



Into The Wilderness

Numbers 1:1

Overview

- The book of Numbers does not really have a beginning or an ending.
- Numbers is a continuation of God dealing with His people that started in Genesis.
- The book of Numbers starts out in the wilderness, and it ends up in the wilderness.
- The book of Numbers begins about a year after God had delivered the nation of Israel out of 400 years of Egyptian slavery.

Betweeners

- The Israelites were between the Exodus and the Promised Land; they were 'Betweeners'.
- We, too, are 'Betweeners,' living between salvation accomplished and salvation completed.
- God did not bring them out of Egypt to dump them in the desert; He was there with them.
- The people of Israel were constantly tempted to doubt that there was a Promised Land.
- Like the Israelites, our greatest temptation is to forget the end goal.

Wandering

- Today, we are tempted to believe that the wilderness we see is all there is.
- There is a Guiding Hand who knows where we are and where He is taking us.
- We must believe the reality of God's plan for our lives even when we cannot see it with our eyes.
- The first-generation Israelites only believed what their eyes saw and distrusted what God told them.
- The first-generation Israelites abandoned God, missed the promised land, and died in the wilderness.

This Is Not Our Home

- The reason we grumble about the conditions and the accommodations of this life is because we forget that this is not our real home!
- We are so used to being in the wilderness we think that is all there is.
- We have been conditioned by the world to reject God!
- This world is NOT our home!
- We were not made for this world; we were made for heaven!

Centering Our Life

- We must remember that God is right here with us.
- The function and purpose of the “Tabernacle” was to be a place of communication from God to man.
- God speaks and gives direction to our lives.
- How do we center our lives around God:
 - Seek His face on a daily basis.
 - Read His Word.
 - Gather together with other believers.
- Isolated believers get lost and die alone in the desert.
- If God is not the center of our lives, the wilderness will look more real than the promised land.

Conclusion

- Someday our wilderness walk is going to end, and we are going to arrive at the promised land of rest.
- Jesus is already there, and He promised that where He is, we will be forever.
- Jesus' destiny is our destiny.