

Numbers 21-22

Aaron has died and a new High Priest has been chosen by God, Eleazar his son. Now the inhabitants of the land begin to fear Israel as God had promised they would. And God begins to give the second generation victory over their enemies.

21:1-3 The defeat of the Canaanites

21:1 Arad is said to be modern day "Tel Arad" 17 miles south of Hebron.
 1) The enemy initiated the attack.
 2) The Lord allowed some to be taken captive.

21:2 The situation alienated the people with the will of God, to serve His purposes.

21:3 1) The victory was the first for the new generation that would conquer the land as a foretaste of God's promise.
 2) The vicinity was the area where they were defeated 38 years ago when they rebelled against the Lord to occupy the land. 14:45

21:4-9 The brass serpent

21:4-5 The people once again are discouraged by the circumstances and spoke against Moses.
 1) Food was the concern, being ungrateful for the Manna.
 2) Water was lacking.

21:6 The Lord sent poisonous serpents onto the camp to bite the people for their complaining, resulting in death.

21:7 1) The people acknowledged their sin.
 2) The people saw their sin against God.
 3) The people recognized their need of a mediator.

21:8-9 The Lord gives the prescription for death resulting from their spiritual rebellion.
 1) A fiery serpent symbolic of sin.
 * Brass is always symbolic of judgment in the scriptures.
 2) A pole symbolized the cross of Christ, sin would be judged there.

3) A person's faith in the revelation would be healed and live, prophetic of Christ. Jn.3:14-15

a) Though lifted up it did not benefit a person unless they believed by faith.

b) The 2nd generation entered by faith in the serpent on the pole a type of Jesus Christ.

c) The time was the 40th year, the number of judgment.

d) The account was the last of their murmuring.

* By the time of Hezekiah the serpent had become an idolatrous object and therefore he broke it. 2Kings 8:4

21:10-20 The route from Horeb to Moab

21:10-13 Details of their journeying is given. Deut. 2-3

21:14-15 Poetical song of God's victories.

21:14-15 The book of the Wars of the Lord appears only here in the Bible.
* The book of Jasher. Josh. 10:13, 2Sam. 1:18

21:16-18 A song of God's goodness to provide water for them.

21:19-20 They arrived at Pisgah from where Moses would view the land and also die there. Deut. 3:27, 34:1, 7

21:21-32 The defeat of King Sihon

21:21-22 The petition for passage

21:23 The petition is denied and war is waged.

21:24-26 God gave them victory as evidence of His faithfulness to His promise.

21:27-30 A song of victory

21:31-32 Israel possessed their land.

21:33-35 The defeat of King Og

21:33 The people to be conquered was the King of Bashan.

21:34 1) The Lord tells Moses not to be afraid, implying that there was fear.

2) The Lord tells him that He has delivered them to Israel and their land like the Amorites.

21:35 The victory and possession.

22:1-21 The seeking out of Balaam

22:1 Israel arrived at the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan.

22:2-3 1) **Balak was the King of Moab.**
 2) Balak saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.
 3) Moab was afraid exceedingly because of their number.
 4) Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.
 * The message of Rahab the harlot was exactly that to the spies! Deut. 2:25, Josh. 2:8-11

22:4 Balak expresses his fear of their being consumed to the Medians .

22:5-6 Balak sends messengers to Balaam the son of Beor.
 1) He was from Pethor, the region of the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia. Deut. 23:4

2) Balak tells of the multitude from Egypt.

3) Balak petitions Balaam to come and curse because they are to mighty for him.

4) Balak expresses the fact that Balaam has a credible reputation for cursing and blessing people.

5) Balaam is mentioned throughout scripture both in the Old Testament and the New Testament in view of his error, way and doctrine. Deut. 23:4, 5, Josh. 13:22, 24:9, 10, Neh. 13:2, Mic. 6:5, 2Pet. 2:15, Jude 11, Rev. 2:14

* His name appears 50x's between chapters 22-25.

22:7-13 The first encounter with Balaam

22:7 The elders depart with the diviner's fee for Balaam and spoke the words to Balaam.

22:8 Balaam's response was to wait and see what the Lord would tell him.

22:9-11 God questions Balaam about the men.

- 22:12** 1) The Lord's prohibited Balaam from going with them.
2) The reason being God had blessed them.

- 22:13-14** 1) Balaam relates the message of God to the elders.
2) They departed and returned to Balak.

22:15-21 *The second encounter with Balaam*

- 22:15** Balak's approach was more intense with more distinguished elders.

- 22:16-17** Their message
1) Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me for I will honor you greatly.
2) I will do whatever you say to me.
3) Please curse this people for me.

- 22:18-19** Balaam's heart is revealed.
1) He mentions his price.
2) He declares God is in control not him.
3) He requests their stay to hear the Lord's word.

- 22:20** 1) God gave to Balaam the condition, if they came for him he was to go.
2) He was to speak only what God said.

- 22:21** Balaam accompanied them in the morning.

22:22-35 **The seeking out of Balaam by God**

- 22:22** 1) Balaam went but in the wrong attitude and contrary to the Lord. vs. 32
2) He could of gone before they called him?
3) The Angel of the Lord is a theophany, an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament.
* The Lord commissioned Moses to go to Egypt and then we read that the Lord was gong to slay Moses. His wife quickly circumcised their son an averted God's wrath. Ex. 4:24

- 22:23** The first attempt to stop Balaam.

- 22:24-25** The second attempt to stop Balaam.

22:26-27 The third attempt to stop Balaam.

22:28-30 The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey to speak and rebuke the blindness of the prophet due to his greed.

* The incredible thing is not that the donkey spoke but that the prophet responded back to the donkey.

22:31-33 The Angel of the Lord opened Balaam's eyes.

- 1) He bowed himself to the ground as he saw the angel with his sword drawn.
- 2) The angel rebuke the prophet for striking his donkey three times.
- 3) The angel declares to the prophet He had come as an adversary to him because of his contrary way to God.
- 4) The angel tells the prophet that he owed his life to the donkey.

22:34 Balaam responds in the manner of worldly sorrow, insincere, due to the fact that he got caught. 2Cor. 7:10

22:35 Balaam is permitted to go but he can only say what God reveals to him , he may utter.

22:36-40 **The greeting of Balaam by Balak**

22:36 1) Balak went out to meet Balaam.

22:37 2) Balak rebuked Balaam refusing to come at first.
3) Balak reminds him of his ability to honor him.

22:38 Balaam tells Balak two things.
1) He has no power to say anything.
2) He must speak the words that God puts in his mouth.

22:39-40 Sacrifice was made for the occasion