

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
NUMBERS: A TRAGIC PILGRIMAGE
A SURVEY OF NUMBERS



The Heart of the Matter

The Promised Land! If it was mentioned once, it must have been mentioned a dozen times a day as the time grew closer for the Hebrews to leave Mount Sinai. By then, there was no doubt of God's blessing: the heaven-sent cloud by day and the fire by night, Moses's reliable leadership, as well as divine protection from enemy attack and other hindrances. But tragedy struck. At a crucial juncture, the people doubted God's promise and retreated into unbelief. The result? Monotonous wandering in circles for almost forty years as all individuals twenty years and older died off, leaving a new generation to enter Canaan, the land of promise. The Old Testament book of Numbers is a historical account of those events surrounding the tragic pilgrimage experienced by the Hebrews between Sinai and Canaan.



Discovering the Way

1. The Name of the Book

Why is the story of a people's journey called Numbers? Because God requested that the people be counted both near the beginning (Numbers 1:2) and at the end (26:2) of the book.

2. A Survey of the Book

As the Israelites travel from Sinai to Canaan over the course of the book of Numbers, pay special attention to four key questions: Where are they? How long does it take? What are they doing? And how does it apply?



Starting Your Journey

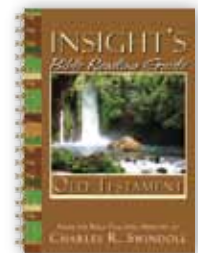
We find three major lessons in the book of Numbers. Complaining is contagious, doubting can be disastrous, and wandering is always humbling.



Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork
Volume One
Beginnings—A Survey
of Genesis–Deuteronomy
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NUMBERS

	Preparation Census Organization Sanctification <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–9	Pessimism Complaining Doubting Promised Land rejected <i>CHAPTERS</i> 10–14	Punishment Wandering Old generation dies New census <i>CHAPTERS</i> 15–36
Location	Mount Sinai	En route to Kadesh-barnea	Wilderness wandering
Time	20 days	Several months	38 years
Key Word	Wilderness		
Theme	The price of disbelief and disobedience		
Key Verses	14:22–23		
Christ in Numbers	Pictured in manna (compare John 6:31–33); water from rock (compare 1 Corinthians 10:4); bronze serpent (compare John 3:14); in Balaam's prophecy (Numbers 24:17); pillar of cloud and of fire; cities of refuge		

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