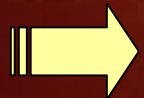


Numbers Outline (by Census)

I. The experiences of the 1st generation in the wilderness (Chs. 1-25)



II. The preparation of the 2nd Generation for entry into the Land of Promise (Chs. 26-36)

Numbers Outline (by Census)

I. The wilderness experiences of the 1st generation (Chs 1-25)

A. *The First Census (1-4)*

B. *Instructions and Laws (5-10)*

C. *Rebellion and judgment (11-25)*

II. The preparation of the 2nd Generation for entry into the Land of Promise (Chs 26-36)

 A. *The 2nd census, preparing to enter the land (26-30) (Vows)*

 B. *Vengeance on the Midianites (31)*



D. *Final instructions and preparations (33-36)*

Numbers 30 Outline

- 1 *Moses speaks to the tribal heads*
- 2 *Vows of a man*
- 3-16 *Vows of women*
 - a. *Daughters*
 - b. *Married women*

Numbers 30 - Vows

Vow: “An earnest promise or pledge that binds one to perform a specified act or behave in a certain manner; especially a solemn promise to live and act in accordance with the prescriptions of a religious body.”

A vow is an expression of unusual devotion.

Since a vow is a higher order behavior, it is incumbent upon us to consider it carefully before entering into it.

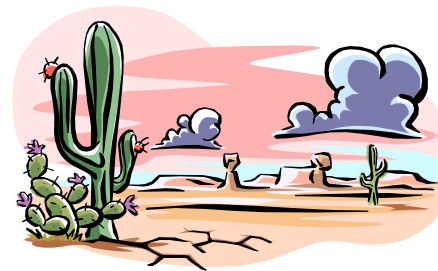
Vows - Key Teachings

-
- *Do not make rash vows.*
- *Count the cost before entering into a binding agreement.*
- *The father or husband of a woman has the authority to confirm or annul a vow. However, he must speak his mind when he first hears of the vow.*
- *Accountability even if we have made a vow without carefully considering the cost.*

Structure of the Book

22-24	<i>Oracles of Balaam</i>
25	<i>Baal of Peor</i>
26	<i>The 2nd census</i>
27	<i>The inheritance of women</i>
28-29	<i>Offerings</i>
30	<i>Vows</i>
31	<i>Vengeance on the Midianites</i>

A “Divine Interlude” in the narrative



Numbers 31 Outline

Theme: “The Holy War of Israel”

1-2

3-12 War against Midian

13-18 Vengeance completed

19-24 Purification

-31 The booty

32-47 The Numbers

48-54 A special offering

Lessons from Numbers 31

- *Completing a task*
- *Don't mess with God's kids.*
- *God uses whom He will as He will.*
- *Free-will offerings from a grateful heart*
- *Sight that others don't have*
- *God is fair.*
- *God does things we don't expect or anticipate.*
- *The end of those who oppose God*
- *Beware the enemy of lust.*

Numbers 32 Outline

- 1-5 Reuben and Gad's request*
- 6-15 Moses response (homily)*
- 16-19 Reuben and Gad's agreement*
- 20-27 Moses' conditions*
- 28-32 Moses speaks to the leaders*
- 33-42 Moses gives them the land*

Moses' Homily

- *Specificity*
- *Passion*
- *Historical insights*
- *Contemporary feel*
- *Vivid imagery*
- *Heart appeal*

Lessons from Chapter 32

1. *Don't jump to conclusions before you have all of the facts.*
2. *Example of respectful appeal to authority*
3. *We don't have to be like our parents.*
4. *Example of biblical preaching*
- 5.

Don't Be Satisfied with Less than the Best

- *They took what they could presently see.*
- *They always had a physical divider between them and the rest of Israel.*
- *They did not have the bigger picture:*
 - *limited vision*
 - *focused on their own needs*

Our temptation – be like Reuben and Gad