

An Outline of Numbers

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- I. The Unbelieving Generation (1–25)
 - A. Census of the first generation (1)
 - B. Preliminary instructions for the first generation (2–10)
 1. Concerning the arrangement of the camp around the tabernacle (2)
 2. Concerning priests, cleanness, and celebrations (3–10:10)
 3. Israel departs from Sinai (10:11–36)
 - C. Failures of the first generation (11–25)
 1. Complaining (11–12)
 - a. About misfortunes (11:1–3)
 - b. About God’s provision (11:4–35)
 - 1) The complaints of the people (4–15)
 - a) The mixed-multitude complain about God’s provision (4–9)
 - b) Moses complains about God’s will (10–15)
 - 2) The response of God (16–35)
 - a) God promises to provide (16–23)
 - b) God judges appropriately (24–35)
 - c. About leadership (12:1–16)
 2. Lack of faith (13–14)
 - a. Ten spies lack faith (13)
 - 1) The selection of the spies (13:1–20)
 - 2) The journey of the spies (13:21–25)
 - 3) The report of the spies (13:26–33)
 - b. The people who lack faith and the person who is zealous for God’s glory (14)
 - 1) The crowd scene: people who lack faith (14:1–10)
 - 2) The intercession scene: a person who is zealous for God’s glory (14:11–25)
 - 3) The Yahweh speech scene (14:26–38)
 - 4) The rebellion scene (14:39–45)
 3. Interlude—a glimmer of hope: laws about sacrifices in the new land (15)
 4. Rebellion (16–19)
 5. Anger (20)
 6. Impatience (21)
 7. Immorality & Idolatry—The Balak-Balaam Story (22–25)
 - II. The Believing Generation (26–36)
 - A. Census of the second generation (26)
 - B. Reasons for hope (27)
 - C. Instructions about offerings and vows for the second generation (28–30)
 - D. Instructions about possession of the land (31–36)
 1. The distribution of Midian to Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh’s tribe (31–32)
 2. The borders of the new land (33–34)
 3. The cities for the Levites and refuge (35)
 4. The case of female heirs who desire to marry—the daughters of Zelophehad again (36)

