

**Psalm 28, Exodus 15-20 (#19) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 28**— This Psalm is a petition for protection when God judges the wicked. It is a request for mercy, not based upon merit, but upon God's favor toward those who seek Him.  
*What does this Psalm teach us about God?*

**Psalm 29**— The psalmist describes the awesome power and glory of Yahweh in creation and nature, His supremacy over everything and everyone on earth and in the universe, and our need to acknowledge His unsurpassable majesty and the honor due Him. *Give the different ways the power and sovereignty of the Lord is revealed in this psalm.*

**Exodus 26**— This chapter deals with the full details of the building of the Tabernacle with the ultimate purpose of God dwelling with His people. Each and every part of the Tabernacle including coverings, veil, curtains, posts, frames, bases, and pillars are given in complete detail with nothing left to the imagination. *Why was the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) separated by a thick veil and why was the Ark of the Covenant located in the Most Holy Place? Extra question: Where did the Israelites get all the materials to make the tabernacle, furniture and courtyard?*

**Exodus 27**— Upon entering through the gate into the courtyard, the Bronze Altar of Burnt Offering was the first item people would see. This is the altar where the priests would offer the various animal sacrifices reminding them that God could only be approached through the blood. The construction of the Bronze Altar is given in complete detail in this chapter (vv. 1-9). Next, the full details of the Courtyard are given including the pillars of bronze and the curtains of linen. The size of the courtyard is about the size of half of a football field (vv. 9-19). Lastly, details are given about the pure olive oil needed for the Golden Lampstand which is to be perpetually burning in the Tabernacle (vv. 20-21). *Even though we don't actually sacrifice animals today, what kind of spiritual sacrifices can we as Christians offer to God (1 Peter 2:5)? See Romans 12:1, Hebrews 13:15-16, Psalm 51:17, Philippians 4:18. Extra Question: What was the actual size of the Courtyard?*

**Exodus 28**— This chapter commends Aaron and his sons as priests before God and gives detailed description of the making of priestly garments including the ephod, breastplate with gemstones, robe, turban, and tunic. Attached to the breastplate are the Urim and the Thummin which were used to make decisions in important matters (I Samuel 23:9-12, Numbers 23:21). *Israel made decisions using the Urim and the Thummin. How do we decide the will of God today in a particular situation? Extra Question: What was the reason that the bells and pomegranates were attached to the hem of the robe of Aaron (vv. 33-35)? Might there be a spiritual application for us today?*

**Exodus 29**— This chapter gives in complete detail the consecration service of Aaron and his sons that will take place once the tabernacle is built (Leviticus 8-9:24). The seven days of consecration and ordination in this chapter are similar to the regular duties of the priests including a sin offering (vv. 10-14), and two burnt offerings (vv. 15-28). In this chapter it is evident that the Lord left no details to the imagination or any guessing of what the actual duties of the priests were. Verses 38-46 give the instructions for the sunrise and sunset whole burnt offering of a lamb which was a reminder of the full dedication of Israel to the service of Yahweh as He daily meets and fellowships with them. *Verse 20 says, "and apply some of its blood to the right earlobes of Aaron and his sons. Also put it on the thumbs of their right hands and big toes of their right feet." What is the spiritual significance of this verse for Aaron and his sons? How might it apply to us today?*

**Exodus 30**— In this chapter God continues to give to Moses instructions on making the Altar of Incense and the Bronze Basin including the unique recipe for the making of the holy incense and anointing oil. The Altar of Incense was located right next to the Veil near the Most Holy Place and was kept perpetually burning (vv. 1-10). The census tax offering was a ransom for the life of each person (v. 12) or to make atonement for the lives of all the men 20 years of age and above (vv.15-16), giving them an opportunity to support the tabernacle service (vv.11-16). The Bronze Basin was placed between the Bronze Altar and the Tabernacle for the washing of the hands and feet of the priests before they entered the tabernacle. This is the only piece of furniture that God did not give full instructions on how

to make it (vv. 17-21). The detailed recipe for the anointing oil and incense is given with a warning never to duplicate it for personal use. The anointing oil was used for the consecration of the elements of the tabernacle as well as that of the priests (vv. 22-38). *What spiritual symbolism do we see in the Altar of Incense? See Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4, Luke 1:8-10, Romans 8:33-34. Extra Question: What spiritual symbolism do we see in the Bronze Basin? John 13:6-10, 15:3, Ephesians 5:25-26, Psalm 119:9.*

**Exodus 31**— Now God reveals to Moses the craftsmen (Bezalel and Oholiab) that He has chosen and equipped to make the Tabernacle and its furniture (vv. 1-11). Yahweh restates the importance of the Sabbath day as a sign between Him and Israel throughout all their generations, being grounded in creation where God rested the seventh day after all His labors (vv. 12-17). Finally, at the end of 40 days, God gave Moses the tablets of stone (10 Commandments) to take back to the Israelites. *What qualified Bezalel and Oholiab to construct the Tabernacle and furniture (vv. 1-6, 36:2)? What unique design and gifts did God give to you to serve Him in the Church?*

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Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups . c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Illustrated Bible Handbook. c. 2008 by George W. Knight, Barbour Publishing Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook.

**Psalm 30, Exodus 32-37 (#20) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 30** — "...weeping may endure for a night but rejoicing comes in the morning". We all have seasons of trouble, but God sees us through the hardship, turning our "wailing into dancing". Therefore, we sing praises to Him who is faithful, trustworthy and holy. *Describe a time of mourning in your life where God has been with you through it.*

**Exodus 32**— Impatient with the absence of Moses, Aaron listens to the cries of the people and makes a golden calf for the people to worship. Moses averts God's anger against the people but upon coming down off the mountain, he sees the idolatry and orgy associated with it and has indignation against the people. The Levites stand with Moses and kill about 3000 men who were involved in idolatry. Now the law provides a standard and the people cannot sin without impunity. *Sources #6* Moses again intercedes for Israel asking God to blot out his name from the book if He will not forgive their sin. *Verse 14 says, "Then the Lord relented and did not bring the disaster He had threatened."* *Can our prayers cause God to change His mind? Source #7* *Extra Question: Why wasn't Aaron punished, removed from the priesthood, or killed for obeying the wishes of the people in making the golden calf? See Deuteronomy 9:20.*

**Exodus 33**— The Lord is very angry with Israel due to the worship of the Golden Calf, and reiterates that He will keep His covenant with them but will not be present with them, so that He will not have to destroy them since they are a stubborn and rebellious people. The people mourned and took off their jewelry awaiting God's decision (vv. 1-6). The tabernacle project was put on hold while God met with Moses at the tent of meeting. The people standing from afar were reminded that God has removed His presence because of their sin (vv. 7-11). Moses valiantly intercedes for the people saying that Israel is God's people, and without His presence in the midst of them they would be like any other nation. Yahweh accepts Moses plea and then shows His back to Moses, hiding him in the cleft of the rock (vv.12-23). *Who did God say He would send with Israel to the Promised Land instead of Himself and why was that unacceptable to Moses?*

**Exodus 34**— God calls Moses to return to the top of Mount Sinai to remake the two tablets of stone (10 Commandments), and then proclaims His central character and attributes (vv. 1-9). The Lord renews and reviews the covenant declaring the awesome privilege they have that no other nation has ever had. God repeats various commands including their relationship with the inhabitants of the land and their gods and the three weekly feasts to be observed throughout the year (vv. 10-28). Because of his extended presence with Yahweh, Moses face shone and so he had to cover his face with a veil when he was with the people (vv. 29-35). *The God of the Old Testament is described as vengeful and full of wrath by many today. As is declared in this chapter and throughout the Old Testament, how does God really want to be known by His people? See Verses 6-7, Numbers 14:18, Psalm 86:9, 103:8, 145:8, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2. Extra Question: The skin of the face of Moses was shining because he was in the presence of God. This glory, however, was temporary and faded away. Paul uses this story about Moses to declare the transcendent glory of the New Covenant. What are the factors in the Christian's life that account for this permanent progressive transformation? See II Corinthians 3:16-18.*

**Exodus 35**— Starting with this chapter through the end of Exodus we see the preparation, construction and assembling of the Tabernacle. Verses 1-3 speak of the need of keeping the Sabbath, even during the time when they are building the Tabernacle and all its parts. The Lord commands those who have a generous heart to contribute to the needs of the Tabernacle including precious metals, dyes, animal skins, wood, spices and precious stones (vv. 4-9). Moses again describes in detail everything that is to be built and invites all the skilled craftsmen to participate (vv.10-19). All of those whose hearts were moved willingly brought all that was needed to construct the Tabernacle (vv. 20-29). *How does this passage describe the motives and attitudes of the people who contributed to all the materials needed for the Tabernacle? What should motivate our giving? See II Corinthians 9:6-7*

**Exodus 36**— Bezalel and Oholiab lead the craftsmen in the design and construction of every part of the Tabernacle (vv. 35:30-36:2). After generously giving more than needed, Moses commands the people to stop giving (vv. 3-7). The rest of the chapter describes the making of all of the pieces of the Tabernacle including the curtains, coverings, frames, crossbars, the Veil, and the screen for the entrance to the tent (vv. 8-38). *The making of all of the parts and furniture of the Tabernacle project was an enormous undertaking, considering the place and resources available. As you read these chapters, what were all the various skills, resources, qualities and intangibles needed to pull this off?*

**Exodus 37**— This chapter gives a detailed description of the furniture inside the Tabernacle including the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat, the Table of the Presence, the Lampstand, and the Altar of Incense. *Give the function and symbolism of (1) the Ark of the Covenant and Mercy Seat, (2) the Table of the Presence, (3) the Lampstand and (4) the Altar of Incense.*

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**Psalm 31, Exodus 38-40, Galatians 1-3 (#21) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 31** — David is besieged by enemies who sought his destruction, and abandoned by friends not willing to share his fate. His only and best recourse was prayer. Jesus also identifies with this Psalm quoting verse 5 as He draws His final breath (Luke 23:46). If you find yourself mistreated and abandoned, you are in good company. *What is David's petition? (hint: look for "me") Was it answered?*

**Exodus 38**— This chapter gives the description of the Bronze Altar and the Bronze Washbasin which were outside of the Tabernacle, as well as the details of making the Courtyard curtains (fence) and gate (vv. 1-20). The Levites, under the direction of Ithamar, the son of Aaron, were responsible to record the amount of precious materials used in the construction of the Tabernacle (vv. 21-31). *Give the function and symbolism of (1) the Bronze Altar of Burnt Offering and (2) the Bronze Washbasin. Extra Question: Why do you think the inventory and recording of the all precious metals was given in this chapter?*

**Exodus 39**— This chapter gives in vivid detail the making of the priestly garments including the Ephod, the Breastplate, the Robe, the Holy Diadem, and other priestly garments. The making of the garments that were worn by the priests for the leading of worship showed the same craftsmanship and design as in the making of all the parts of the Tabernacle (vv. 1-31). All the furniture, garments and the parts of the Tabernacle were brought to Moses for inspection, and he responded by blessing the people for their excellent work in doing all that Yahweh had commanded them (vv. 32-43). *What is the one phrase said ten times in this chapter (mostly at the end of each paragraph)? Why is this significant? Extra Question: Why were the names of the 12 tribes of Israel on the two onyx stones and on the twelve gemstones of the Breastplate?*

**Exodus 40**— Just one year after leaving Egypt, on the first day of the first month, Moses is commanded to assemble the Tabernacle, the Courtyard, and all its parts. Once assembled, the Tabernacle and furniture are anointed with oil so that they will be holy. Moses and his sons put on the holy garments and are also consecrated with holy oil. When the Tabernacle was fully assembled and consecrated, the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle so that throughout their wilderness wanderings the cloud of the Lord was on the Tabernacle by day, and fire was inside the cloud by night. In just a few days, Israel

would celebrate the Passover at their new worship center. *How did Israel know it was time to break camp and set out on their journey? VV. 36-37 and Numbers 10:11. Extra Question: Give a brief history of the coming and departing of the glory of the Lord. Exodus 40:34-38. II Chronicles 5:13-14. Ezekiel 9:3, 11:22-23, 43:4-5, John 1:14, Colossians 1:27, 3:4.*

**Galatians**— This short powerful book proclaims the freedom we have in Christ. The purpose was to refute the Judaizers who were trying to persuade the Gentiles that in order to be saved they must obey all of the Law of Moses including circumcision and the dietary laws. This book was written by the Apostle Paul to the churches of Galatia in about 49 A.D. Paul and Barnabas had planted these churches and then heard later that they were being persuaded to give up their freedom in Christ in order to obey all of the law. This book clearly declares the gospel of justification by faith in Christ alone apart from any works of the law (2:16).

**Galatians 1**— After a brief introduction, Paul begins by telling the believers at Galatia how surprised he is that they have so quickly allowed the content of the gospel to move from salvation by grace through faith to that of human effort and the keeping of the law. He clearly states that the gospel he preached did not come from a human source but was by direct revelation from Jesus Christ Himself. Paul then gives a short history of his life to authenticate his ministry starting with his zealous persecution of the church, his conversion experience, his immediately going to Arabia after being persecuted in Damascus, and then after three years, going to Jerusalem to be with Peter and James. *In verse 10 Paul says, “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Paul’s first priority was to please God, not men. Knowing that sharing the gospel boldly to our lost family members, neighbors, friends and co-workers is of eternal importance, what can you do to have a greater vision for the lost, to courageously declare your faith to them, and to be less concerned about what they think about you?*

**Galatians 2**— Paul continues to prove his premise that we are saved by grace through faith alone. He recounts his meeting with James, Peter, and John in Jerusalem that took place fourteen years later. Even though false brothers had infiltrated the church, he and Barnabas did not give in to the Judaizers for a moment but boldly declared the truth of the gospel and the freedom believers have in Christ. Just as Peter was the Apostle to the Jews, the leaders of the church in Jerusalem recognized Paul’s calling to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and didn’t demand that Titus who had accompanied them on the trip be circumcised. Sometime later when Peter came to Antioch, Paul opposed Peter to his face because of his hypocrisy. When the circumcision group came from Jerusalem, Peter would separate himself from the Gentiles for fear of the Judaizers. Paul said that we Jews know we are justified by faith in Christ



alone and not by observing the law which no one can ever keep perfectly. Just because Christians sin, it does not mean that we need to go back and reestablish the law as a means of salvation. The gospel of grace now infuses us with power that the law can never give us. Christ lives in us and produces His righteousness through us as we trust Him moment by moment. If man could become righteous through keeping the law then Christ died in vain.     *1. Drawing from 2:19-20, what are the results of our crucifixion and identification with Christ? See also Romans 6:4-11. 2. According to 2:21, what would be the result if people are able to be right with God by keeping the law instead of by putting our faith in Christ?*

**Galatians 3**— Paul begins in verse 2 with a question. Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the Law of Moses or believing the message you heard about Christ? “After starting your new life in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort (v 3 NLT)?” The principle of salvation by faith starts all the way back with Abraham in Genesis 15:6 where he believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness. So now all who have faith in Christ are Abraham’s children. The law brings a curse not life, but Christ took the curse for us by dying on the cross (Deuteronomy 21:23). Because of his faith, God gave an unconditional promise to Abraham which preceded the law by 430 years. The “promise” declares what God will do for us, and the “law” speaks of what we do for God through our own efforts. The law was given to show people their sins until the coming of the promised seed (Jesus Christ) who would come and take away their sins. The law can’t give life and makes everyone prisoners of sin. We, however, “receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ (v. 22 NLT).” Since we are all children of God by faith, the law is no longer our guardian. It doesn’t matter your race, status in life, or gender. If your faith is in Christ, then you are heirs of Abraham and the promise God made to him.     *In verses 2 to 3, what proof or evidence did Paul give that salvation is by faith and not by obeying the law? Extra Question: What point is Paul making in listing six classes of people in 3:28? How does this apply to us?*

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**Psalm 32, Galatians 4-6, Leviticus 9-10, 23 (#22) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 32** — The apostle Paul teaches us something about this Psalm in Romans 4:4-8. Notably, David does not declare his own righteousness, but confesses his iniquity. As humility comes before honor, so confession precedes cleansing (1 John 1:9). *What are the blessings of the godly whose sins are forgiven according to verses 6 to 8?*

**Galatians 4**— Before the coming of Christ to redeem those under the law, people were like children under a guardian who receive instructions and commands from these guardians even though they are heirs of the father's wealth, and their guardian is a slave. But now through faith in Christ, we have been adopted as sons (and daughters) with the full rights and privileges of adult sonship including the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (vv. 1-7). "But now you Galatians are returning to childhood living by being enslaved again to useless principles and special days and seasons. I am so fearful that my ministry with you has been wasted. You have changed. You once had great love and empathy for my broken physical condition, but now I have become your enemy for telling you the truth. These Judaizer guardians have evil intentions to return you to the bondage of the law, but now I am going through labor pains until Christ is formed in you (vv. 8-20 paraphrased)." Paul then gives an allegory to show the difference between those who are born after the flesh or human effort, and those who are born of the promise. Those who wish to live under the law (Sinai Covenant) are like Abraham's son, Ishmael, who was a child of the slave Hagar. Those who wish to live by faith in God's promise are like Abraham's son, Isaac, who was a child of Sarah, the free woman (New Covenant) (vv. 21-31). *1. A phrase in verse 4 says, "But when the fullness of times had come (ESV, NKJV)." This refers to the timing of the first coming of Christ to earth. How were the conditions of the world ripe for Christ's first coming and for the spreading of the gospel to the known world in the first century? 2. What is the main principle being taught in the story of Sarah and Hagar in verses 21-31?*

**Galatians 5**— After a contrast of slavery and freedom in chapter 4, Paul emphasizes the importance of freedom that only comes through Christ. The act of circumcision has no value in the Christian life since being circumcised obligates a person to keep all of the law and cuts that person off from Christ Himself.

The true righteousness of God is received by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit with acts of love as the end result (vv. 1-6). The churches of Galatia were spiritually advancing, but this false teaching had caused them to get off course. This doctrine of the freedom in Christ is not a license to do anything we want but is an opportunity to serve one another in love (vv. 7-15). The key to living a life that is honoring Christ is to walk in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The choice is clear, live under the system of the law with the end result being the works of the flesh (sinful nature) and finally ends in death (vv. 19-21), or keep in step with the Holy Spirit's promptings which produces in us the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-23) with eternal life as the end result. Daily we crucify (put to death) our sinful desires by calling on the Holy Spirit to give us power over them moment by moment. *What actions must we take in order to have the fruit of the Spirit produced in us instead of the works of the flesh? Galatians 5:16, 18, 24-25, Romans 6:11-14.*

**Galatians 6**— This chapter speaks of the ways of walking in the Spirit and in love including the gentle handling of brothers who have sinned, sharing in the burdens of others, being responsible with one's own work and conduct, and generously providing for the needs of those who teach us (vv. 1-6). God has put in the universe the law of sowing and reaping. Our actions have consequences with the result of decay and death if we sow to the flesh or eternal life if we sow to the Spirit. We must never get tired doing good to all people and especially to believers because God guarantees a bountiful harvest. The Judaizers didn't keep the law themselves, but they wanted these people to be circumcised so that they can boast that they have made a convert. Paul boasted in the weakness and shame of the cross because through Christ's death the evil Satanic world system has been destroyed. Such a system had absolutely no attraction to him. What really matters is that through the power of the cross of Christ, God is creating a whole new creation of people who are being transformed from the inside out (vv. 7-17). *Explain the meaning of verses 2 and 5. It seems like Paul is contradicting himself. Extra question: What did Paul mean by saying in verse 14, " ...the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world"? How should this relate to your life?*

**Leviticus**— "You shall therefore be holy for I am holy" (11:45) is the theme of the book of Leviticus. This third book of the law was given to teach the people of Israel to live separated, holy lives, different from the pagan nations around them. The words holy (mentioned 91 times), cleansing (71 times), and uncleanness (128 times), describe the everyday rules and regulations of a holy people who live to please and honor a holy God. This book is a handbook for priests and Levites outlining their duties in worship, starting with a detailed description and explanation of the offerings (chapters 1-7). Other major themes

include; the establishment of the priesthood (chapters 8-10), the laws on cleanness and uncleanness (chapters 11-15), the day of atonement and handling of blood (chapter 16-17), the call to holiness (chapters 18-22), special holy times including feasts (chapters 23-25), blessings and curses, and vows and dedication (chapters 26-27).

**Leviticus 9**— After seven days of ordination, Aaron and his sons begin their priestly ministry with a sin offering, a burnt offering, a peace or fellowship offering, and a grain offering. After completely fulfilling the requirements that God gave, the glory of the Lord appeared and fire came from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering. *What was the significance of the fire coming from God and burning up the sacrifice? Where else in the Bible do we see fire coming out of heaven and consuming something?*

**Leviticus 10**— The joy of chapter nine turns to sorrow when Nadab and Abihu are killed by fire coming from the presence of the Lord, when they offered unauthorized fire that was contrary to the manner prescribed by the Lord. Yahweh reminds Aaron and his remaining two sons the importance and seriousness of following exactly the Lord's requirements as well as teaching them to the people. *Why did God strike Nadab and Abihu with fire? Extra Question: The Lord said to Aaron, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die." Why did God say this to Aaron? Do you think the Bible teaches it is permissible for Christians to drink wine (alcoholic beverages)? Explain. See I Corinthians 6:12, Romans 14:21.*

**Leviticus 23**— This chapter gives the list of holy days and festivals of Israel that were to be observed throughout the year. Every feast had a special meaning as each new generation was taught to follow God's ways and be a holy nation, separated unto Yahweh. The Passover was the first feast celebrated in spring, remembering God's saving of the lives of all the Jewish first-born sons while they were still in Egypt, and ended in October with the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths, remembering the forty years they lived in the wilderness. All adult males were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem for the following feasts each year: (1) Feast of Unleavened bread, (2) Feast of Weeks/Pentecost and (3) Feast of Tabernacles/Booths. *What was the significance to Israel of the Feast of Firstfruits? To the church? See I Corinthians 15:20. Extra Question: On what day of the week was the Feast of Firstfruits and Feast of Weeks/Pentecost celebrated and why is this day important to Christians?*

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**Psalm 33, Numbers 10-15 (#23) Revised 2022**

**Psalm 33**—This is a Psalm celebrating God’s power and goodness. We are to praise the Lord for the wonders of creation and the multitude of blessings we have received from Him. *What does this Psalm say about the plans and purposes of God?*

**Numbers**— This fourth book of the Law is named for the two numberings (censuses) taken in chapters 1 and 26 of all adult men. The history of Numbers begins the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the second year as the Israelites leave Mount Sinai and head toward the Promised Land. What should have taken two years actually ends up taking forty years because of the lack of faith and trust in Yahweh. It was easier to get Israel out of Egypt than to get Egypt out of the people of Israel. This book gives many lessons on (1) trust, (2) the wrath, goodness and power of God, (3) rebellion and Biblical authority, and (4) God’s discipline.

**Numbers 10**— This chapter begins with the manufacture of trumpets for various purposes such as calling meetings, breaking camp, announcing festivals, and calling men to war. At the moving of the cloud, all Israel breaks camp and journeys from Mount Sinai to the wilderness of Paran near Kadesh-barnea, just south of Canaan. Moses asked his brother-in-law, Hobab, to stay with them in order to be their guide since he knew the terrain well and could assist them in finding suitable camping sites. *If God was leading Israel in the wilderness by the pillar of cloud and God spoke to Moses personally, was Moses out of the will of God by asking Hobab to guide them?*

**Numbers 11**— The people of Israel continue their complaining, just as they had done at the beginning of their journey. Now they complain about the hardships they are enduring (three day journey), and for the monotony of their diet (manna), remembering the variety of food they had back in Egypt. The anger of God is kindled and fire consumes outlying parts of the camp. Moses complains to God about his burdens and the Lord graciously anoints seventy elders with the power of the Holy Spirit to help him carry the load. The people demand meat and so God responds by sending a whole month’s supply. With the meat God sends a plague that strikes down many because of their greed. *In verse 23 God says to Moses, “Is the Lord’s power limited (hand shortened)?” Moses did not believe that God could produce enough meat to feed Israel for thirty days. Think about your life right now. Is there any area where you are limiting God’s power? Extra Question: In 11:1 the people complained and in 11:6-15 Moses complained. What steps can we take to keep from complaining about our circumstances? See I Thessalonians 5:16-18.*

**Numbers 12**— Moses receives a very painful challenge to his leadership by his own brother and sister. Instead of being forthright about their jealousy, Aaron and Miriam put up a smoke screen by saying Moses should not be the preeminent leader of Israel since his wife is a Cushite. God punishes Miriam by striking her with leprosy, but she is cured through the intercession of Moses. *How does this chapter characterize Moses and what distinguished him from all the other prophets? Extra Question: What should be our attitude and response to our spiritual leaders in our church?*

**Numbers 13**— At Kadesh-barnea God tells Moses to send out one leader from each tribe to scout out the land of Canaan. After 40 days of spying out the land, the group is in agreement that the land is fertile and rich but fear grips the hearts of ten spies as they describe the giants and the fortified cities. Caleb quiets the people and encourages them to go up and take possession of the land because their great God will give them victory. His words are rejected. *1. What were the real reasons why Israel failed to enter the Promised Land at this time? 2. Are you facing any giants in your life right now? How should you respond to the giants?*

**Numbers 14**— As you read this chapter, the lack of faith of the ten spies and the people is so heart-breaking. God had over and over again showed His power, but they still would not trust Him. They were doomed to 40 years of wilderness wandering and dying. Although Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the people to trust God, they would not listen. God wants to strike the entire nation down and destroy them but Moses interceded for them and God relented. The ten spies who spread the negative report were struck down by the Lord. Fearful of God's judgment of dying in the wilderness, a group decides to disobey God and invade Canaan, but are soundly defeated. *What were the arguments given by Joshua and Caleb to the people (vv. 6-9)? ...by Moses to God to not destroy the people (vv. 13-19)?*



**Numbers 15**— The laws and regulations of this chapter further amplify the various offerings of Leviticus 1-7. The giving of these regulations guarantee the people that they will be entering the Promised Land in the future (vv. 1-21). The Lord gives the details about the atonement for unintentional sins as well as the punishment of those who sin defiantly (vv. 22-31). The entire community is called to stone to death a man who was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day (vv. 32-36). Yahweh commands that all Israelites wear tassels on the corners of their garments as a reminder to obey all the commands God has given them (vv. 37-41). *Why did God command the children of Israel to stone to death the man who had gathered wood on the Sabbath day?*

## **REVISED 2022**

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups . c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Illustrated Bible Handbook. c. 2008 by George W. Knight, Barbour Publishing Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook.