:22-23)

- A. *"Kept the charge of the Lord,"* becomes joyful, Spirit-empowered obedience in God (**Num 9:23, 19**)
- B. How do we know that we know? **1 John 1:4; 2:3-6** (the presence of spiritual appetites)