

Wednesday, 10/1

Read: Numbers 10:1-10; Exodus 12:31-51

Ask yourself or one another: What is the mission for the Army of God here? How has it changed? How is it the same?

Meditate on the faithfulness of God: *“The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people”* (v. 36)

Pray: “Lord, forgive us for doubting your faithfulness. Renew us in the gospel truth that You are indeed faithful and trustworthy. Work in us we pray that we might lift our eyes to You and give You praise.”

Thursday, 10/2

Read: Numbers 10:11-28; Exodus 13:1-16

Ask yourself or one another: How were God’s people to prepare for battle then? What are the similarities and differences now?

Sing: *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

Pray: Ask God to prepare us for battle and to continue to go with us as He has promised. Confess your own cowardice and ask Him to give us boldness in the battle ahead.

Friday, 10/3

Read: Numbers 10:29-32; Matthew 26:17-30

Ask yourself or one another: How are Passover and Communion related? How does the context of Passover inform your participation in Communion?

Review the names of the sons of Israel.

Pray: Confess your lack of faith in His presence in Communion. Ask Him to work in us as a community of faith to trust His Word.

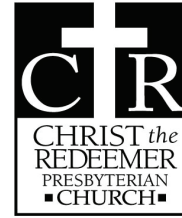
Saturday, 10/4

Read: Numbers 10:33-36; Matthew 28:16-20 *in preparation for gathered worship*

Ask yourself or one another: What does it mean for you to wait upon the Lord? What does it mean for us as a congregation to wait upon Him together? How do we look to Him when we can’t see His presence as a pillar of cloud and fire? What forms does His leading take?

Sing: *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

Pray: “Rise up, O Lord! May Your enemies be scattered; may Your foes flee before You. Work in us we pray to recognize Your presence and to flock to Your banner in battle. Help us to see the reality of the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged and to meet it in Your strength.
“Return, O Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel [His people].
Teach us to rest in You and to delight in Your presence.”



AT THE LORD’S COMMAND

Sermon Notes from 9/28/08

Numbers 9:1-10:11

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Book Overview

Numbers/Into the Wilderness: God has prepared the Promised Land for Israel as an inheritance where they are to dwell together with Him in their midst enjoying unprecedented intimacy and delight. While the first generation brought up out of Egypt failed to trust Him and so died in the wilderness, they are to press on in faith and obey His Word in every regard so they will live in His blessing.

Principles for Possession and Enjoyment of the Land

1. Perfect obedience is necessary for life and blessing
2. The Lord organizes His army for the possession of her inheritance.
3. It is impossible for fallen people to walk with the righteous God.
4. God Himself prepares His people to receive His inheritance.

Section Outline

The third section of the book includes chapters nine and ten:

9:1-10:36	God-ordered living as a community (Waiting on the Lord)
9:1-14	Instructions for Passover (8)
9:15-23	Camping and Setting out on His command (23)
10:1-10	Convening and departing at trumpet blast(s)
10:11-28	Setting out in battle order
10:29-32	Blessing others—Moses invites Hobab and Midianites
10:33-36	Calling upon the name of the Lord

Text

The LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai in the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. He said, ²"Have the Israelites celebrate the **Passover** at the appointed time. ³Celebrate it at the appointed time, at twilight on the fourteenth day of this month, in accordance with all its rules and regulations." ⁴ So Moses told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover, ⁵and they did so in the Desert of Sinai at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁶But some of them could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body. So they came to Moses and Aaron that same day ⁷and said to Moses, "We have become unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be kept from presenting the LORD's offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?" ⁸Moses answered them, "Wait until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you."

⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰"Tell the Israelites: 'When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they may still celebrate the LORD's Passover. ¹¹They are to celebrate it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹²They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations. ¹³ But if a man who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, that person must be cut off from his people because he did not present the LORD's offering at the appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin.

¹⁴"An alien living among you who wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover must do

so in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for the alien and the native-born."

¹⁵On the day the tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire.

¹⁶That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire.

¹⁷Whenever the cloud lifted from above the Tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. ¹⁸At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. ¹⁹When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out. ²⁰Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. ²¹Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. ²²Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. ²³At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

10:1 The LORD said to Moses: ²"Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out. ³When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁴If only one is sounded, the leaders-- the heads of the clans of Israel-- are to assemble before you. ⁵When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out. ⁶At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out. ⁷To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the same signal. ⁸"The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come. ⁹When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies. ¹⁰Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed feasts and New Moon festivals—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. **I am the LORD your God.**"

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you think and pray through the following questions:

How do you wait on the Lord for His commands? How do you fail to?

What does covenant renewal mean?

How does the gospel lead us in renewal? How do we help one another?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Will you join me in reading and studying Numbers together?

Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let's wade into the Wilderness together.

Sunday, 9/28

Read: Numbers 9:1-10:10

Ask yourself or one another: What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review Application.

Sing: *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul* (words in *Order of Worship*)

Pray: "God of Passover, teach us about Your work of renewal in the lives of Your people, together and individually. Renew us we pray, that we might obey You out of joy rather than fear. Make us pant after You, teach us to wait on You, show us how to love You and one another, for the honor of Christ, amen."

Monday, 9/29

Read: Numbers 9:1-14; Exodus 11:1-10

Meditate on Moses' reply (v. 8)

Why is it so hard for us to wait on God?

Ask yourself or one another: What is the only alternative to God's blessing? From what was Passover delivering the people?

Pray: Ask God to teach us as a people to be content to wait upon Him. Give Him thanks for His blessing. Call upon Him to be merciful to the people of Portland, to not curse but bless them.

Tuesday, 9/30

Read: Numbers 9:15-23; Exodus 12:1-30

Ask yourself or one another: How were the people to eat the Passover meal (v. 11)? Why? What are they waiting on God to do? How did their eating in this way manifest their trust in God to deliver them?

Sing: *Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul*

Pray: "Lord, thank you for Your deliverance. Thank you for the blood of the Lamb. Thank you for being both just and merciful. Help us to truly understand them both and walk accordingly."