



**“Do Everything without Grumbling”
Torah, Part 3: Numbers**

**Jared Smith
Melbourne Community Church
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What will we learn?

- ❖ Grumbling doesn't work out well for anyone
- ❖ We should believe the promises of God
- ❖ Greed leads to destruction

First Five Books:

- ❖ Torah = law or instruction (Hebrew)
- ❖ Pentateuch = five books (Greek)
- ❖ Law (+ prophets) = NT name for OT

Torah (Pentateuch)

- ❖ Genesis
- ❖ Exodus
- ❖ Leviticus
- ❖ Numbers
- ❖ Deuteronomy

Sources

- ❖ **MCC website sermon archives**
 - ❖ **Genesis (since 2016 in three parts)**
 - ❖ **Exodus (9-10 years ago)**
- ❖ **YouTube channels**
 - ❖ **Bible Project**
 - ❖ **Bentley Brothers**

Genesis

- ❖ **Origins (1-11)**
- ❖ **Patriarchs (12-36)**
 - ❖ **Abraham**
 - ❖ **Isaac**
 - ❖ **Jacob**
- ❖ **Joseph (37-50)**

Genesis themes:

- ❖ **Origins – creation, work, family, sin, murder, cities**
- ❖ **Holiness**
- ❖ **Covenants – Noah, Abraham, Moses (Sinai)**
- ❖ **Blessing**
- ❖ **Reversal – barren women, younger sons**

Genesis and Jesus

- ❖ Genesis 3:15 (the serpent's curse)
- ❖ Genesis 49:8-12 (Judah's blessing)
- ❖ Old Covenants foreshadow New Covenant

Exodus

- ❖ **Escape from Egypt (1-18)**
- ❖ **Law and Tabernacle (19-40)**

Exodus themes

- ❖ Deliverance
- ❖ Covenant
- ❖ Tabernacle
- ❖ Prophetic leadership

Exodus and Jesus

- ❖ **Passover**
- ❖ **Song of the Sea (Exodus 15)**
- ❖ **Mercy and justice (Exodus 31:6-7)**

Leviticus outline [1]

- ❖ **Sacrifice = the way to approach God (1-16)**
 - ❖ **Sacrifices / priesthood / uncleanness / Day of Atonement**

Leviticus outline [2]

- ❖ Separation = the walk of holiness (17-27)
 - ❖ Laws on sacrifices, eating meat, covenant morality, nonconformity, priestly and sacrificial holiness, feasts, ceremonial and moral regulation, special years, vows, gifts and tithing / blessings or curses

Leviticus outline [3]

- ❖ 1-7: rituals
 - ❖ 8-10: priesthood
 - ❖ 11-15: purity laws
 - ❖ 16-17: Day of Atonement
 - ❖ 18-20: purity laws
 - ❖ 21-22: priesthood
- ❖ 22-27: rituals

Leviticus themes:

- ❖ Holiness of God vs. sinfulness of humanity
- ❖ Greater responsibility of spiritual leaders
- ❖ Atonement = God's grace to sinful humanity
- ❖ The Law

Leviticus and Jesus:

- ❖ Jesus is the faithful covenant partner.
- ❖ Atonement is accomplished through blood sacrifice.

Leviticus and Jesus:

- ❖ The sacrificial system has ceased, because Jesus fulfilled the law once and for all.
- ❖ What is the greatest commandment?
 - ❖ Love God (Deuteronomy).
 - ❖ Love your neighbor (Leviticus).

Title

- ❖ **Numbers = English from Greek because of the censuses**
- ❖ **In the Wilderness = Hebrew from the fifth word of the book**

Story of Redemption

- ❖ Red Sea/Escape from Egypt = Salvation
- ❖ Promised Land = Heaven
- ❖ In the Wilderness = everything in between

Outline

- ❖ Exodus 19:1 – Numbers 10:10 (including all of Leviticus) ~ Law giving at Sinai
 - ❖ 10:11 – 12:16 ~ Travel from Sinai to Kadesh
- ❖ 13:1 – 19:22 ~ Law giving at Kadesh
 - ❖ 20:1 – 22:1 ~ Travel from Kadesh to the Plains of Moab
- ❖ 22:2 – 36:13 ~ Law giving at the Plains of Moab

Gordon Wenham

“Theologically, these cycles exemplify the principle of typology: history repeats itself, with variation, of course, because it is based on two factors which do not change: God’s character and man’s sinfulness.”

Numbers Themes

- ❖ Land
- ❖ Descendants
- ❖ Covenantal relationship with God
- ❖ Blessing to the nations

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

Romans 8:34

**Christ Jesus who died — more than that,
who was raised to life — is at the right hand
of God and is also interceding for us.**

Numbers 11:18-19

“Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days,

Number 11:20

“but for a whole month — until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it — because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?””

Numbers 11:21-22

But Moses said, “Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, ‘I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!’ Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?”

Numbers 11:23

The LORD answered Moses, “Is the LORD’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you.”

Numbers 11:29

“Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

Numbers 14:11-12

The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

Numbers 14:13-14

Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, LORD, are with these people and that you, LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them,

Numbers 14:14-16

“and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ‘The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

Numbers 14:17-18

“Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ‘The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’

Numbers 14:19

“In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

Numbers 14:20-22

The LORD replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times —

Numbers 14:23

not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

Joshua 13:22

In addition to those slain in battle, the Israelites had put to the sword Balaam son of Beor, who practiced divination.

2 Peter 2:13-14

They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed — an accursed brood!

2 Peter 2:15-16

“They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey — an animal without speech — who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

What have we learned?

- ❖ Grumbling doesn't work out well for anyone
- ❖ We should believe the promises of God
- ❖ Greed leads to destruction



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper



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