

Numbers

Summary

Before a big game the announcer calls out player names and numbers and the athletes run out one by one. The fans then cheer! This is kind of like how Numbers is. This is how Israelites took stock of their military might before the conquest of the land of Canaan.

The name is based on the numberings that are a major focus of chapters 1-4 and 26. Numbers picks up where Exodus left off. It opens with the Israelites being freed from Egyptian bondage for one year, having entered into covenant with the Lord and receiving His laws through Moses. It ends with God's people on the verge of entering the promise land. It records the tragic story of Israel's unbelief. Numbers was written in the final years of Moses life. The book of Numbers concentrates on events that take place in the 2nd and 40th years after the Exodus.

Author and Date:

Formerly anonymous. Ancient Jewish and Christian tradition affirm Moses as the author of Numbers and the entire Pentateuch. 1450 - 1410 BC (same as Genesis).

Audience/ Setting:

People of Israel. Sinai wilderness. Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab. Israelites journeyed for greater than 38 years.

Purpose:

To tell the story of how the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised land, how they sinned and were punished, and how they prepared to try again.

Key People:

Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb, Eleazor, Korah, Balaam

Key Places:

Mount Sinai, Promised Land (Canaan), Kadesh, Mount Hor, Plains of Moab

References:

Application Study Bible
CSB Apologetics Study Bible for Students
NASB MacArthur Study Bible
NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible

Study note: The Israelite nation arrived at Kadesh, where 12 spies were sent into Canaan to assess its strength. 10 of the spies came back with a bad report and 2 (Joshua and Caleb) came back with an encouraging report. Because of Israel's unbelief, God declared that the present generation would not live to see the promised land.

[Who is delivering what news to you?](#) Be mindful of who you allow to speak to and over your life. It can impact your promised place.