

Leviticus records divine instruction in order that the people of God might live in fellowship with their God. It develops the actual use of both tabernacle and priesthood and in this capacity has both a practical and typical role. What it does without reservation is to insist that the presence of God is at the heart of all other parts of life. We can shut Him out of nothing and therefore should be certain he is part of everything.

3. Some vital aspects with which you will want to be better acquainted as your Bible study develops:

- a. What really is holiness and how is it shown?
- b. Why is such stress given to inter-personal relationships?
- c. Note the care that the book gives to the protection of personal and individual lives...but the exactness it gives for serving the Lord.
- d. The arrangement of the year so that the very calendrical cycle tended to make the people build their lives on the providence and provision of God.

You will find that Leviticus is not very common ground for many of our church members today. Once it was the first biblical book studied in the synagogues by Jewish children. Reading it through at one sitting helps in imagining the burden of its many laws and regulations. Try to understand it first as what it meant to the Jews of its time and second as to what it means to us today. What is the chief portion of each segment of it and how does that relate to our present setting?

E. A Survey Study of the Book of Numbers

1. An Overview:

Numbers is the history of Israel's wanderings and the key idea to Numbers is "God's Care" (see page 7 of this syllabus for a reminder of these key thoughts...I sometimes forget them in transit.) It combines census records, legal passages, poetry, and narrative prose in a style similar to that of Exodus. The majority of third person references to Moses in this book may be his device to avoid emphasizing his role and to show the Lord as the issuing authority of the account and the material.

Numbers easily outlines in a simple six step way:

- I. Preparations for the Journey (Sinai) 1:1-10:10
- II. The Journey, Part I: Sinai to Paran 10:11-12:16
- III. Sojourn and Failure at Kadesh 13:1-20:13
- IV. The Journey, Part II: Kadesh to Moab 20:14-22:1
- V. Events on the Plains of Moab 22:3-32:42
- VI. Appendices 33:1-36:13

Simplifying outlines is a life-time job and my recommendation is that you know a simple outline for every book and have a more complete and complex one in your files. See Hendricksen: 217.