



A JEALOUS GOD

Sermon Notes from 11/23/08

Numbers 25:1-18

Rev. Per Almqvist

Thursday, 11/27

Read: Numbers 26:1-25; Hosea 10-11

Ask yourself or one another: How do we understand the grace of God in sustaining the line of Korah (vv. 9-11)? How do we reconcile the severity and mercy of God? Which do you tend to stress to the neglect of the other? How does the gospel (Hosea 11) correct that mistake?

Memorize/Review Israel's tribes: Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Nephthali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph (Manasseh, Ephriam), Benjamin.

Pray: Praise Christ for His great love for His people.

Friday, 11/28

Read: Numbers 26:26-65; Hosea 12-14

Ask yourself or one another: How did God show Himself to be true to His Word (v. 63ff)?

Review memorizing the tribes.

Pray: Ask God to teach us what it means to have Christ as our inheritance. Praise Him for His faithfulness. Adore Him for His passionate, jealous love for His people. Ask Him to make us faithful.

Saturday, 11/29

Read: Numbers 27:1-23 *in preparation for gathered worship*

Sing: *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Pray: "LORD, O LORD, we have sinned like our fathers. We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. We, like they, quickly forget Your works and proceeded foolishly without awaiting Your counsel. We have craved what we do not need, indeed things disastrous for us, but we have longed after them while neglecting what You have graciously provided for us.

"Lord, we have sinned like our fathers. We have despised Your blessings, even Christ Himself as we have failed to believe You at Your word and not listened to Your voice.

"Save us, O LORD! That we might give You thanks and praise Your holy name. Blessed be the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the Lord!" (Ps 106)

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Featherstone/Gordon

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree. I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death; and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath; and say, when the death dew lies cold on my brow: if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright; I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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.

Section Outline

1-10 Proper Ordering of the Camp. *"Just as the Lord commanded Moses, so they did."*

11-25 The Impossibility of Walking Together with the Holy One of Israel.

11-12	Failure foreshadowed
13-14	Failure secured
15-19	Turning away God's wrath – the Aaronic Priesthood
20	Transition of Generations
21-25	Engaging the Enemies
21:1-3	Retaliation against Canaanite Arad
21: 4-9	The Enemy within (Repentance and the Bronze Serpent)
21:10-35	Destruction of the Amorites
22:1-24:25	Balak tries to get Balaam to curse Israel who instead blesses them
25:1-18	People play harlot with Moab, plague only checked by Phinehas's intercession

Text

¹While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality [harlotry] with Moabite women, ²who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. ³So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them. ⁴The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel." ⁵So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor." ⁶Then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁷When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand ⁸and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear through both of them-- through the Israelite and into the woman's body. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; ⁹but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000. ¹⁰The LORD said to Moses, ¹¹"Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites; for he was as zealous as I am for my honor among them, so that in my zeal I did not put an end to them. ¹²Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. ¹³He and his descendants will have a

covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”¹⁴ The name of the Israelite who was killed with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a Simeonite family.¹⁵ And the name of the Midianite woman who was put to death was Cozbi daughter of Zur, a tribal chief of a Midianite family.¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses,¹⁷ “Treat the Midianites as enemies and kill them,¹⁸ because they treated you as enemies when they deceived you in the affair of Peor and their sister Cozbi, the daughter of a Midianite leader, the woman who was killed when the plague came as a result of Peor.”

Sermon Notes

Message

- I.
- II.
- III.

Application

Please seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance as you answer the following:
 Does God have the right to be jealous? Why or why not?
 How can God condone such barbaric acts as Phinehas?
 What does ‘atonement’ mean and how do we see it here? How does Christ?

Check out our new website www.ctrPortland.org

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.

Read: Numbers 25:1-18

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: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* as a renewal of Your vows to Him.

Pray: “Lord God, Forgive us for not being passionate about the same things about which You are passionate. Change our hearts. Transform our lives. Renew our minds with Your holy Word. Teach us to trust You and so obey You out of a passionate love for You.”

Read: Numbers 25:1-5; Hosea 1-3

Meditate on the passion of God

Ask yourself or one another: What are the people doing wrong in both passages? Why is it so wrong? What is God’s mandated punishment? Why? Where is the grace of the gospel in this?

Pray: “Holy One of Israel, we praise You for You alone are God. Please reveal to us the truthfulness of Your promises to our hearts and minds. Please protect us from sin’s deceitfulness.”

Read: Numbers 25:6-9; Hosea 5-6

Ask yourself or one another: How does the specific example of Zimri and Cozbi help us to understand this passage and the sin involved? Does a specific sin with real people make the concept of sin more or less difficult for you? Why?

Sing: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* (words on back)

Pray: Ask Him to teach us that His Word is faithful and true.

Read: Numbers 25:10-16; Hosea 7-9

Ask yourself or one another: Why is Phinehas commended? Is that difficult for you? Why or why not? What is the atonement about which God speaks (v. 13)? How does this point to Christ?

Pray: “Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of passion for You. Renew us in our love for You and teach us what it means to live in light of the hope You have won for us in Christ.”

Sunday, 11/23

Monday, 11/24

Tuesday, 11/25

Wednesday, 11/26