

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SCHEDULE FOR 7/2/12 TO 7/8/12

MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012 Read Numbers 22:1 to 25:18

Taken together, these four chapters detail the encounter of Israel with Balaam. Terrified that no human army can stop the Lord's divisions from conquering Canaan the king of Moab (Balak) chooses a superhuman weapon; he asks the pagan magician Balaam to conjure up a curse against Israel. But what God has blessed, Balaam cannot curse. And so, in the end, Israel's enemies get God's people to bring God's wrath down upon themselves- by committing spiritual adultery (25:1-3).

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2012 Read Numbers 26:1 to 27:23

As he did before the people broke camp at Sinai (Numbers 1-4), Moses takes a census now, forty years later. Nearly all the people from the previous generations have died, and Israel is preparing to enter and conquer Canaan itself. Moses knows he will not go with them, so he prayerfully appoints Joshua to lead the people in their conquest.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2012 Read Numbers 28:1 to 30:16

For a new generation, Moses once again repeats and summarizes Israel's regular sacrifices and yearly observances. Numbers 30 then gives explicit case-by-case instructions about the oaths the Lord's people take. God stresses His intention that their word be as certain as His.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2012 Read Numbers 31:1-54

If Canaan is to serve as a kind of "spiritual incubator" for the infant nations Israel, the dangerous virus of idolatry must be neutralized. The people of Midian, allied with Moab, have already tempted Israel into this sin. Thus, the Lord declares the "holy war" you will read about today,

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012 Read Numbers 32:1 to 34:29

The leaders of the tribes of Gad and Reuben come to Moses with a request that makes him throw up his hands and say, in essence, "Here we go again!" But once they explain their reasoning and volunteer their help to the other tribes, Moses relents. Chapter 33 reveals the nation's physical journey from Egypt to Canaan, and in chapter 34 the Lord lays out the boundaries of the land He intends His people to have.

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2012 Read Numbers 35:1 to 36:17.

To understand Number 36, you need to sit in the context of 27:1-11. Here, the Lord gave daughters the right to inherit family land under certain circumstances. But if those daughters married outside their tribe, their land could transfer to that tribe in the Year of Jubilee. The Lord's plan to prevent senseless poverty and extravagant wealth at the expense of the poor in Israel would be thwarted. Read to find the solution Moses decreed.

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2012 Come to Sunday worship with us and then catch up on readings you missed.