

WEEK 9 — PREPARING TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND

Date: about July 1407 to January 1406 BC

The Story: God has rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt and sustained his people for forty years in the wilderness. Now, at last, Israel moves toward and arrives at the edge of the promised land, Canaan. In these pivotal months, the Moabites attempt a spiritual attack on Israel; another census is conducted; arrangements are made for Israel's future leadership; various regulations are given or restated; two and a half tribes receive their land early, outside the promised land; boundaries of the land to be taken are established; and various preparations are made for life and property in the promised land. This week's readings complete the book of Numbers, touch on more genealogies from this time period in 1 Chronicles, and close with the start of Deuteronomy, the last book of the Law, in which Moses gives his final teachings to Israel before his death.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

FEBRUARY 27 NUMBERS 22-24

Today's reading features a spiritual battle instigated by the king of Moab, who feared the coming of the entire nation of Israel into his territory. He hires a prophet from a land to the north to speak oracles against Israel so that spiritual powers might thwart Israel's advance. But this prophet, Balaam, is persuaded (with the help of his donkey) to speak only what Israel's God tells him to say.

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 22:1 to 24:14

Kids' Reading*: Numbers 22

FEBRUARY 28 NUMBERS 25-26

Today's reading reverses course after Israel's spiritual victory in Numbers 22-24. Now Moab tries a new kind of attack on Israel: they entice Israel to sin against God, risking the loss of his favor. Then the Lord commands that a new census of Israel be taken in preparation for the allotment of the promised land; the first census (Numbers 1) had been taken about 39 years earlier.

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 25-26

Kids' Reading*: Numbers 23:1-26

MARCH 1 NUMBERS 27-30

Today's reading opens with two issues related to Israel's anticipated life in the promised land: how the inheritance of land in families without sons is to be handled, and who would succeed Moses as Israel's leader. Then a series of regulations are given or restated concerning certain offerings and festivals and concerning the requirement to keep one's vows.

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 27-28 • Numbers 30

Kids' Reading*: Numbers 23:27 to 24:14

MARCH 2 NUMBERS 31-32

Today's reading starts with battle as God sends the Israelites to fight the Midianites who (along with the Moabites) had done spiritual battle against Israel in Numbers 25 and brought about the deaths of thousands of Israelites. Notice the role that Balaam, who appeared in chapters 22-24, played in that spiritual battle. After the battle, regulations are given for dividing the spoils of war. Then two tribes (plus half of another tribe later) propose to settle in the land Israel had taken when they defeated kings Sihon and Og (chapter 21). But if they do, will they still help Israel conquer the promised land?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 31:1-24 • Numbers 32

Kids' Reading*: Numbers 27

MARCH 3 NUMBERS 33-35

Today's reading provides an account of the places where Israel traveled over the forty years since they left Egypt. Then preparations are made for Israel's life in the promised land: setting of boundaries of that land, instructions for the provision of towns for the Levites, and instructions for the establishment of cities of refuge for people who have killed another person accidentally. In this last section, notice God's concern for justice, both for the family of the victim and for the person who did not intend to kill anyone.

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC • The record of Israel's journey from Egypt in 33:1-49 covers the years of about 1445-1406 BC.

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 34-35

Kids' Reading*: Numbers 32

MARCH 4 NUMBERS 36 • 1 CHRONICLES 2

Today's reading concludes Numbers with clarification of the law concerning inheritance of land by daughters. Then it revisits 1 Chronicles and covers genealogies from the tribe of Judah, most notably the genealogy and descendants of Caleb, who with Joshua was one of the two spies who advocated for Israel to trust God and enter the promised land (Numbers 13:30). At this point in Israel's history, Caleb is an old man; he will reappear in Joshua 14.

Date: between about July 1407 and January 1406 BC • Moses gives the speech recorded in Deuteronomy on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year after Israel left Egypt (Deuteronomy 1:3), which was about January 1406 BC.

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Numbers 36 • 1 Chronicles 2

Kids' Reading*: Deuteronomy 1

MARCH 5 DEUTERONOMY 1-2

Today's reading introduces the book of Deuteronomy, which means "second law." It is a record of Moses' final speeches to Israel before he dies; they include a restatement of many of God's laws for Israel. Here Moses reminds Israel's second generation of their history since their parents' rebellion (Numbers 14) up through their forty years of wilderness wandering and their recent conquest of King Sihon.

Date: January 1406 BC • Moses gives the speech recorded in Deuteronomy on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year after Israel left Egypt (Deuteronomy 1:3), which was about January 1406 BC.

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Deuteronomy 1:1 to 2:23

Kids' Reading*: Deuteronomy 2

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Num 23:24 (V)

Num 24:8 (V), 17 (V)

Num 26:10 (V)

Num 31:7-12 (V), 35 (S)

Num 35:6-34 (T)

Deut 1:44 (V)

Deut 2:33-34 (V)

1 Chr 2:21 (S)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Num 25:1 (S), 4 (V), 7-9 (T, V)

Num 31:15-18 (S, V)

Num 35:16-27 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence