

NUMBERS 30-33

BIBLE STUDY

MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH 105 LANKFORD AVENUE CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

December 6, 2022

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.







THEME 2022-2023

MOVING FORWARD IN A GROWING CHURCH



NUMBERS 30 31

More instructions are given Moses from God for the Israelites in today's reading. This is followed by a chapter on the war with the Midianites. The Israelites are getting closer to the time when they will enter the land of Canaan after their forty years of travel since leaving Egypt.



NUMBERS 30 <u>VOVS</u>

These vows concerned giving to God and committing oneself to some action by an oath. The instructions were for both men and women.

• *Vows of men*: these vows were absolute with no possibility of release—the men were to keep his word!



NUMBERS 30 VOWS 30:1-16

• Vows of women: their vows were conditioned upon the approval of the male authority in their life. A husband could cancel a vow of a wife, a father could cancel the vow of a daughter. A widower or divorced person had to keep their vow unless it had been disapproved before the death or divorce of the husband. This authority of men over women spoke of the Divine plan of headship in the home. This plan is almost totally rejected today but tragically to the destruction of the home.

NUMBERS 31:1-53 VENGEANCE

The Midianites had corrupted the Israelites both morally and religiously as was noted in a previous reading. God now orders Moses to go to wage a war against the Midianites.

NUMBERS 31 VENGEANCE

- •Soldiers drafted: one thousand from each tribe, a total of twelve thousand in all were drafted to go to battle against Midian.
- •Success detailed: the slaying (all the Midianite males were slain, all five kings of Midian were slain, and Balaam the prophet was also slain—he kept company with the wrong people, gave them wicked counsel to corrupt the Israelites [v. 16], and paid with his life for his evil ways);
- the spoil (much spoil was taken).



NUMBERS 31 VENGEANCE

- *Slain women (31:1-24) Moses was angry that the spoil included the Midianite women and ordered all the Midianite women who were not virgins to be slain, for they had corrupted the Israelites earlier.
- •Spoil divided: Half of the spoil went to the soldiers and half to the congregation. 1/500th of the soldiers' half was given to the priests. 1/50th of the people's half was given to the Levities.

NUMBERS 31 VENGEANCE

•Sacrifice devoted: because when a roll was taken of the soldiers, not one Israelite soldier was lost in battle, the officers of the Israelite army brought a special offering to Moses which was devoted to the Tabernacle.



•The land on the east of the Jordan was called Gilead (vv. (vv. 1, 26, 29, 39, 40). This was the land which Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan once controlled. But Israel had defeated them in battle, and the land was taken over by Israel.



- Request for the land: the tribe of Gad and Reuben wanted to settle there instead of on the west of the Jordan.
- Complaining about the land: Moses did not receive the request well, for it looked like unwillingness to conquer the land on the west side.

•Resolve about the land: the two tribes said they would go to battle for the other tribes to help secure the west side of the Jordan.



- •Ratifying of the land:
- the *condition* for the ratifying (Moses would accept the request if the two tribes would help the rest of the Israelites conquer the west side of the Jordan);
- the *caution* in the ratifying (Moses made a great statement of warning which is still common in our day—"be sure your sin will find you out" [v. 23]

•the communication of the ratifying (Moses told Eleazar the high priest and Joshua the successor of Moses about these conditions, and he gave the land to not just the tribes of Gad and Reuben but also to half the tribe of Manasseh).

•Residing in the land: a list of the places and cities where the various tribes resided in Gilead is given. The land on the east of the Jordan was called Gilead (vv. (vv. 1, 26, 29, 39, 40). This was the land which Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan once controlled. But Israel had defeated them in battle, and the land was taken over by Israel.

NUMBERS 33 SECURING OF CANAAN

- Instructions from God about conquering Canaan are given here.
- Dispossessing: drive the Canaanites out of the land.
- •Destruction: evil things such as pictures, idols, and high places were to be destroyed.



NUMBERS 33 SECURING OF CANAAN

- •Dividing: allot the land among the people.
- •Delinquency: failure to obey God about the land would bring discomfort in the land and dispossession from the land.



NUMBERS 34-36

Next week, December 14, 2022
10 am & 6:00 pm

