

## LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 Sept 2025	Numbers 01-09	The Journey
2) 14 Sept	Numbers 10-12	Provision
3) 21 Sept	Numbers 13	The Land
4) 28 Sept	Numbers 14	Rebellion and Judgement
5) 05 Oct	Numbers 15-20	Lack of Trust
6) 12 Oct	Numbers 21-27	God's Plan
7) 19 Oct	Numbers 28-36	Instructions Given
8) 26 Oct	Deuteronomy 01-04	Remember
9) 02 Nov	Deuteronomy 05-06	Love
10) 09 Nov	Deuteronomy 07-18	Undivided Worship
11) 16 Nov	Deuteronomy 19-28	Covenant Relationship
12) 23 Nov	Deuteronomy 29-30	Fully Committed
13) 30 Nov	Deuteronomy 31-34	God's Power

## INTRODUCTION

- Far too often traditions become the basis for us believing in things not found in Scripture or they become sacred cows.
- A talking donkey – Was this a myth or a miracle?
  - How do you defend your faith when skeptics can legitimately question such strange occurrences and ask us to “prove it”?
- Apologetics to the Rescue...
  - Apologetics is the study and practice of giving answers for the reasonableness and truth of the Christian faith. The word comes from the Greek apologia and means “to give a defense.” In **1Peter 3:15** Christians are commanded to give an apologia to anyone who asks the reason for the hope that lies within us.
- The best defense when defending the Bible is ALWAYS START WITH THE BIBLE. Apologetics include:
  - Critical Thinking (ask the hard questions)
  - Logic and reason (based on absolute truth)
  - Presuppositions and Biases (ours and theirs)
  - Check it out: <https://answersingenesis.org/apologetics/>

Passage	Comments		
Numbers 21:1-8	<b>A New Generation Rises Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv1-3. They were ready to fight and not cower away               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They were ready to obey and not grumble</li> <li>...until they got to verse 4, where the older generation still complained about leaving Egypt</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv6-9. God sent fiery serpents to correct and restore               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The remedy involved looking at the upraised serpent</li> <li>Symbolic of looking to the crucified Lord for salvation</li> <li>BUT why a SNAKE? Is there a reference to Satan?</li> <li><b>Note:</b> Hezekiah, ~500 years later, destroyed the bronze serpent after it became an idol..... <b>2Kings 18:4</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Any Modern-Day Sacred Cows?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Altar Call?</li> <li>Dress codes?</li> <li>Use of Technology?</li> <li>The order of service?</li> <li>Flowers in Sanctuary?</li> </ul> </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church committees?</li> <li>Pews vs chairs?</li> <li>Music? Choir?</li> <li>Evening service?</li> <li>Others?</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Altar Call?</li> <li>Dress codes?</li> <li>Use of Technology?</li> <li>The order of service?</li> <li>Flowers in Sanctuary?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church committees?</li> <li>Pews vs chairs?</li> <li>Music? Choir?</li> <li>Evening service?</li> <li>Others?</li> </ul>
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21:9-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v35. “So they killed him (Og) &amp; his sons &amp; all his people until there was no one left alive – and they took his land”</li> <li>Again, how do we answer the skeptics when they query us about the annihilation of entire people groups by God's people at His command?</li> <li><b>First, recall this:</b> God told the Jews to wipe out the inhabitants of Israel for their horrific and unrepentant sins of adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, child sacrifice, sorcery and brutality (cf <b>Lev 18; Deut 9:4; 12:31; 18:14</b>)</li> <li><b>Then consider this:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God would love to see the wicked repent..... <b>2Pet 3:9</b></li> <li>BUT His patience does have an end..... <b>Hos 1:6</b></li> <li>He even vents His wrath on His own people once they sin exceedingly..... <b>Ezek 9:10</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Passage	Comments
Numbers 22:1-5	<b>Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balak “saw” that Israel had totally annihilated his neighbors, the Amorites, and his turn was next</li> <li>What would you do to survive a genocidal onslaught?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would you run away (but what if your friends &amp; family could not flee with you)?</li> <li>Would you fight to the last man?</li> <li>Would you hire mercenaries to fight with you?</li> <li>Would you leave no stone unturned and hire a seer who had the uncanny ability to curse your enemies?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22:6-41	<b>A Talking Donkey Teaches Balaam about God</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v6. Balaam was a non-Jewish seer/prophet/diviner who had a reputation of successfully cursing or blessing people. <b>But, was Balaam saved?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True, God “came to Balaam” but God also conversed with other unrighteous people</li> <li>Balaam recognized God, but he preferred the wages of unrighteousness..... <b>2Peter 2:15, Jude 11; Rev 2:14</b></li> <li>v18. In Balaam's favor, he did refer to God as his God</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv28-30. Did that donkey really talk? Did a serpent really talk with Eve? Did God create the universe in six 24-hour days about 6000 years ago? Did men really live almost 1000 years? Was there really a global flood? Did the sun really stand still during the time of Joshua? Did the sun really move backwards during the reign of Hezekiah? Was Jesus really born of a virgin? Did Jesus really walk on water? And did Jesus really rise from the dead?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering sound principles of linguistics, biblical hermeneutics, and all those events were written in historical prose and not as allegorical stories..... <b>YEP!</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Note: God conversed with other unrighteous people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God told Cain to watch his attitude or sin would master him..... <b>Gen 4:7</b></li> <li>God told King Abimelech to return Sarah back to Abraham..... <b>Gen 20:3</b></li> <li>God gave the Witch of Endor a vision of Samuel..... <b>1Sam 28:12</b></li> <li>God told Nebuchadnezzar he would lose his sanity..... <b>Dan 4:5, 31-32</b></li> </ul>
	<b>Other Strange Occurrences in the Bible:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking snake (Satan)..... <b>Gen 3:15; Rev 12:9 &amp; 20:2</b></li> <li>Men living nearly 1,000 years..... <b>Genesis 11</b></li> <li>Resurrection of the dead (10)..... <b>1Ki 17:17-24; 2Ki 4:32-37; 2Ki 13:20, 21; Lu 8:51-55; 7:11-15; Jn 11:41,42; 10:18; Mat 27:52; Acts 9:39-42; 20:9,10</b></li> <li>Sun stood still for 24 hours..... <b>Joshua 10:12-14</b></li> <li>Sun going backwards during Hezekiah's day..... <b>2Kings 20:8-11</b></li> <li>Jacob's spaceship..... <b>Gen 28:12</b></li> <li>Ezekiel's spaceship..... <b>Ezekiel 1:15-28</b></li> <li>Jonah swallowed by a “fish” for 3 days..... <b>Jonah 1:17-2:10</b></li> <li>Virgin Birth..... <b>Mat 1, Luke 1</b></li> <li>Countless healings by Jesus and His Apostles/Disciples..... <b>Mat-Acts</b></li> <li>Talking statue with the ability to kill..... <b>Rev 13:15</b></li> </ul>

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**"I'M NOT CRAZY. THE DONKEY TALKED!  
I TELL YOU, IT TALKED!"**

Passage	Comments	Passage	Comments
	<b>Reasonable Substantiation vs Reasonable Doubt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the Bible has proven to be reliable in many other incidences (historically, archeology, astronomy, behavior sciences, etc.) we should give it some leeway when unprovable incidences are given</li> <li>Can the resurrection be scientifically proved? Only by accepting mathematical probability of prophetic fulfillment in Jesus Christ</li> <li>Can the resurrection be historically verified ..... Yes</li> <li>...Beyond all doubt? ..... No</li> <li>...Beyond reasonable doubt? ..... Yes</li> </ul> <b>Side Note:</b> The Christian faith is not a blind faith. Unlike every other religion in the world, including atheism, our faith is based on reliable, historical, and/or scientific substance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Historical Fact #1.</b> We have more historical evidence that Jesus lived (10 secular sources) than we do of Jesus' contemporaries, Tiberius Caesar (only 4 historical sources) &amp; Augustus Caesar (8)</li> <li><b>Scientific Fact #1.</b> Mathematical probability of just 10 out of 365 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled and referring to anyone else other than Jesus Christ is nil</li> <li><b>Scientific Fact #2.</b> Cosmological and teleological arguments and evidence for a logical design of the universe and for life on earth give credence to God's existence (Src: "I don't have Enough Faith to be an Atheist", Geisler &amp; Turek)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv10-13. And Phinehas took matters into his own hands and stopped the plague by slaying 2 fornicators, and he received a covenant of perpetual priesthood from God               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is God so militant against immoral behavior?</li> <li>Should we take immoral behavior more seriously?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe. HOW should we do this?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>vv17-18. God said, "Be hostile toward the Midianites"               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall the Midianites were Moses' in-laws ..... <a href="#">Exodus 3:1</a></li> <li>Who has priority in our lives? God or family?</li> <li>Recall in <a href="#">Exodus 32:26-28</a> – The Levites, who chose to serve God, slew about 3,000 of their own idolatrous kinsmen throughout the camp. Family relationships did not matter. The wicked were to be destroyed.</li> <li>What is the principle for us to glean from all this?</li> <li><b>Consider this:</b> If God is not in 1<sup>st</sup> place, He is last. God is a jealous God.....<a href="#">Deut 6:15</a>; <a href="#">Josh 24:19</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
23:1-29 24:1-25	<b>Balaam's Blessings on Israel</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Israel will always be a segregated people</li> <li>Israel will conquer their enemies</li> <li>Israel will be a prosperous and peaceful nation</li> <li>Israel will produce a mighty King</li> </ol>	Numbers 26:1-65	<b>vv1-2, 51. It is Time to Count Again</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>601,730 men were counted over 20 years of age</li> <li>40 years earlier they had 603,550 (1,820 difference)</li> <li>The largest loss was in the tribe of Simeon (22,200 – 59,300 = a loss of 37,100); Issachar had the largest gain (64,300 – 54,400 = 9,900) ..... cp 1<sup>st</sup> census, <a href="#">Num 1</a></li> </ul> <b>vv52-56. Divide the Land by Lot</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casting of the lot is in God's hand.....<a href="#">Prov 16:33</a></li> <li><b>Note:</b> The casting of the lot was at God's direction, so, don't go off rolling dice &amp; laying down fleeces thinking we can discern God's will as they did. Recall <a href="#">Heb 1:1-2</a>, "God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways" - but today, God is operating differently</li> </ul>
Numbers 24:15-16	<b>The Oracle of Balaam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God used a heathen prophet for His own bidding</li> <li>God actually forced Balaam to comply ..... <a href="#">Josh 24:10</a> (God channels the king's heart like water, <a href="#">Pr 21:1</a>)</li> <li>Balaam, a Midianite prophet/diviner, was used by God to bless Israel and to thwart Israel's enemy</li> <li>Balaam did God's bidding for a while before greed took over ..... <a href="#">2Peter 2:15</a>; <a href="#">Jude 1:11</a></li> <li>v16. "The oracle of him who hears the words of God"               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though a non-Jew, was Balaam a true believer?</li> <li>"...they professed to know God, but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" ..... <a href="#">Titus 1:16</a></li> <li>So, people can know the Christmas story, but that doesn't make them a Heaven-bound saint</li> <li>To Balaam's credit, recall that he did refer to God as "his God", so we might see him in Heaven ..... <a href="#">22:18</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	27:1-23	<b>Daughters of Zelophehad had a Valid Complaint</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v5. Moses brought their complaint to God, and God ruled in their favor – Let them inherit Dad's estate               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle #1. God is flexible and fair ..... <a href="#">Ps 9:8</a></li> <li>Principle #2. Land stays within the family.. <a href="#">Lev 25:10</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>vv15-23. Time for New Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God did not pick a leader from the younger generation</li> <li>Instead, God chose Joshua, the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest person in Israel. He had personal experience of the Exodus, he was an accomplished military leader, he knew the enemy from his spying days, but his strongest qualification was his indomitable faith in God.</li> </ul>
24:17-19	<b>"A Star and a Scepter shall Arise from Israel"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v17. God gives a greedy prophet a special revelation about the future Messiah ..... WHY?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God can use anyone – believer or non-believer</li> <li>Consider the woman at the well and her impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv18-19. Edom &amp; Seir (Moab) shall be a possession of Israel (fulfilled by David in history, <a href="#">1King 11:15,16</a> and by Christ in mystery – <a href="#">Obadiah 1:18</a>; <a href="#">Rev 19:21</a>)</li> </ul>		
25:1-18	<b>Balaam's Legacy – 24,000 Died</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Rev 2:14</a> conveys that Balaam told King Balak how to defeat Israel – through idolatry &amp; immorality (i.e., befriend them, intermingle, and intermarry)</li> <li>vv1-5. God said in essence, "Slay all the immoral leaders"               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we apply this today?</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv6-9. ...and 24,000 other Israelites died for their idolatrous and immoral behavior.</li> </ul>		

### CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God, being a jealous God, desires 1<sup>st</sup> place in our lives.
- Idolatry and adultery seem to be sins God reserves His highest retribution. God had no problem wiping out Noah's generation, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Canaanites, and even His own children (Israel) when they forsook Him and delved into sexual immorality.

**NEXT WEEK: Numbers 28-36.** In these last chapters, we cover over 260 verses dealing with sacrifices and offerings, change of leadership, equitable land distribution, rights of inheritances, fasting, dividing war booty, making vows, executing vengeance, genocide, consequences of rash judgments, capital punishment, and possibly how to address war-induced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – so hang on.

No one has been hurt more by the church than Jesus but he still shows up.