

## Numbers – Part 9

### Revision of Numbers - Part 1 - 8:

1. Book of Numbers – the journey of the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years.  
Punishment - no faith in God after receiving the spies' report.
2. The reason why Moses and Aaron cannot enter Promised Land – Disobedience
3. The Fiery Serpent – look to Jesus and be saved!

### 1. Balak and Balaam (3 chapters: 22 to 24)

- (a) Who was Balak? (22:4). Where did Israel pitch their tents at chapter 22 (v.1)?  
What happened to the Moabites? (v.3). They fear the God of Israel.
- (b) Who was Balaam? (v.5). Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel (v.6). Balaam would be rewarded (v.7). The world will reward you if you follow her ways. (Mark 8:36)
- (c) Was Balaam a Prophet of God? He prayed to God and God spoke to him (v.8-9). God told Balaam not to curse Israel (v.12) and he told the princes of Balak (v.13).
- (d) A stronger temptation came to Balaam (v.15-17) – riches and power. See how holy Balaam sounded in verse 18-19. Balaam declared the LORD was his God but the LORD never said Balaam was His prophet.
- (e) Why did God tell Balaam to go with Balak? (v.18). God will not force us if we insist on our own ways. But remember we incur the anger of God (v.22). God used the ass to stop Balaam but his heart was stubborn to insist to go (v.22-35).
- (f) God turned the curse into blessings in the words of Balaam (23:7-10). Balak tried 2 more times with new location to want Balaam to curse Israel but to no avail. This is God's sovereign protection over Israel.
- (g) Balak was angry with Balaam and smote him (24:10). Read N.T. commentary of Balaam in 2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 11.

### 2. Baalpeor and Phinehas (25:1-18)

- (a) Before Balaam returned home, he told Balak how he can get the LORD to punish Israel (31:16). This evil advice was to use the woman of Moab to lure the men of Israel to commit whoredom (v.1). This led to the next sin of idol worship (v.2-3). Baalpeor was a religious fertility cult practice.
- (b) The punishment from God was swift and these heads of the people who sinned must die by the sword of their brethren (v.3-5).
- (c) The sin of the Midianitish woman and Phinehas' act for the honour of God (v.6-9). Do you have the zeal and intercessory prayer of Phinehas (v.13)?