



NUMBERS

BIBLE STUDY

MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

105 LANKFORD AVENUE

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.





MOVING TOWARD A GROWING CHURCH



NUMBERS 19 – 21

Israel continues its way toward the promised land. Sprinkled with the report of their travels are reports of new and old laws and regulations given to them by God.



Decrees for Cleanness -

The word clean or unclean is found 24 times in this chapter and other like words such as wash, bathe, purification, and purify a total of 10 times. The decrees were in two categories.



Decrees for Cleanness -

- **Holiness**: First this involved the ordinance of sacrificing a red heifer. Unique about this sacrifice is that it was to be made outside the camp. Its purpose was purification for sin (v. 9).



NUMBERS 19

“Then a man who is ritually clean will gather the ashes of the cow and place them in a ritually clean place outside the camp. The congregation of Israel will keep them to use in the Water of Cleansing, an Absolution-Offering” (9).



DECREES OF CLEANNESS

- *Hygiene*: Second, various laws concerning contamination from dead bodies and sacrifices emphasize good hygiene.



NUMBERS 20:1 - 13

Succumbing of Miriam & Sin of Moses

- Moses' sister died near Kadesh.
- ([20:2-13](#)): he smote the rock contrary to God's command about providing water for a complaining people. This sin kept Moses out of the promised land



NUMBERS 20:14 - 20

Stubbornness of Edom

- this wicked nation would not let Israel pass through it on their journey to Canaan.



SUCCUMBING OF AARON 20:-22-29

Moses' sister is gone, now his brother dies in Mount Hor. His death is ordered by God. Aaron's son Eleazar takes over the High Priest position. Aaron's death and exclusion from the promised land was a result of his sin with Moses in smiting the rock



SUBDUING THE CANAANITES 21:1 – 3

a southern tribe of Canaanites
attacked Israel, but God helped Israel
subdue these enemies.



Serpent of Brass 21:4 – 9

Israel complained; so God sent fiery, poisonous serpents to bite the Israelites. When they repented, God had Moses make a serpent of brass to lift up for the people to look at for healing southern tribe of Canaanites attacked Israel, but God helped Israel subdue these enemies.



Series of moves 21:10-20

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Success in Battle 21:21-35

Israel defeated two famous kings (Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan) to gain a section of land east of the Jordan that would later become the land inheritance for the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

They set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. They spoke out against God and Moses: “Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken country? No decent food; no water—we can’t stomach this stuff any longer.”



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

THIS verse is certainly not a strange experience to most of us, for like the Israelites, we have all at one time or another, in fact frequently if we will be honest, become discouraged because of the way.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

Israel's discouragement here came about because the nation of Edom would not let them pass through their country on the way to Canaan; therefore, Israel had to go around Edom to get to Canaan.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

This made their journey much longer and harder, and that understandably produced much discouragement about their way. To help us have victory over these times of discouragement, we note two important truths about this discouraging way—it was God's way, and it was the good way.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

God's way. Though the people were discouraged about the way, they could be encouraged in the fact that it was indeed God's way. They were not going contrary to His will. They were headed for the promised land according to His commands.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

God's way. But God's way is not always a pleasant way. Doing His will is not exempt from trials and hardships. We make a great mistake if we think God's way in this life is always going to be on jubilation avenue and comfort street. God's way often includes many trials and difficulties.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

God's way.

But these trials and difficulties will strengthen our faith and purify our character. So stay on God's way regardless. The easy way often hinders our faith and corrupts our character.



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Discouraged 21:4 - 5

Good way. This way, though discouraging at times, led to the promised land. And that certainly was good. Before one condemns or commends a way, be sure you know where the way is leading and where it is going to end.



Discouraged 21:4 - 5

Good way. The world has many ways that are on smooth streets and in enjoyable environments, but they do not lead to the promised land; rather, the ways of the world lead to a dead end. But God's way leads to life. The good way may be a rugged way but it is the rewarding way. Do not depart from God's way; for it is the good way; in fact, it is the best way!





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