The Book of Numbers

11

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we continue our study of the book of **Numbers**, this time reading **chapters 15-21**.

These chapters narrate a period spanning between the generation of those who left Egypt and the generation of those who would enter the Promised Land. This narrative contains numerous stories of God's miraculous provision, but also accounts of God's judgment against a "rebellious and stiff-necked" people (**Deuteronomy 31:27**). The New Testament uses the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness to warn Christians against falling into the same trap of unbelief, disobedience and idolatry.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14
Read Hebrews 3:7-4:11

Of particular note in the **Numbers 15-21** narrative is **21:4-9**, which relates the story of the Bronze Serpent. Jesus himself refers to this incident in his discourse with Nicodemus and uses it as an illustration of his death upon the Cross.

Read John 3:14-15

Pull up a comfortable chair, read through **chapters 15-21** in one sitting, and then answer for yourself the following questions:

➲ **16:1-50** – What do you think is the significance of Korah's rebellion and what should we learn from it? (see also **Jude 11**).

➲ **17:1-13** – What did the budding of Aaron's staff symbolize and why did God say that it would "be kept as a sign to the rebellious" and that it "will put an end to their grumbling against [the Lord]"?

➲ **20:7-12** – Why did the Lord declare that Moses would not be allowed to enter into the Promised Land?

MORNING STUDY

Memory Verse

> ## Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.
>
> ### John 3:14-15

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➲ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see **John 14:26**).

- ➲ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.

- ➲ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference.** Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."

- ➲ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.

- ➲ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.

- ➲ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.

- ➲ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.

- ➲ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.

- ➲ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).

- ➲ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.

- ➲ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice (**James 1:22**). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts (**John 15:7**). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!

MEMORY VERSE