

0 (2s):

Welcome to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones. Our prayer is that God will use his word to change your life and fill your heart with hope. And now here's rod.

1 (17s):

Are we there yet? How many times have you, as a parent or grandparent heard your kids voice that complaint from the backseat of the car. Now, Catherine and I have two kids and they're in their early twenties approaching their mid twenties. They don't like us to say that they're mid twenties. It sounds so old, but we remember the time traveling across the country, on family vacations in the car and hearing them say, are we there yet? Every parent, every grandparent has been there. And if you're prepared as a parent or grandparent, you're bringing along games like car bingo, or I spy maybe a sing some songs, or you tell some stories. And, and of course, if none of that works, mom pulls out,

2 (59s):

You know, the,

1 (1m 1s):

The ultimate game, right? Kids, we're now going to play the quiet game and that lasts for about 10 miles. And then you start hearing, I'm thirsty, I'm hungry. I need to go potty. Or, or in the Jones' car. It's usually dad who says, I need a Starbucks. And the kids have learned over the years that if you don't want to get dad to say, Hey dad, did you need a Starbucks? You know, and we'll, we'll pull over. We've all been there. Haven't we? But what happens when God's people start grumbling about life's journey? Well, welcome to the book of numbers found in the old Testament.

1 (1m 41s):

The fourth book in the Pentatude, the book of numbers is sometimes called the book of murmurings or the book of 40 years. Numbers, advances God's redemptive story. While telling the sad tale of the generation of Hebrews who died in the wilderness. Having never reached the promised land. They were poised to enter Canaan shortly after they came out of Egypt, they were right there, right on the edge of the promised land. God brought them there, but the children of Israel, according to the scripture, as soon fell into unbelief

2 (2m 17s):

Right after they came out of Egypt,

1 (2m 20s):

An 18th century hymn writer named Robert Briscoe summed up the experience of the children of Israel and perhaps your experience in my experience as well. When he said prone to wander Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God. I love in an honest moment, how many times have we said that about ourselves? Somebody once said that it took about 40 hours to get the Israelites out of Egypt and 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel. And this is the, the story of numbers. Let me give you the big theological idea to kind of get our thoughts and

our mind around it goes like this God's best.

1 (3m 4s):

And his most abundant life for us comes by faith. Certainly not my unbelief. Yes. I could flip that around and say that unbelief always hinders us from experiencing the blessings of the promised land. Now the new Testament has a lot to say about the book of numbers. There's a lot of reflection in the new Testament, and we'll go there on an excursion a little bit later, but Hebrews chapter three, for example, according to the writer, they're the generation that came out of Egypt and died in the wilderness. Having never entered into the promised land they did. So because they hardened their hearts and they fell into unbelief.

1 (3m 47s):

What are we to make of that? I think it's important for us when reading the Bible reading the book of numbers to remember that Canaan or the promised land, which is a real physical place on earth. The real land that God had promised Israel, but it also pictures for us, not heaven. It's not a picture of heaven. It's not a picture of what we gain when we receive eternal life. Rather, it's a picture of the abundant life that Jesus spoke of in John chapter 15, it's a picture of the victorious Christian life. Those who died in the wilderness didn't lose their salvation. On the contrary. First Corinthians chapter 10 tells us they all pass through the sea.

1 (4m 28s):

They were all baptized unto Moses and all of that. They all came out of Egypt. A picture of coming out of your bondage of sin and into salvation. However, from that generation that came out of Egypt, there

2 (4m 41s):

Were only two, only two

1 (4m 44s):

That made it into the promised land, to the abundance of blessings that God had promised to them. That was Joshua and Caleb, even Moses and Aaron died in the wilderness tragically because of an act of unbelief. This is a good time to remember the words of Jesus who said the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. And so as you read the book of numbers, keep in mind that God desires to give you a whole lot more than just eternal life. He wants to give you exceedingly more than you could ever possibly imagine.

1 (5m 25s):

It's something Jesus referred to as the abundant life we call it the victorious Christian life. Is it possible? Here's the question in numbers answers for it. Is it possible to possess eternal life through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ and completely miss the abundant life? The answer is absolutely just ask the generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt. A picture of our salvation experience, freedom from the bondage of sin, but who died the wilderness and never made it into the promised land. Conversely, is it possible for our

unbelief to thwart God's purpose, purpose purposes or to negate his promises in any way?

1 (6m 12s):

Absolutely not just ask Joshua and Caleb and the next generation of Israelites who took full possession of the promised land numbers reminds us that God's ways are always best friends, but we acquire his richest blessings the same way we receive eternal life.

2 (6m 35s):

And that's by faith. You see

1 (6m 38s):

Be eternal life by grace and through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. But guess what? Here's the secret to the Christian life, the abundant life, the victorious Christian life, whatever you want to call it. It also comes by grace through faith. Paul said to the Colossians, as you have received Christ Jesus, the Lord. So walk in him. How did you receive him by grace, through faith? How do you walk in him and experience the abundant life, those overflowing spiritual blessings, that God is so ready to pour into your life and mind you that's

2 (7m 10s):

My grace and through faith as well.

1 (7m 14s):

So let's dig a little bit deeper. And as we do, I want to give you a big picture of the book of numbers. It is a large book. It is 36 chapters, but broken down rather easily in the chart that I gave you in your notes there between kind of three groupings of people starting with the old generation, the old generation that came out of Egypt, a census is taken there, a numbering, and then you go to the end of the book chapters 21 to 36. There's a, the new generation is the focus in between there. What I call the waning generation. This is the generation that came out of Egypt that wandered and waned until all of them.

1 (7m 55s):

But two died in the wilderness. If you remember in our study of the book of Leviticus, where it Sinai and we stay there for the law and the instructions, but in numbers, we're on the move, starting from Sinai to a place called Kadish Barnea. And then all the years, the 38 plus years of wilderness wanderings. And then the new generation is back at Kadish Barnea they make it all the way to Moab, right? To the edge of the promised land, where eventually Joshua

2 (8m 26s):

And Caleb take them in

1 (8m 29s):

The book. Numbers gets its name. As you might guess, from two census taken. During the 40 years, Israel spent in the wilderness, the first census number, the generation that came out. And it's a rather tedious read from chapters one to chapter four, a lot of numbering there, and most estimate that there were anywhere from two to 3 million people who came out of Egypt, the second numbered, the next generation, these are the kids and the grandkids of the generation that came out of Egypt. This is the generation, of course, that eventually took possession of the promised land. Now, in one sense, the Lord was numbering the people for military purposes because after he numbers them, he orders them and he sets up a military formation there in the, in the desert.

1 (9m 19s):

But the other question arises, you know, why did God number the people? Why did he count them? Why the, the record of this tedious census? And although it may sound a bit cliché, it is an important lesson to understand from the book of numbers, God counts people because people count.

2 (9m 43s):

It's just that simple. He is a meticulous

1 (9m 48s):

Record-keeper and all the accountants out there are saying amen. Right? But no, he is a meticulous record-keeper and he cares enough to keep records of people, every person among the two to 3 million Israelites mattered to him. And guess what? You matter to him as well. Let's just pause and camp out on that thought for just a moment and do a little survey through the scriptures on just what kind of a record keeper God is and how he cares for you. And he cares for me consider the words of Jesus found in Luke chapter 12 are not five sparrows sold for two pennies and not one of them is forgotten before God.

1 (10m 28s):

Why? Even the hairs on your head are all numbered. Fear not. He says you are of more value than many sparrows king. David took comfort in knowing that God even kept a record of his sorrows. Listen to this from Psalm 56 in verse 18, you have kept count of my tossings. Put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in

2 (10m 51s):

Your book? Isn't that amazing

1 (10m 54s):

That God keeps a record of our sorrows and those nights when we toss and we turn and the tears that we shed, he even collects them in a bottle for remembrance, according to Psalm 139 and verse 16, get this. God keeps a record of our life. Starting before we are even born. David writes your eyes, saw my unformed substance in your book were written. Every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none

2 (11m 27s):

Of them,

1 (11m 29s):

The good shepherd knows every one of his sheep by name, according to John chapter 10, he also keeps a record of every word that comes out of our mouth. Listen to this. Jesus said in Matthew 12, I tell you on the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak, wow, what a record keeping that will be. And finally, God keeps a record of those who possess eternal life. How many of you have heard of something called the book of life? It's a heavenly ledger and we could go to many, many places in the new Testament where the book of life is mentioned. The question is, is your name written in the book of life?

1 (12m 9s):

Are you numbered among the redeemed? If not today is your day of salvation, place your faith and trust in the Lord. Jesus Christ. Make sure your name is written in the book of

2 (12m 19s):

Life. Well, in addition

1 (12m 22s):

To numbering the people, God ordered their encampment into kind of a military formation in the old Testament and they're in the wilderness and it was a quadrangular formation. And in the ordering of people, he demonstrates that he's a God of order, not of chaos. You can't miss that in the numbering, in the ordering, the Lord took 2 million people and divided them into 12 camps

2 (12m 48s):

And 12 tribes, including the Levi's rights. And

1 (12m 53s):

He put the tabernacle at the center of the formation. He put his presence at the center of their formation and he instructed Moses to position three tribes to the north and three tribes to the south three tribes to the east and the west. You got that quadrangular formation in your mind. There it's also a military formation because they were getting ready. They were right there at the edge of the promise that they were getting ready to March into the promised land and take possession of all that. God had promised them all of the covenant blessings that he had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were right there. It was there for their taking and this military formation.

1 (13m 33s):

If you can picture it in your mind was 12 miles square. No wonder Israel's enemies were growing a bit

concerned about what they saw there in the desert floor. God also directed their movements at that time through a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire

2 (13m 51s):

By night.

1 (13m 53s):

And the way it worked was well, when the pillar moved, the people moved. They are night when the pillar stayed in the same place, the people were to stay in the same place. And what it is here is a picture of God, blessing his people with his presence, the tabernacle in the middle of the formation and blessing them with order and direction in their

2 (14m 14s):

Life. What more could they ask for in the middle of the desert there? And as

1 (14m 20s):

I've been suggesting, God also positioned the children of Israel right there at the edge of the promised land. They had never been closer to seizing their destiny two years earlier, they had been in Egypt as slaves, but now they had every reason to count their blessings. Every reason to trust God, every reason to reach forward to what lies ahead for them. But tragically,

2 (14m 45s):

Everything fell apart after

1 (14m 48s):

God numbered them and ordered them and instructed the children of Israel. The people

2 (14m 53s):

Started grumbling and complaining

1 (14m 57s):

An unholy complaint arose in their spirits against God and Moses. I call it the grumble in

2 (15m 3s):

The jungle and

1 (15m 6s):

I get it from a world heavyweight boxing match that takes us back to 1974. In fact, October 20th, 1974, a boxing match that was staged in Kinshasa Zaire between George Foreman. Remember this, he was the

world heavyweight champion at the time, and it was this boxing match between George Foreman and Muhammad Ali. And somebody called it the rumble

2 (15m 34s):

In the jungle. And it was an incredible boxing match. Well,

1 (15m 39s):

About 3,500 years prior to that, you had the grumble in the jungle and it began in a place called Tamara, which means burning. Let's go in our Bibles to numbers, chapter 11

2 (15m 56s):

And find out why it was called burning

1 (15m 60s):

Numbers. 11 in verse, one says, and the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes. And when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses and Moses prayed to the Lord and the fire died down. So the name of that place was called to Berra because the fire of the Lord burned among them. Well, not only did the fire of the Lord blaze in his own heart because of Israel's complaining, but he literally lift their camp on fire.

1 (16m 45s):

He was

2 (16m 45s):

That angry. And why, how do you blame him? I

1 (16m 51s):

Mean, there's nothing worse than the nagging complaint of ungrateful people consider all that the Lord had done for them getting them out of the bondage of Egypt and how he had guided them even up to this point and numbered them and gave them his presence and instructed them and directed them, you know, through the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar

2 (17m 16s):

Of fire by night. But they, they grumbled, they complained, they murmured aren't we there yet. I'm hungry.

1 (17m 26s):

I'm thirsty. Moses prays for them. And every time Moses praise for the grumbling disobedient, unbelieving, Israelites, just remember the intercessory ministry of Jesus.

2 (17m 42s):

It's a picture of that. He prays

1 (17m 45s):

For them and the Lord mercifully quells, his anger.

2 (17m 50s):

He puts out the fire, not only in his own heart, but also in the camp. And you would

1 (17m 56s):

Think that would stop the grumbling, but it didn't this time a lusty disorderly mob rises up and complains about the bland food in the wilderness. Rita just continue on in verse four here. It says now the rabble that was among them. I love that word rabble. I looked it up. You know what? It means a mob, a disorderly

2 (18m 17s):

Mob.

1 (18m 20s):

Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving and the people of Israel also wept again and said, oh, that we had meat to eat. We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that costs nothing. The cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions in the garlic. But now our strength is dried up and there is nothing at all. But this manna to look at now, the manna was like coriander seed in its appearance like that of body Liam, the people went about and gathered it and ground it in the hand mills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. When the Dew fell upon the camp in the, in the night, the manna fell with it all the miracle of God and feeding the people there, right?

1 (19m 7s):

Verse 10, Moses heard the people weeping through their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. Now listen to this verse 10, the anger of the Lord blazed hotly and Moses was displeased. Grumble, grumble, grumble, complain, complain, complain. Murmur murmur, murmur ran, ran, ran, ran, ran just weighed heavily on the Lord's heart. The ungrateful complaint

2 (19m 34s):

Of the people, the message, which is a paraphrase of the scriptures by Eugene Peterson

1 (19m 42s):

Render verse 10. This way. Moses heard the whining, all those families whining in front of their tents. God's

anger, blazed up. And Moses saw

2 (19m 53s):

That things were in, in a bad way. Yeah. Ungrateful,

1 (19m 59s):

Unruly mob, just full of

2 (20m 1s):

A bunch of whiners. And that's true of any mob that arises just a bunch of whiners. And when the mob began to rule, that's when bad things started happening and the anger of the Lord blazed

1 (20m 18s):

The mob even became too much for Moses. Their constant complaining crushed his spirit. And we find Moses even complaining to God about the complainer's. He says, why have you dealt ill Lord with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight that you lay the burden of all this people on me? He goes on to say, I'm not able to carry all this people alone. The burden is too heavy for me. Moses even goes on in the next verse or two and asked the Lord to his own life. That's what grumpy bling and murmuring and complaining does for a leader. It just crushes the spirit. Moses was ready

2 (20m 58s):

To quit. And that's

1 (20m 60s):

When the Lord told him to pick 70 elders from among the leaders of the children of Israel help him. And he did. And they did, but even the elders could not silence the mob.

2 (21m 16s):

Eventually

1 (21m 17s):

The Lord gave the rebel what they demanded. He appointed a wind. Do you remember this story? A wind to bring quail from the sea and the birds fell to the ground and plenty for the people to eat and like ravenous wolves, they went out to the fields and they stuffed themselves full until the quail was coming out of their nostrils. Just like the Lord said it would, they load what they had lusted. And then the Lord sent a plague to strike the people down. And many from that old generation died in the wilderness. The Bible says with quail, between their teeth,

2 (21m 50s):

What a powerful,

1 (21m 51s):

Powerful picture, God named that place. He gave it a name, which means graves of craving. Because the people lusted after their former life in Egypt

2 (22m 1s):

And died, they died there in the wilderness. I

1 (22m 6s):

Would think it couldn't get any worse than this, but Moses is terrible. Horrible, no good, very bad day. God, even worse. And next came an uprising from two people, his own brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam. They challenged. Moses has the Lord spoken only through Moses, has he not spoken through us? Also, they ask rather presumptuously and the Lord heard them and he unleashed his anger. He took Aaron and Miriam out to the woodshed. And Aaron got the news real quickly. When he saw his sister Miriam's skin turned the leprous

2 (22m 45s):

Whew. The Lord was not happy. Yeah.

1 (22m 49s):

The Lord basically said to Aaron and Miriam don't mess with Moses. You mess with Moses and you mess with me. He's my chosen

2 (22m 56s):

Leader. And

1 (22m 59s):

Amazingly Moses

2 (23m 1s):

Graciously prays for his sister. And

1 (23m 6s):

The Lord says, okay, I'll heal. Her and her leprosy was healed, but not after she spent seven days on the outskirts of the camp. And all the children of Israel were to wait. They

2 (23m 19s):

Didn't move forward at all until Miriam, you know,

1 (23m 23s):

Served her her time outside. I did the camp

2 (23m 26s):

And came back tragically.

1 (23m 29s):

There is more to the grumble in the jungle. What happened next?

2 (23m 34s):

Sealed the fate

1 (23m 37s):

For an entire generation, that generation, and that came out of Egypt. By now, the children of Israel were positioned at the edge. The promised land in a place called Kadish Barnea numbers. Chapter 13, if you have your Bible open, look at it. It begins in verse one. The Lord spoke to Moses saying, send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel emphasis on which I am giving to the people of Israel. That was never in question. It was never in doubt, but he says, take one, spy each from the 12 tribes of Israel and send them out on this reconnaissance mission.

1 (24m 20s):

And for 40 days, they traveled deep into the region and brought back evidence of a land flowing with milk. And honey, just like the Lord said it would be. They brought back a stash of grapes, the size they had never seen. And when they return, they told Moses numbers, chapter 13, beginning of verse 27, we came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong in the cities are fortified and very large

2 (24m 53s):

While everything was

1 (24m 53s):

Going in the right direction until they dropped the word, however, into the intelligence report. And then that's where they poured all their negativity into it. They spoke with fear in their hearts and they, they emphasize the strong people in the fortified cities. We can't go up against them. There's no way we'll be successful. Now, Kayla later, Joshua who had a different

2 (25m 20s):

Spirit, they,

1 (25m 23s):

They tried to turn the report. Caleb did in a positive direction, beginning in verse 30 of chapter 13, but Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, let us go up at once and occupy it for, we are well able to overcome it. Then the men who had gone up with him said, we are not able to go up against the people for they're stronger than we are. So they brought to the people of Israel, a bad report of the land that they had spied out saying the land through which we have gone to spy it out as a land that devours its inhabitants and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

1 (26m 3s):

And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak who come from the Nephilim and we seemed ourselves like grasshoppers. And so we seem to them,

2 (26m 14s):

How

1 (26m 14s):

Could they see themselves like small grasshoppers when they served such a big God, how soon they had forgotten the big things God had done for them, the red sea and feeding them daily bread from heaven. There's only one word that describes their point of view. And it's a word we get from the commentary in the new Testament. It's the word, unbelief.

2 (26m 45s):

Faith

1 (26m 45s):

In God, mark it down. Friends always reaches forward to what lies ahead. No matter the obstacles. If God says go, if God says I gave it to you

2 (26m 55s):

And it's based upon my promises, you don't hesitate. You don't second. Guess you don't say, oh, I

1 (27m 4s):

I'm not able, of course you're not able,

2 (27m 6s):

But God is able. He said, I've already given it to you,

1 (27m 12s):

Mark it down in your memory book and write it on the tablets of your heart. Israel was neither a mob democracy, you know, mob rule, but nor was she a democracy where majority rules, they were a theocracy where God and God alone was their king and their ruler. And Moses was his representative. We can go on if we had time and we don't, but we could go on to talk about Cora's rebellion in chapter 16. And what happened at the waters of Meribah and chapter 20, read that on your own. Some time, the grumble in the jungle, it determined the fate for this generation of Israelites and from Kadish Barnea forward.

1 (27m 59s):

When the spies came back and the majority report set the tone, it was from that time forward, just two

2 (28m 7s):

Years in to their time in Egypt, that for the next 38

1 (28m 13s):

Years, that generation wandered aimlessly in the wilderness and never

2 (28m 19s):

Entered the promised land. That was for the next generation. Their unbelief did

1 (28m 27s):

Not forte God's purposes or hinder his promises. No God was marching on. And he always will. You're never going to stop God from doing what he's going to do, but he's always going to invite us to come along

2 (28m 40s):

And join him. And it takes faith to do that. Now sometimes on a, a vacation

1 (28m 49s):

And we're on route 66, right? We're on this journey through the scriptures, stopping off one book at a time, or think of a cruise. You might've been on where you, you port in a certain place. And they say, well, here are the excursions you can take today. Usually those excursions costs you a little bit more, but I want to take you on a new Testament excursion. It's not going to cost you anything more, right? It's all free of charge,

2 (29m 13s):

But the new Testament,

1 (29m 15s):

Well, what you find is, is a, is a plethora of commentary and reflection in the new Testament, upon the wilderness wanderings of old Testament, Israel and the lessons to learn from that as new Testament believers. So let's go on our Bibles on the first excursion into the new Testament book of Hebrews Hebrews

chapter three and beginning in seven, the writer of Hebrews talks about the wilderness wanderings. We have time to pick it up in verse 15, where he says, and he repeats as it is said today. If you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

1 (29m 56s):

As in the rebellion lesson, number one is don't harden, your heart, all that murmuring, all that grumbling, all that complaining all their area around it was calcifying. The

2 (30m 10s):

Hearts of the people do

1 (30m 13s):

Not harden your hearts. As in the rebellion for who were those who heard and rebelled. Wasn't not all those who left Egypt led by Moses and with whom was he provoked for 40 years? Was it not with those who sinned and whose bodies fell in the wilderness and to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient. So we see that we, that they were unable to enter because of <inaudible> belief. They were unable to enter, remember our big ideas that God's best and most abundant life for us comes by faith.

1 (30m 54s):

That's true of eternal life, right? How do you receive eternal life by grace and through faith in the Lord? Jesus

2 (31m 1s):

Christ. How do you experience the abundant life? The same way by

1 (31m 7s):

Grace and through faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ unbelief. Won't get you into heaven and unbelief will make sure that you don't experience the abundant Christian life and the victorious Christian life that God so desires

2 (31m 21s):

To give to us. So don't, don't

1 (31m 26s):

Harden your heart. You know, the heart is a tricky thing. Isn't it? The writer of Proverbs says to guard your heart wide because every step of disobedience, bigger, small, every time you say to God, no, I don't think I'm going to do that. Even though he's putting an opportunity to walk in faith with him in front of you. Every time we walk in disobedience, you know what it does,

2 (31m 51s):

It calcifies the heart. It hardens the heart and it, it stops

1 (31m 60s):

Any progress God is trying to make in your life. Some of you may be wondering, God, aren't we there yet? Why don't, why are we here? Things just don't seem to be working out for me. Did he bring to your remembrance, that little act of obedience that you sort of sloughed off six months ago or six years ago, maybe 16 years ago,

2 (32m 28s):

You won't move forward

1 (32m 30s):

Again, any progress in the Christian life until you go back to that place

2 (32m 36s):

And repent and take the steps of guarantee you that. So the

1 (32m 42s):

Warning from the new Testament reflection is, do not harden your heart the way to keep your heart soft and supple before the Lord is to always walk in obedience, do what he tells you to do

2 (32m 57s):

And to walk by faith.

1 (32m 58s):

Here's a second lesson to learn and that's to avoid presumption. Let's go to first Corinthians chapter 10 for more to new Testament reflection on the wilderness wanderings of the people of Israel. Paul does an incredible job summarizing the book of numbers, and then putting all of this before us, as examples he says in verse one for, I do not want you to be unaware brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea and all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink for that. For they drank from that spiritual rock that followed them.

1 (33m 40s):

And the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them, God was not pleased for, they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now, Paul goes on to say, these things took place as examples

2 (33m 56s):

For us. Oh, he rescues this

1 (33m 59s):

Story from three to 4,000 years of history and puts it on the front page of your newspaper. In mine. He says examples that we might not desire evil as they did, do not be idolaters. As some of them were, as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality. As some of them did. And 23,000 fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents nor grumble as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now, these things happen to them. Paul says, as an example, but they were written down for our instruction on whom the end of the ages has come.

1 (34m 45s):

You know, some things, well, all things we learned by example, sometimes positive examples. And sometimes you of have examples and here are all these negative examples from the book of numbers in the generation that came out of Egypt. It brings pause to our spirit a bit. Paul concludes this part where he says in verse 12 and he's summarizing. Therefore he says in light of this summary in light of what we learn about them in the old Testament book of numbers, let everyone who thinks that he stands take heed, lest he fall or to say it in another way, the fool is the one who says it never. It happened to me.

1 (35m 27s):

The fool is the one who says my heart will never grow hard and cold toward God. Even though I just kind of ignore this step of obedience over here, I should take

2 (35m 39s):

A void presumption. How presented I'm

1 (35m 44s):

Sure they're grumbling. Was there complaining, was there unbelief in their lack of faith? Was, oh, were they saved? Will they be in heaven? Sure. They all came out of Egypt, even Moses and Aaron, but even Moses and Aaron didn't make it to the promised

2 (36m 1s):

Land

1 (36m 3s):

Because Moses, for instance, the Lord told him to speak to a rock and the water would come out and he was so angry. He took a,

2 (36m 10s):

It, he struck the rock. He was a leader. The consequences were greater

1 (36m 17s):

Because of it. Moses is unbeliever in that moment. The Lord said, listen, pal, the best I can do for you is to give you a view of the promised land from the top of the mountain, but you won't enter. You'll die on this side,

2 (36m 27s):

The Jordan river. And so did Aaron.

1 (36m 32s):

It's one thing to fulfill the purpose for which God created you. It's another thing to reach your potential. Did the Israelites as a nation fulfill God's grand purpose and his promises, you know, move forward. Absolutely. Did this generation reach their potential?

2 (36m 51s):

No, they fell away short of it and never experienced those

1 (36m 58s):

Blessings flowing with milk and honey. Why? Because of their presumption and because of their unbelief. If last lesson is this, listen to this carefully, look

2 (37m 11s):

In faith

1 (37m 13s):

To the lifted up Jesus. Now this comes from numbers chapter 21, and then we'll go to the new Testament reflection, but a numbers chapter 21. Let me just summarize this. The people had reached Mount hor and they began complaining against same old song, different verse. We're tired of the man in the wilderness. We're hungry. We want to go back to Egypt this time, the Lord's anger, blazes against them. And he sent fiery serpents snakes into their camp. And it bit many of them and the Bible says many of them died in the wilderness

2 (37m 50s):

And

1 (37m 50s):

Moses prayed for them. Moses, the intercessor, a picture of Jesus in his intercessory ministry. And the Lord says, okay, I'll heal the people, but here's how we're going to do it. Moses. I want you to take some bronze into make a fiery serpent, put it on a pole and lift it up high in the camp and tell the people to look at the bronze serpent on the pole, lifted high in the camp and there'll be healed. And that's what he did. And that's

what they did. And the people were healed. And then we go to a new Testament reflection found in the gospel of John chapter three, that comes from the lips of Jesus. He's in a conversation with a religious leader named Nicodemus, who is confused about when Jesus says you must be born again.

1 (38m 31s):

Jesus clarifies that to him. And then he says in verse 14, that this as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. So must the son of man be lifted up that whoever believes in him may have eternal life

2 (38m 46s):

Numbers,

1 (38m 47s):

Chapter 21. And the serpent lifted up is our Christ connection. In the book of numbers. There are many of them, but that's the most significant one. And the one that Jesus pulls out of the book of numbers, when he's in a conversation with a religious leader named Nicodemus, just as Moses lifted up the serpent. So the son of man will be lifted up on a cross.

2 (39m 13s):

And whoever looks to me in faith

1 (39m 17s):

Will receive eternal life. That's John three, verses 14 and 15. You know what comes

2 (39m 21s):

Next? John three 16

1 (39m 26s):

For God. So loved the world that he gave. His only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have ever lasting life. When you read it in the context

2 (39m 38s):

That great gospel verse

1 (39m 42s):

And you see that Jesus was on the heels of a conversation that went back to the wilderness wanderings,

2 (39m 46s):

You go, wow, these really are stories

0 (39m 51s):

For us. So don't harden your heart, avoid presumptuous unbelief and look in faith to the lifted up. Jesus. Those are the lessons from numbers, friends, and I pray that we would all heed them today. Put them into practice today. You've been listening to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones for a complete list of resources available from Ron's ministry, visit [something good radio.org](http://somethinggoodradio.org).