


## WHY NUMBERS?

THE BOOK DERIVES ITS NAME FROM THE "COUNTING OF THE MANPOWER OF THE NATION"

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### PASS THROUGH THE WILDERNESS QUICKLY

The LXX title for the book is "Numbers" [αριθμοι]—this is equivalent to the Hebrew "Lift up the heads." That expression is hardly a better title to convey the purpose of the book to the wider world. The Hebrew name of the book is רבדמב which simply means "In the wilderness". We do well to take our cue from the Hebrew name and study the lessons to be derived from the tribes temporarily lost (spiritually) in the wilderness. Many a Christian life meanders in the wilderness of this world too long and circuits round and round just like Israel did in KADESH. Let us learn from this book to "move on with God" and to value obedience to HIS will and word. For the believer it is of utmost relevance not to linger in by-path meadow or Vanity Fair-but to continue steadfast on the narrow way gaining new heights and living in victory. This volume of O.T. History will be a reliable guide to that end.

### THIS IS HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

In Chapters 1 and 26 we read the findings of two censuses of Israel -the first in the second month after leaving Egypt and the second at the end of the fortieth year of wandering. *In Exodus 28.36 we have the first census the count with identical figures and in Numbers 26.51 we have the second and the number of able-bodied men is down by just under 2000 to 601,730 from 603,550. That is quite remarkable when we take into account life in the desert with its austerity and the plagues and daily deaths that were a matter of course in that time. It was in the wilderness that children grew up who became the warriors who would accompany Joshua into Canaan. The LORD grows up his children in many an austere setting to prepare them for victory and service in the days ahead.*

### THE SPEECHES OF GOD TO MOSES

Another way of utilising the book is to study what God said to Moses at every juncture of the journey of the tribes. That famous word on the "Serpent in the wilderness" is among these statements. There are 60 other speeches to meditate upon -all of which formed part of the day to day converse of Moses and the LORD.

### MEEKNESS

In 12.3 You will read "Moses was very "meek". The word can also mean "afflicted" Moses was willing to bear affliction with the people of God-this is his enduring testimony. (Hebrews 11.25) In one sense Moses wrote his biography in one word "Meek" or "Afflicted" Some think another penned this word or these immediate lines but I do not concur. The troubles Moses endured set him alongside the great of all ages and make him a Christ-like figure of the O.T. Scripture says "A prophet like unto YOU I will raise up".

### PROPHETIC TORAH

There are numerous pointers to Christ in the books of Moses. Torah means "to point" and the directional intent of Moses thinking and writing is toward the prophet God would ultimately send-the Messiah-the one anointed to serve in meekness and to bear HIS people on HIS heart-even to death. You will find over 40 such **TORAH pointers** highlighted in the commentary and there are more. From each you will learn precious lesson concerning our redeemer.

### BALAAM

The chapters on the story of Balaam make most interesting reading. In the light of mention of that SPIRITIST false teacher in Jude and Revelation we need to become conversant with his strategy

because it is the strategy especially favoured and practiced by our Adversary and his agents in these last days.

### **COMMENTATOR'S REMARKS**

I do believe you will find much to profit you spiritually in this book and the eleven topics themselves give you a foretaste of what you can expect. Here they are:-

The wilderness experience

Raised from the prison house

Lift the Light

Send spies!

The danger of Cold Rebellion

Ever ready forgiveness-the Red Heifer

Balaam defeated

PHINEAS, the writer

The Growth of God's family

Up stakes-moving on

I heartily commend the commentary to the reader and hope that time and again you will have recourse to it as a resource to be treasured.

Please note that should the Hebrew words embedded in the text not read properly you will need to download HEBRAICA II or any similar HEBREW font.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Bob Coffey*

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