

NUMBERS

INTRODUCTION:

1. AUTHOR – Moses – it is the fourth of the Books of Moses
2. DATE WRITTEN – Approximately 1400 B.C.
3. DATES COVERED – Records the history of Israel from the time of Mount Sinai to the time of Israel on Jordan's eastern banks, a time of 40 years
4. NAME – Numbers comes from two numberings of the nation, one at Sinai, and the other after the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land.
5. KEY PHRASES – "The Lord said to Moses..." "Take a Census of..." and "the people complained"

OUTLINE:

The story of Numbers is really told in the two generations recorded by the two census numberings.

1. THE GENERATION THAT CAME OUT OF EGYPT. CH 1-14
 - A. The generation is numbered at 603,550. (Ch1-4)
 - B. The generation is instructed in purity (Ch5), and Nazirite Vows (Ch6) – See Priests blessing 6:22-27
 - C. The generation celebrates the Tabernacle (Ch7-8) and the Passover (Ch9)
 - D. They leave Sinai for Kadesh-Barnea
 - a) The people complain for food (Ch11) and leadership (Ch12)
 - b) The people rebel against God at the spies' report (Ch13-14) and God promises that all of that generation will die (14:29). Note the two exceptions, Caleb and Joshua.
2. THE OLD GENERATION WANDERS AND DIES. CH 15-20
 - A. God continues to speak to them. (Ch15)
 - B. The rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Ch16-17)
 - C. The explanation is given to describe the Levites relationship to the priests. (Ch18)
 - D. The water of cleansing. (Ch19)
 - E. Israel returns to Kadesh (Ch20), Moses' sin (20:12) and Aaron dies.
3. THE GENERATION THAT ENTERED CANAAN. CH 21-32
 - A. The opposition by Arad (Ch21), Moab and Balaam (Ch22-25)
 - B. The new generation is numbered at 601,730 plus Levites (Ch26).
 - C. The new generation is instructed in inheritance (Ch27), offerings (Ch28), feasts (Ch29), and vows (Ch30).
 - D. They defeat Midian and settle east of the Jordan (Ch31-32)
4. APPENDIX. CH 33-36
 - A. Israel's journey (Ch33)
 - B. Israel's boundaries (Ch34)
 - C. Israel's cities for Levites are the Cities of Refuge (Ch35)
 - D. Zelophehad's daughters inherit land (Ch36). See 27:1-11

IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS:

1. LESSON – Unbelief may keep us from our full inheritance. See Hebrews 3:7-19
2. Open rebellion begins only as a complaint. Compare 11:1; 12:1; 14:1-4, and 44-45
3. God punished the disobedience (14:29), but in His mercy, the next generation does inherit the land as God had promised (14:3).
4. We can see several pictures of Christ in the stories of Numbers.
 - a) The Rock – 20:1-3 – Compare to 1 Cor. 10:4
 - b) The snake on the pole – 21:4-9 – Compare to John 3:14
 - c) The Cities of Refuge – Ch35 – Compare to Hebrews 6:18
5. There is an incredible model for parenting in this book of Numbers. It is fascinating to me that God has the same kinds of problems with his children that most of us have with our children. They are ungrateful, have short memories of what he has done in the past, and rebellious. It is a great study to read through this book and observe lessons for parenting. Note God's patience, his discipline, his provision and his faithfulness with these, his children.

NUMBERS

1 – The Hebrew name for this book is entitled, "In the Wilderness." This chapter tells of the Lord's command to number the Israelites. V2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans." There is a repeated pattern in recording the list of the population of each of the tribes. The total is over 600,000. God kept his word as he always does in the multiplication of the family of Abraham. He will keep his word to deliver us in Christ not only from sin but also into the Promised Land of heaven. The Levites picture Jesus as they surround the Tabernacle for protection. V53 "But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony." So the way around God is protected and Jesus is the only way to come to him.

2 – The twelve tribes are arranged in order so that they can travel. They are arranged three tribes on each side with the tribe of Levi in the middle surrounding the tabernacle. V2 "The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard with the banners of their father's houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side." There must be mass submission of all the people and tribes to organize such a large group to travel. This is a visual picture of all the variety of gifts within the body of Christ who must submit to him as head in order to accomplish his work.

3 – There is a great deal of organization needed for such a large group. It appears that God provides the organizational instructions. The same sort of arrangement is made for the tribe of Levi in their duties surrounding the Tabernacle. V38 says that they were there "...guarding the sanctuary itself, to protect the people of Israel. And any outsider who came near was to be put to death." It is unclear who is guarding whom! Are the guards to protect the sanctuary from invaders or to protect the invaders from the sanctuary and holiness of God? Either way it is another picture of Jesus as the only Savior available to save us from the wrath of God against our sin.

4 – One of the most important truths about the articles of the tent of meeting is that they were holy. Note how many times they are referred to as "the holy things." They were set apart for God's service. That meant that they had to be handled in a way that reflected this. In this chapter the same arrangements are made for the family of the high priest in carrying out the duties of the inner furnishings of the Tabernacle and its sanctuary. Everything must be done with absolute obedience and care or the wrath of God's holiness will burst out and kill those who disobey. V15 "And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry." How in need of God's grace through Jesus we are because God is so holy and his ways so perfect that we all break them often in many ways.

5 – A command was given to send those who are ceremonially unclean outside the camp "that they may not defile their camp in the midst of which I dwell" (5:3). "The Lord spoke to Moses..." precedes all these instructions. There are long and detailed instructions about the test for an unfaithful wife. It assumes that the Lord is involved as it is all carried out "before the Lord." It is unclear what V31 means when it says, "The husband will be free from iniquity, but the woman shall bear her iniquity." The picture of Jesus here is his perfection physically, spiritually and morally. He alone is qualified to live within the camp. He alone could pass the test of no sin.

6 – This is the vow for one who desires for a time to take a vow "to separate himself to the Lord." It is visual since he may not cut his hair. It is internal since he is not to partake of any wine or other fermented drink or grapes, raisins, or their skins or seeds. It is in the context of "the Lord said to Moses" and is carried out "before the Lord." The chapter ends with the priestly blessing, V27 "so they shall put my name on the people of Israel, and I will bless them." As perfect as the Nazirite had to live, Jesus was more perfect. Yet he did not live as a Nazirite, neither abstaining from wine nor refraining from touching that which was unclean or dead. The Lord's blessing that places his name on us as his people comes to us through Jesus.

7 – This chapter has repetition for each of the twelve offerings by the leaders of the tribes. Their offering was very significant and each one gave exactly the same. From where did they receive what they gave? As chiefs of the tribes, did they receive more when they left Egypt? We can see Jesus in the last verse of the chapter. V89 "And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, and it spoke to him." Only through the mercy seat can we meet with God and hear him. That happens ultimately through the sacrifice of Jesus.

8 – Further arrangements are made for the service of the Tabernacle for the nation to function as God desired. The lampstand is placed in the Holy Place and the Levites are consecrated to the Lord. V14 "Thus you shall separate the

Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine." Jesus is the Light of God and is to be the center of our lives. Any service we do for God is to be sanctified and consecrated by God through Jesus.

9 – Further explanations for the celebration of the Passover are given in this chapter. V2 "Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time." The instructions have to do with the seriousness of the requirement to celebrate it. If you miss when you could have celebrated it, you are cut off from the people but if you are unclean or away, you can make it up some other time. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Whenever we think of it, we can come to him. The chapter concludes with a wonderful lesson about following God. The cloud represented the presence of the Lord and also provided guidance for the nation. V22 "Whether it was two days, or a month, or a longer time, that the cloud continued over the tabernacle, abiding there, the people of Israel remained in the camp and did not set out, but when it lifted, they set out." So Jesus is our guide and protector.

10 – The final preparation is the trumpets made of silver to let the nation know when it was time to move or to gather. V35-36 "And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, 'Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you.' And when it rested, he said, 'Return O Lord, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel.'" The trumpet of Jesus will tell us when to leave this world and go home to him. The nation of Israel moved for the first time. What great organization it took for this many people to move in an orderly way on their way to the Promised Land. God certainly is not opposed to organization. The Holy Spirit never replaces organization. He only guides it to accomplish God's task and will.

11 – Can you imagine this many people out in a wilderness with no food? God promised to take care of them. This chapter is filled with the complaints of the people about the lack of meat. The disadvantage of the presence of the Lord shows in that He heard all their complaining and grumbling and responded with righteous anger and even "fire from the Lord" that burned people. How easy do we forget what great things that the Lord has already done for us when we complain about what He has not done for us! The Lord was angry and so was Moses. V10 "Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the Lord blazed hotly and Moses was displeased." The Lord rejected their complaint but provided the meat in the form of quail that fly about three feet high and were easily taken. V23 asks, "Is the Lord's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not." At the same time the Lord provided relief for Moses in that God took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and distributed it among seventy other leaders who would share the burden for leadership with him. V17 "And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone." How imperfect was even the great Moses. Yet this only sets the perfection of Jesus in greater contrast. Note Moses' humility and trust in the Lord when he responded to Joshua's desire to protect Moses' influence by the prayer, V29 "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit on them." That is what happened on Pentecost.

12 – Miriam and Aaron seem to want to advance their own standing and complain against the leadership of Moses. God rebuked them and set Moses even higher by pointing out that he is greater than even any prophets. V6-8 "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" Jesus is the ultimate Word of God and the final expression of it. All we need is in Jesus.

13 – The Lord was the one who ordered the spies to explore the land of Canaan. V1-2 "The Lord spoke to Moses saying, 'Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel.'" Joshua is the OT form for the name Jesus in the NT. The spies only see the size of the enemy, not the size of God. They probably would have only seen the death of Jesus not the promise and fulfillment of the resurrection. Aren't they a lot like us?

14 – Caleb stood up to the discouraging report of the other spies. He was confident in the Lord. V9 "Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." This is the second time that Moses interceded with God on behalf of the nation. The Lord pronounced judgment on the people. All the spies died for their lack of faith. V35 "I, the Lord, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked generation who are gathered together against me; in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die." There is such a parallel here between this story and the writing of Paul in Romans 1. Israel had seen the evidence of the power and care of God for them. God seems amazed at how long they could ignore and not believe in him despite the signs he had shown them. The people feared in unbelief and refused to enter the Promised Land. So God gave them over to their fears and allowed them to not enter the land but die in the desert. Yet he will still fulfill his word only it will be for the next generation.

Can we see ourselves in these people and thank Jesus for his faithfulness that stands in contrast to our unfaithfulness? Moses is a picture of Jesus when he pleads on behalf of the people.

15 – This chapter instructs that in addition to the main sacrifice that is to be offered, an addition of grain or wine or oil is to be added. What does that stand for if Jesus is the main sacrifice? Is that the role that our lives have as in Romans 12? Note the addition of tassels to be made to their garments. These were reminders of the commandments. V39 “And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.” God certainly does know our tendencies toward sin. That only makes his grace to us stand out even greater.

16 – One more rebellion against God and his chosen leader shows that only God’s way counts. Only those he places in leadership should be there. A group of leaders decided to challenge the leadership of Moses and Aaron. They refused to be content with the leadership role that they have been given and wanted more. Moses appealed to God and allowed God to settle the issue by the tests that he set up. Note the number of times God appeared and intervened. V19 “And the glory of the Lord appeared to all the congregation.” V35 “And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.” The opposition refused to even participate in the tests. This is the third time that the Lord announced he would destroy the people and start over with Moses. Moses intervened and the nation was saved again. Moses put God on trial and stated that he was not a leader because he wanted it but because God chose him. He called on God to verify. He was very specific about how God would do this. V32 tells that the earth opened up very unusually and swallowed the leaders of the opposition. Then in V35, fire from the Lord consumed the 250 men who were opposing Moses. God set up a reminder for all the people that only a descendant of Aaron would be allowed to come to burn incense before the Lord. They took the incense censers and beat them into a sheet and placed it over the altar to be a reminder (V39-40). Again the people grumbled about Moses being in leadership. How long a time passes between these? When will they fear the Lord? When will they see that God is able and does intervene specifically to verify His will for them? Jesus is the only way. As Aaron stood in the place and made atonement on behalf of the people, so Jesus stands in our place and makes atonement on our behalf.

17 – God set up a test to demonstrate that Aaron was the one chosen as High priest. All the leaders brought their staffs and left them overnight with their names on them. By morning, Aaron’s staff had not only blossomed but also produced ripe fruit. How comforting it is to see that God intervenes to verify those he has placed in leadership.

18 – The duties of the priests and Levites were given so that the people were able to representatively approach God. This small group was to be supported by the tithes and offerings of the people and performed their work before God. The Levites received no land inheritance. Their relationship with the Lord was to be such a privilege that it replaced the value of the land. Note again so many phrases involve the Lord. V21 “To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting, so that the people of Israel do not come near the tent of meeting, lest they bear sin and die.” Here Hebrews makes a picture of Jesus in that he is greater as a priest than Aaron or the Levites. We are to bring him the tithe of our lives.

19 – This is a very interesting chapter and ritual. A bull was slaughtered and burned completely along with hyssop, scarlet yarn and cedarwood. The ashes were taken to a special place outside the camp to be held for when needed. They were to be used to make a person ritually clean. This is not the same as sin. One may become ritually unclean through no fault of his own but he is still unclean. Death and contact of anything with death make either the person or any object unclean. There is a ritual for cleansing. V13 “Whoever touches a dead person, the body of anyone who has died, and does not cleanse himself, defiles the tabernacle of the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from Israel; because the water for impurity was not thrown on him, he shall be unclean. His uncleanness is still on him.” That ritual reminds us of Jesus who died and became “unclean” on our behalf so that we might stand not only forgiven but also ritually clean before God.

20 – The people run out of water again and mount a campaign of grumbling against Moses and Aaron. It is interesting that God did not give them a verbal answer but answered by showing up. The Lord instructed Moses to V8 “tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water.” Instead V11 Moses “lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly and the congregation drank.” What grace of God that even though Moses disobeyed God’s orders God still provided water for the people. They did not deserve it for their lack of trust in him. Moses did not deserve it because he disobeyed. God granted it anyway. It did cost Moses the opportunity to enter the Promised Land. Jesus is the one who meets all our needs and wants. If we want something besides him, it is not necessary. Aaron died. Aaron represented Jesus’ ministry except for when he struck the rock to get water. Jesus is pictured as the rock in 1 Corinthians 10:1-5. V13 “These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy.”

21 – This is a diverse chapter. They obtained victory in battle and the battle is the Lord's. They grumbled against the food and the trip, and God sent poisonous serpents. The cure God provided was to place a brass serpent on a pole and if anyone looked at it, they would live. It did not make sense but it was God's way for them to express their faith in God and submit to him. The serpent on the pole is a picture of Christ in that they need only look at it to live. See John 3:14-16. That is an example of faith, not works. There was no other way. This was the way provided by God. When the people tried to preserve the bronze serpent, it became an idol and had to be destroyed. See Romans 1:25 where they worshipped the created instead of the Creator. There is a phrase that is very unusual in this chapter. V2-3 "And Israel vowed a vow to the Lord and said, 'If you will indeed give this people into my hand, then I will devote their cities to destruction.' And the Lord obeyed the voice of Israel and gave over the Canaanites, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction." Does that phrase appear anywhere else that "the Lord obeyed the voice of the people"?

22-25 – This is the story of Balaam and Balak. Balak was a Canaanite king and hired the prophet Balaam to curse the people of Israel since he perceived that they represented a threat to him and his people. It may be that the story does not contain all of what happened. It appears that Balaam was committed to only tell what God told him to tell. It appears that God sent him (22:20) but then was upset that he went (22:31-35). Balaam seems to honor the Lord and His word, contending several times that is all he will speak. He will not curse the Israelites. The story concludes with Moab seducing the Israelites, seemingly at Balaam's instructions. Meanwhile, God honored the zeal of Phinehas, grandson of Aaron. He intervened to turn away God's anger from the Israelites by killing two people who deliberately and publicly disobeyed the word of the Lord. The picture in these chapters is that Israel is the people of God as we are the people belonging to Jesus. Nothing any enemy can plan can change God's blessing for us into cursing. Balaam is very careful to speak only what the Lord told him and put on his lips. Several times the text says, "And the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth (23:5, 16). He stated that there was no way he could say other than what God has said since only what God has blessed will be blessed and what God has cursed will be cursed. Phinehas' zeal for the Lord in killing the sinning Israelite man and woman of Baal reminds us of the zeal of Jesus in the temple when he threw out the moneychangers and sellers.

26 – This is the second census. Not one of the ones listed earlier is present in this census because they all died as God said. V64 "But among these was not one of those listed by Moses and Aaron the priest, who had listed the people of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai." We all deserve to die for our sins except for God's grace in Jesus.

27 – Five sisters who have no brother brought a very interesting case to Moses about the inheritance of the land of their father. This probably illustrates how many of the laws of God came to be. A specific case not faced before was brought to the Lord and he rendered a judgment. From then on, that was law. The law that came out of this was that if there is no near relative, the land is to be passed on in inheritance to the nearest of kin. How great is that for us! Jesus is the nearest of kin and we can give everything to him. Joshua was appointed successor to Moses. V18-19 "So the Lord said to Moses, 'Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight.'" Since Jesus is eternal, no one ever will need to succeed him and his sacrifice is once for all.

28-29 – Here are further instructions about the frequency of offerings and the additional aspects such as grain and wine and oil that must be added to the offerings of bulls, rams and goats. It is hard to be sure of the purpose of each of the offerings but each one is fulfilled in Jesus and in our offering our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord for his purposes. Even though we may not understand each of these offerings today, it is important to remember that each one was given by God and was to be obeyed. There is regularity to the worship of God expressed by these offerings and sacrifices. Each day, each month and each year certain offerings were made. These would serve as reminders that God is holy, that the people were not, and that God had provided a means by which people could be forgiven or cleansed. For us that way is always through Jesus. Probably every one of these instructions helps us understand more about Jesus and his death for us.

30 – This chapter has to do with the continuing validity of vows made. Men are responsible to keep theirs. V2 "If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth." Women were exempt if overruled by father or husband. Does this show that we should make all our statements and vows in the protective shadow of our Lord Jesus or in his name?

31 – The army sought vengeance on Midian. But it is important to note that they were V3 "to execute the Lord's vengeance on Midian." We get more insight into the actions of Balaam from chapters 22-25. It seems that while he did not curse the Israelites, he did counsel the people of Midian to seduce them through women. Balaam died in this

battle. V8 "And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword." V16 "Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord." After complete victory, an offering was brought back of captured plunder and shared with the congregation and with the priests and Levites. The process included a ritual cleansing from the death of the battle. Even though they were carrying out the Lord's battle, they were ritually unclean. The numbers in the story do not seem to add up. Israel sent an army of 12,000 into battle, one thousand from each tribe. The army of Midian must have been much larger since they captured 32,000 women who V17 "have not known a man by lying with him." The army leaders also recognized the hand of God in protecting every one of them so that none of them died and they offered an extra offering to the Lord. How much more do we owe him everything for what he did for us in Jesus' death on Calvary!

32 – The point here is the separation of the two tribes who will remain east of the Jordan. The tribes requested to be able to settle east of the Jordan. The fear was that they would weaken the resolve of their countrymen just as the spies' report had done forty years earlier. The solution was worked out. V29 "And Moses said to them, 'If the people of Gad and the people of Reuben, every man who is armed to battle before the Lord, will pass with you over the Jordan and the land will be subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession.'"

33 – This chapter recounts the journey from Egypt and contained God's command to cast out and kill all inhabitants of the Promised Land. V1 "These are the stages of the people of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their companies under the leadership of Moses and Aaron." Note that the killing of the firstborn in Egypt is summed in V4 as, "while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had struck down among them. On their gods also the Lord executed judgments." The chapter concludes with a serious warning. V55-56 "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. And I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

34 – So confident are they of the Lord's promise that they set the borders and make plans to divide the land even before they enter to fight one battle. You might want to look up a map to see how the borders of the Promised Land were when the Israelites entered and captured the land. V2 "Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that will fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders)..." May we be that confident of God's promises to us in Christ! Also leaders were appointed from each tribe to head up the division of the land by tribes.

35 – The priests and Levites were given forty-eight cities, six of which were the Cities of Refuge. V15 "These six cities shall be for refuge for the people of Israel, and for the stranger and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills any person without intent may flee there." The crime of murder is to be punished by death, not to discourage murder as much as to keep the land from becoming polluted. V33-34 "You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the Lord dwell in the midst of the people of Israel." Some see the cities of Refuge as types of Christ in these ways. 1) They were appointed by God as Christ was. 2) They were announced in the Word. God provided refuge. 3) They were accessible to all. They were to be located to be available to anyone to flee to easily. 4) They were adequate to meet the need. One who killed another was safe there, as we are in Christ, from just judgment. These cities received people who were charged of murder but innocent; Christ receives guilty sinners. It is not clear that the same rules would apply to the United States since we are not a land that is governed by God or his rules.

36 – Another clarification of the law of inheritance is given. Daughters of fathers who had no sons must marry within the tribe so that the land continues in the same tribe. V13 "These are the commandments and the rules that the Lord commanded through Moses to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho." This was ultimately to show that God owned the land. We owe every aspect of our lives to Jesus Christ for all he has done for us. Notice how many times the phrase or paragraph begins, "The Lord spoke," or "The Lord commanded," or "And Moses commanded the people of Israel according to the word of the Lord saying..." All of these commands came from God and help us to learn more about him and about our relationship with him.