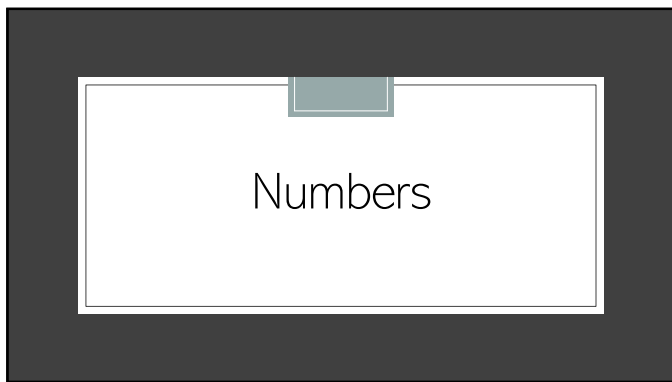
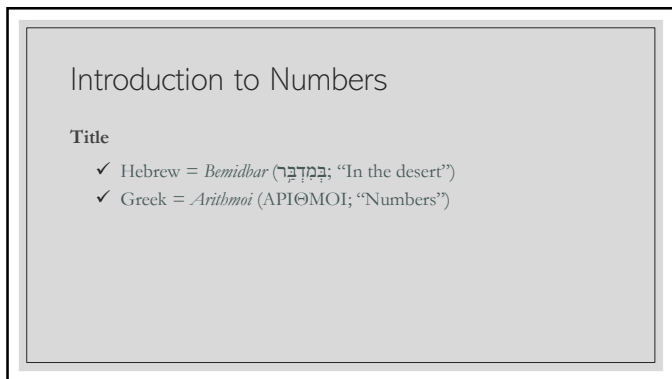


1



2



3

Introduction to Numbers

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Moses (John 5:45–47; Exod 17:14)

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Second Generation Israel

4

Introduction to Numbers

WHEN

- ✓ Approximately 1406 BC
- ✓ 40 years after the exodus from Egypt
- ✓ 1446 BC = Exodus from Egypt (**key date!**)

5

Introduction to Numbers

WHERE

- ✓ Fourth part of a five-part series
- ✓ Wilderness of Sinai / Plains of Moab
- ✓ Israel poised to take the Promised Land
- ✓ Dates of the events in Numbers span 40 years, from 1445 BC as Israel sets out from Sinai, seeks to take the promised land, and then banished to the wilderness for forty years of wandering, until 1406 BC.

6

Introduction to Numbers

WHY

- ✓ This book is the **WHEN** of God's Kingdom Plan for Israel.
- ✓ Numbers informs us that the people of Israel will only take the Promised Land after wandering for forty years. This theme of delay and wandering/testing in the desert becomes a hallmark in Scripture.
 - ❖ Exiles of Israel and Judah into the east
 - ❖ David and his wandering
 - ❖ Jesus and His wandering

To recount to Israel the sin of the first generation of Israel who came out of Egypt, leading to forty years of wilderness wanderings and a delay to conquer the Land of Canaan.

7

Introduction to Numbers

HOW—Terminology and Themes

- ✓ The Wilderness (1:1, 19; 3:4, 14; 9:1, 5; 10:13 (2x), 31; 12:16; 13:3, 21, etc.)
- ✓ The Rebellion of Israel (e.g., spies in chapters 13 – 14; Korah's rebellion in chapter 16; the sin at Baal-Peor in chapter 25)
- ✓ The Wrath of God toward disobedient people (chapter 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25)
- ✓ Blessing of God through Balaam (chapters 23 – 24)
- ✓ The Numbers (e.g., genealogies; evidence of Yahweh's grace)
- ✓ The Patience of Yahweh
- ✓ Holiness (3:13, 28, 31, 32, 38, 47, 50; 4:4 (2x), 12, 15 (3x), 16, 19 (2x), 20; 5:16; 6:5, 8, 11, 20, etc.)

8

Introduction to Numbers

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ First Generation of Israel—Israel Sins and Perishes (1:1 – 26:18)
- ✓ Second Generation of Israel—Israel Regroups and Conquers (26:19 – 36:13)

The Outline of the book is framed by the genealogies of the first generation (1:2) and the second generation (26:2). This corresponds with the theme of **WHEN** in the book.

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