

# On the Road and Back Again

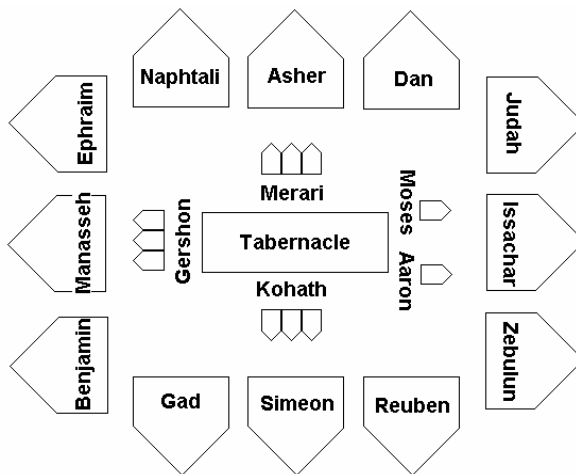
## Lesson Eight

Numbers 20, 21, 22-24, 27; Deuteronomy 1-34; Joshua 1-5, 6, 7, 10-24

As noted in the material from the last lesson, the book of Numbers gets its name because of the census lists included in it. Numbers 1:46 indicates that over 600,000 men left Egypt on their way to the promised land. If women and children are added to that figure, the numbers of people in the desert would be well over one million and even as high as two million. Moving millions of people and taking care of them took a lot of organization. The way the people were divided was according to family lines. Remember that Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph's two sons were also counted as sons of Jacob. They would be counted in place of Joseph. This means there were thirteen tribes into which the people could be divided. A person would be included in the tribe of his ancestor. If a man could trace his lineage from Reuben, then he would be in the tribe of Reuben.

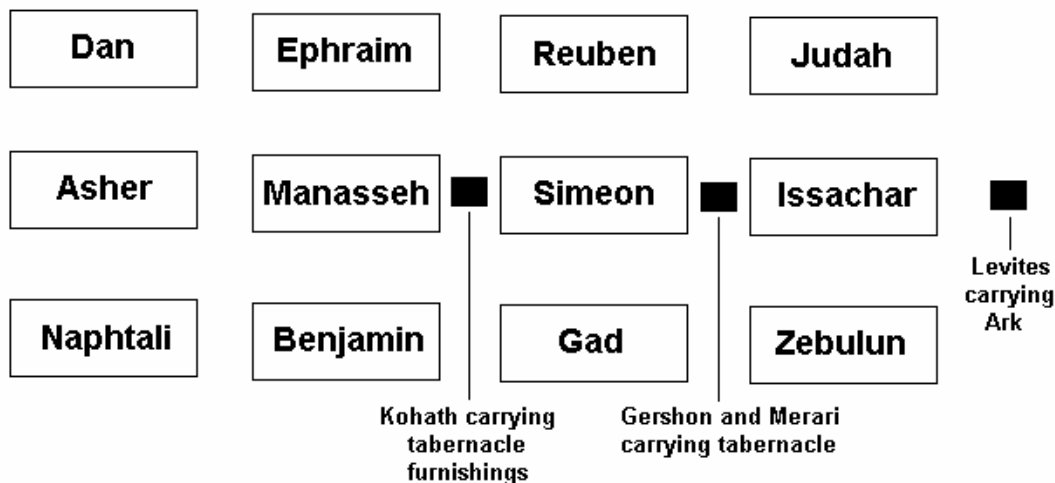
This arrangement of the people into thirteen groups gave an order to the Israelites. They would camp according to the groups; and when they would break camp to move, they would move out in an arranged order according to the groups. Look at the charts below to see how the people camped and the order in which they broke camp.

The tribe of Levi encamped around the tabernacle. They were divided according to the three sons of Levi--Merari, Gershon, and Kohath.



*Arrangement of Camp*

*Order for Breaking Camp*



## THE WATER OF MERIBAH AND THE BRAZEN SERPENT

Numbers 20, 21

Grumbling and rebellion continued among the Israelites as they roamed in the desert. Even Moses would rebel against God and suffer punishment. **Read Numbers 20:1-13** to find out how all of this comes about. (Slide 1)

Who is Miriam? Moses' sister

Where does she die? Kadesh

What are the people complaining about? No water

Have they ever complained about this before? yes

What does the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do? Speak to the rock

Moses does two things wrong in obtaining water for the people. What are they?

1.) Moses takes credit 2.) Moses hits the rock twice

What is the punishment? Cannot enter the Promised Land

Some time later as the people moved from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor, the first part of the fulfillment of the punishment comes true.

*And the Lord said to Moses, "Aaron shall not enter into the land which I have given to the children of Israel. Take Aaron up onto Mount Hor, and he shall die there." 2 And they went up onto Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. And Aaron died there at the top of the mount. And all the congregation mourned for Aaron thirty days.*

Moses will live until the people are ready to enter the Promised Land. In the mean time, the people are still given to rebellion and grumbling. **Read Numbers 21:4-9** for the details. (Slide 3)

About what do the people complain this time? No water or food

What does the Lord send? Poisonous snakes

Do the people repent of their grumbling? yes

What does the Lord tell Moses to do? Make a bronze snake and put it on a pole

What are the people who have been bitten supposed to do? Look at the snake and they will live

This episode is a "type" of a New Testament occurrence. Who was raised on a piece of wood so that those who believe in Him will be saved from eternal death? Jesus

## BALAAM

Numbers 22-24

*The children of Israel camped in the Plain of Moab. 4 And Moab was very afraid of the people. And Balak was king of the Moabites at that time. He sent messengers, therefore, to Balaam saying, "Come, curse this people; for they are too mighty for me; for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."*

*And the elders of Moab and Midian came to Balaam and spoke the words of Balak. And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." And Balaam said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land; for the Lord refuses to give me permission to go with you."*

*And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honorable. And Balaam said, "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord, my God. Stay here this night, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me." And God came to Balaam and said, "Go with them; but the word which I shall say to you, that shall you do." And Balaam went with the princes of Moab.*

Although God speaks to Balaam, it is not to be assumed that Balaam is a believer in God as sovereign ruler of the universe. Balaam sees the God of Israel as simply one other deity with whom he must deal.

God knows the true nature of Balaam and is not pleased with him as he begins his journey with the messengers of the king of Moab. **Read Numbers 22:21-35** and discover the very unusual way in which the Lord confronts Balaam.

Does Balaam see the angel at first? no

What sees the angel? The donkey

How many times does Balaam beat the donkey? three

What unusual event happens after the last beating? Donkey talks

What explanation does the angel give for the unusual behavior of the donkey? She was saving Balaam's life

Does Balaam continue on his journey? yes

Why do you suppose this episode took place? To convince Balaam that he should take this task seriously

*And on the next day Balak took Balaam and brought him up into the high place of Baal, that he might see the most part of the people. And the Lord put a word into Balaam's mouth; and he took up his parable and said, **5** "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should change His mind. Has He spoken and then not acted? Or has He promised and not fulfilled. Behold I have received commandment to bless; and He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. 'There shall come a Star out of Jacob and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall strike the corners of Moab. Out of Jacob shall come He that shall have dominion.'" And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place; and Balak also went his way.*

Will Balaam curse Israel as Balak requests him to do? no

What reason does he give? He cannot because God has blessed these people

Who is the "Star," the "Scepter," and the "One who shall have dominion"? Jesus

## MOSES' LAST DAYS AND DEATH

Deuteronomy 1-34

Numbers 27

The word "Deuteronomy" means "repetition of the law." Once again as the Israelites get ready to enter the Promised Land, Moses relates the laws of the Lord and the instructions the people are to follow. This is the last task of Moses. A new leader for the Israelites must be appointed. **Read Numbers 27:12-23** to see who is chosen. (Slide 6, 7)

What does the Lord tell Moses to do? Climb mountain and see the Promised Land

What will happen to Moses soon? He will die

What request does Moses make of the Lord? Appoint a new leader

Who is appointed? Joshua

*And in the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the children of Israel, saying, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord, our God, is one Lord. And you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And if you shall listen diligently to the voice of the Lord, your God, to observe and to do all His commandments, His blessings shall come on you. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, your God, His curses shall come upon you. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. And the Lord shall scatter you among all people, from one end of the earth even to the other. The Lord, your God, will raise up for you a Prophet from the midst of you, of your brethren, like to me; to Him you shall listen."*

What warning is Moses giving to the people? *Obey and be blessed, disobey and be cursed*

Who is the "Prophet"? *Jesus*

Now **read Deuteronomy 34** to find out about Moses' death. (Slide 8)

What mountain did Moses climb? *Mt. Nebo*

Where is Moses' grave? *No one knows*

How old was Moses when he died? *120 years old*

Who becomes the leader of the Israelites? *Joshua*

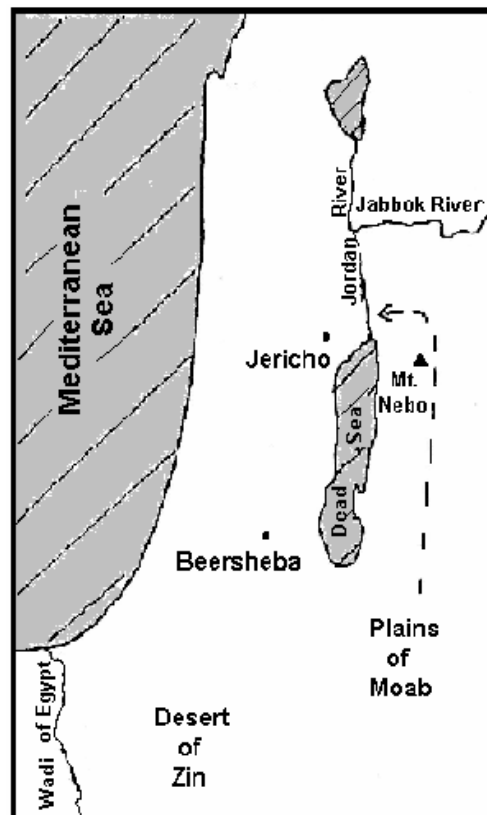
## ISRAEL ENTERS CANAAN

Joshua 1-5

The book of Joshua recounts the details of the taking of the Promised Land by the Israelites. Remember that Joshua was chosen by God to lead the people after Moses' death. The book was probably written, for the most part, by Joshua himself.

Look at the map to see where the Israelites are and where the action in this book will take place. Note Mt. Nebo where Moses died.

*Now after the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua saying, "Moses, My servant, is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan into the land which I give to the children of Israel. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the Law which Moses, My servant, commanded you. This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate on it day and night; then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success." Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people saying, "Within three days you shall pass over this Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God, is giving to you." And they said, "As we listened to Moses, so will we listen to you."*



What is the condition for success given by the Lord? Knowing God's word and meditating on it

Background work must be done before the invasion can occur. **Read Joshua 2:1-16** to see what happens to the spies that are sent into Jericho. **(Slide 9)**

How many spies are sent? two

To whose house do they go? Rahab's

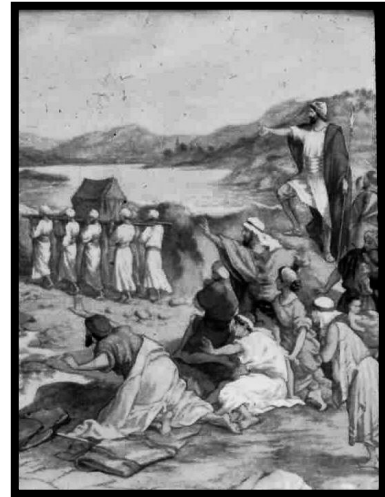
What is Rahab's profession? prostitute

Where has she hidden the spies? On the roof under the flax

What request does she make of the spies? Spare her and her family

How do the spies escape? Rahab lets them down by a rope

*So the two men returned to Joshua and said, "Truly, the Lord has delivered into our hands all the land; for all the inhabitants do faint because of us." And Joshua rose early in the morning **10** and the people came to the Jordan. And the priests that bore the Ark of the Covenant went before the people. When the feet of the priests that bore the Ark were dipped in the brim of the water, **11** the waters that came down from above stood and rose up upon a heap; and those that went down toward the salt sea failed. The people passed over right against Jericho. The priests that bore the Ark of the Covenant stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, until all the Israelites passed over the dry ground. When the priests that bore the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord came up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up onto the dry land, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and flowed over all the banks as they did before. The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal in the east border of Jericho. And those twelve stones that they took out of Jordan, Joshua placed in Gilgal. And the manna ceased, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan.*



What happens to the river as the people pass over to the other side? It stops flowing and they cross on dry ground

When did this happen before? The Red Sea

For what do the twelve stones stand? The twelve tribes

## THE FALL OF JERICHO

Joshua 6,7

The fall of Jericho took place in a very special way. It was not a typical battle at all. **Read Joshua 6:2-20** to find out about this unique battle. (Slide 12, 13)



What are they to do for six days? March around the city one time each day

What are they to do on the seventh day? March around seven times

What are the people to do when the priests sound a long blast? shout

What is supposed to happen when they all shout? Walls will fall

Do the people follow the instructions? yes

Who is to be spared? Rahab and her family

What are they not to take? Devoted things

Note that devoted things were all those things that were banned. In this case all of Jericho was banned including the people and the animals and everything in the city. All banned things that could be killed were to be killed. All the treasure of the city was to be given to the treasury of the Lord.

Does everything go according to the plan? yes

*But Achan of the tribe of Judah took of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. And the men of Ai (another town about fifteen miles from Jericho) killed about thirty and six men of Israel; therefore, the hearts of the people melted and became as water. And Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth upon his face before the Ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And the Lord said to Joshua, "Get up; why do you lie on your face? Up, sanctify the people and say, 'Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow. In the morning, therefore, you shall be brought according to your tribes; and it shall be that the tribe that the Lord takes shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the Lord shall take shall come by households; and the household which the Lord shall take shall come man by man.'" And Achan, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. Joshua said, "My son, give glory to the Lord, and tell me now what you have done; hide it not from me." Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord. I saw among the spoils a fine Babylonian garment*

*and two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold. Then I coveted them and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in my tent." So Joshua sent messengers, and they brought them to Joshua. And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord shall trouble you." And all Israel stoned him **14** and raised over him a great heap of stones.*

What happens that make Joshua and the elders fall on their faces before the Lord?

Thirty-six Israelites are killed

What is Achan's sin? he took devoted material

## JOSHUA'S VICTORIES AND LAST DAYS

Joshua 10-24

Much more territory is still to be conquered. The Lord will be with his people and give them staggering victories. He will even cause an unusual event to occur so that His people will win. **Read Joshua 10:5-15** for the details of this event. (Slide 15, 16)



How many kings join forces? five

How does the Lord kill additional enemies? Large hailstones

What request does Joshua make concerning the sun? that it stand still

Does this happen? yes

For how long? About one full day



Once the land has been conquered, the tribes must work out which parts of the land they will each inhabit. Read the following and then look at the map to determine where each tribe settled.



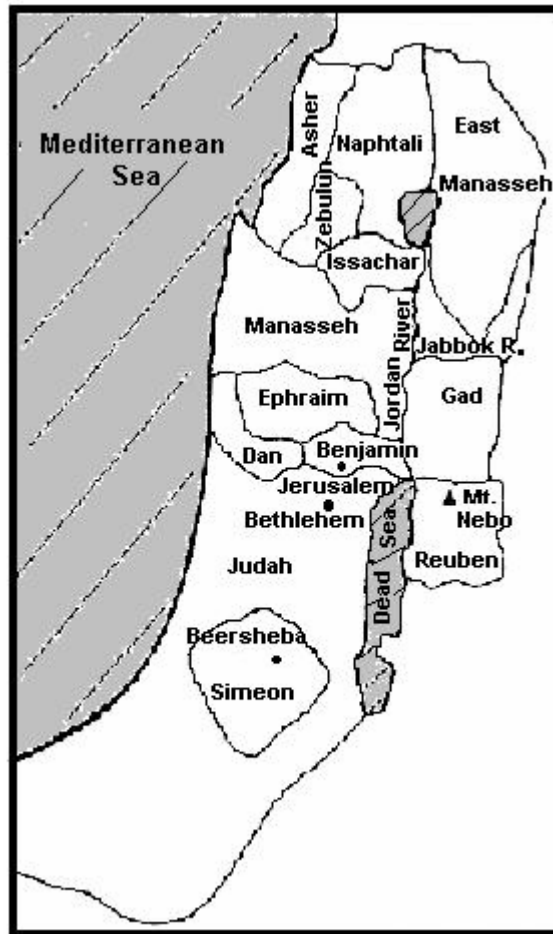
So Joshua took all the land according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes.<sup>17</sup> And the land rested of war. But to the tribe of Levi Moses did not give any inheritance; the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He said to them. And the children of Israel gave to the Levites out of their inheritance at the commandment of the Lord, forty-eight cities and their suburbs. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. <sup>18</sup> And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried in Shechem.

Who does not receive a large territory?

Levi

What do they receive instead?

48 cities and suburbs



And after the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies,<sup>19</sup> Joshua called for all Israel and said to them, "I am old and stricken in age; and you have seen all that the Lord, your God, has done to all these nations; for He has fought for you. Take good heed, therefore, to yourselves, that you love the Lord, your God. Else if you do go back, and cleave to the remnant of these nations, they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges in your sides, until you perish from off this good land. And behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth; and you know that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord spoke concerning you. All are come to pass, and not one thing has failed. Therefore, as all good things are come upon you, so shall the Lord bring upon you all the evil things when you transgress the covenant of the Lord, your God. Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth. If it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And the people answered and said, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; we also will serve the Lord; for He is God." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. And Joshua, the servant of the Lord, died, being a hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in Mount Ephraim.

## REVIEW

1. About how many Israelites were in the desert? More than one million
2. How many tribes are the Israelites divided into? thirteen
3. Which tribe camped around the tabernacle? Levi
4. Why can't Moses enter the Promised Land? He sinned
5. What does looking at the bronze serpent do? Heals from snake bites
6. Why does Balaam's donkey run off of the road? Because of the angel
7. What unusual thing does Balaam's donkey do? talks
8. Will Balaam curse Israel? no
9. Who is appointed to succeed Moses as leader of the Israelites? Joshua
10. What will happen to the Israelites if they break the covenant with God? cursed
11. Do the people follow Joshua's leadership? yes
12. Who protects the spies? Rahab
13. What does she get in return? Protection for herself and her family
14. Are the people of Jericho afraid of the Israelites? yes
15. When does the manna cease? When they cross the Jordan
16. In what manner is Jericho conquered? The walls fall
17. Who takes "devoted objects"? Achan
18. What is his punishment? Death (stoning)
19. What unusual "one-time-only" event does the Lord cause to take place as the Israelites are conquering the land? Sun stands still for a day
20. The Levites were to be servants of the Lord. As such they received no large territory. What did they receive? forty-eight cities and suburbs