

NUMBERS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

4

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

36

TYPE

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

The name of this book comes from the Lord's instruction to count the Israelite males who were able to go to war. It begins where Exodus ends, with the journey of Israel through the wilderness, and contains events as they wandered for 40 years. The reading can be quite engaging if the context is understood—proof that the Hebrews were extremely accurate record keepers, both of numbers and of events. This is evidence that they can be trusted to present an Old Testament that is reliable.



WRITTEN
Around 1400 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1450-1400 BC



AUTHOR
Moses

<p>1 ISRAEL PREPARES TO LEAVE MOUNT SINAI</p>	<p>2 ISRAEL MOVES TO KADESH</p>	<p>3 REBELLION IN KADESH</p>	<p>4 THE JOURNEY FROM KADESH TO MOAB</p>	<p>5 ISRAEL ANTICIPATES TAKING THE PROMISED LAND WHILE IN MOAB</p>	<p>6 MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES</p>
<p>NUMBERS 1–10</p>	<p>NUMBERS 10–12</p>	<p>NUMBERS 13–20</p>	<p>NUMBERS 20–21</p>	<p>NUMBERS 22-32</p>	<p>NUMBERS 33–36</p>
<p>The Israelites complete the Tabernacle and Moses completes the Levitical Laws. The people prepare to leave Mount Sinai. Moses conducts a census, recording the number of adult males in the tribes (excluding the Levites), and the Lord reveals more rules.</p>	<p>The Israelites complain often, desiring meat instead of manna. God sends fire to stifle the complainers as well as quail to quench their desire for meat. Moses' siblings, Aaron and Miriam, rebel and Miriam becomes leprous for a week.</p>	<p>Moses sends spies to the Promised Land of Canaan, and they bring back a mixed report, destroying faith of the Israelites so they become afraid to enter the land of Canaan. As a result, God reveals that the Israelites will wander for 40 years in the desert. Moses brings forth water by striking a rock, and more rebellions and laws are recorded.</p>	<p>Aaron dies at Mount Hor, shortly after Miriam dies at Kadesh, and Israel wins its first battles. Fiery serpents afflict the people, and those who are bitten become sick and many die. Moses holds up the bronze snake in the wilderness as a foreshadowing of Christ on the cross, and all who look at the serpent are healed.</p>	<p>In Moab, King Balak asks the Moabite prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites, and the donkey of Balaam speaks words from God. Balaam instead blesses the Israelites and prophesies of Christ. Some Moabites invite Israelites to worship their gods and fornicate. Those that accept are destroyed and a plague kills 24,000 before others repent. The Lord reveals more laws for Israel.</p>	<p>Moses writes a review of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan. Laws of inheritance are revealed and outlined so that some women can own property.</p>