

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

THE NUMBERS OF THE PSALMS

The book of Numbers accents the themes of obedience and the patience provision and persistence of God with His grumbling people. The 17 psalms of this book begin with Moses who teaches us “to number” our days. In Psalm 95 about half way through the selection we are told that “forty years” of desert doubt is more than enough-and the call is to “enter Canaan” in our living. Again in Psalm 105 we are told to “forget the wilderness” and obey the LORD with rejoicing.

The book of Numbers emphasises the nature and faithfulness of God and His patience provision and persistence as stated above. Here is a short volume of Psalms enforcing the lessons of God’s loving kindness in all these ways. In Psalm 91 God soars on eagles wings to help us; in psalm 94 we are reminded of His sovereignty; in Psalm 97 His judgment is followed by happiness as at the entrance to Canaan.

God is faithful (Psalm 98); God is holy and forgiving (Psalm 99); God is love (Psalm 103). The section ends by calling on the Jewish reader “not to forget” God’s miracles and mercy. The persistent call of these psalms is for “obedience”.

These are good psalms through which to learn more about God’s nature and more about ourselves and how we can become more like Caleb and Joshua - men and women of faith - to enter the Canaan of God’s promise and live Christ-like clad in the armour of God for there are giants in the land but we are not to fear them but wholly follow after the LORD.

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To the glory of the Lord
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