

“Poised and/or Poisoned”

The Book of Numbers

Numbers starts as a continuation of the Exodus account of the enslaved Israelites...

Exodus-Leviticus-Numbers 1-10...

Poised to go into the Promised Land

Numbers 11-25 = story of dying “old” generation & rising “new” generation... all in the desert...

Poisoned by “Posers”

Desert-dwellers due to disastrous, doubting delinquents!

Numbers 26-37 = “new” generation poised to go into the Promised Land...

Numbers focuses on 3 locations and their associated time:

1. Mount Sinai	Preparing to “depart”	20 days	(ch. 1- 10)
2. Kadesh / Desert	Wandering due to sin	39 years	(ch.11- 21)
3. Moab	Preparing to “enter”	6 months	(ch. 22-37)

Old vs New of Ephesians = Old generation vs New generation of Numbers....

Holy vs Hypocrite

Faithful vs Phonies

Moses vs Korah

2 Spies vs 10 Spies

Land vs Sand

Dead vs Alive

Obey vs Dismay

In vs Out

Up vs Down

Heaven vs Hell

Trust vs Rust

Lead vs Bleed

Disciples vs Delinquents

Church vs Crowd

Jawbone of a Donkey = kills 1,000 vs speaks to 1...

Numbers includes “wilderness” = 48X & “anger” = 10X (9=God’s anger)

How did we get here?

**PLAN (Him, Here, Hurt, Help, Hope),
PEOPLE, PECULIAR, PERCEPTIVE, PERSPECTIVE, PROMISE, PARTICULARS, PURITY**

While God is speaking to everyone, not everyone is listening!

God the Father is Creator of ALL... BUT *only Daddy to some!*

(READ: John 8:31-48)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **33** They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35** Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. **37** I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. **38** I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father."

39 "Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. **40** As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. **41** You are doing the things your own father does."

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. **43** Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. **44** **You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.** He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** **Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!** **46** Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? **47** He who belongs to God hears what God says. **The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.**"

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that **you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?**"

"You are either for Me or against Me; you are either helping me to gather or you are scattering"
– Jesus, the Christ (Luke 11:23)

What is your **PRE-DISPOSITION**?

Are you "persnickety on purity" OR "pugnacious and pernicious"

Are you "Poised" or "Poisoned?"

Poised vs. Poisoned People... Priest vs Posers Preparing the Particulars of Purity: Numbers 1-10

Numbers 9:8 = *“Wait until I find out what the Lord commands concerning you.”*

Numbers 9:15-23 = *“when the cloud lifted (they travelled)... when the cloud sat (they sat)”*

Ephesians 1:1-5 = *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy & blameless before Him...*

Poised vs Poisoned People... Grace-filled & Grateful vs Grumblers & Gossips: Numbers 11-12

Numbers 11:

11:1ff = complaining led to God’s fire to consume them... then Moses prayed for them and God relented

11:18-22 (be careful what you wish for... “you will have quail until it is coming out of your nostrils and you loathe it...”)

11:23 = **“Is the Lord’s arm too short?”**

11:25 = God put His Spirit on the 70 elders...

11:33 = After sending quail 3 feet deep for as far as the eye could see in every direction... while the “meat was still between their teeth...” - “God struck them with a severe plague.”

Numbers 12:

“Moses was a very humble man, the most humble on the earth...”

“Why were you not afraid to talk against my servant Moses?”

Hebrews 13:7 = *Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.*

Ephesians 2:8-10 = *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Ephesians 3: 14-21 closing prayer = *I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

Poised vs. Poisoned People... Leaders vs Liars... Promised Land vs Painful Sand: Numbers 14

A. **Ephesians 4:1-6 = Poised in Unity**

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

B. *Ephesians 4:7-12* = **Poised for Growth**

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." 9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

C. **Ephesians 4:13-24 = Poised vs. Poisoned...** (2 LIVING spies vs. 10 DEAD spies)

Numbers 14:24 = (CALEB) *But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.*

NOTE: vv.40-45 = people decide to fight after God said "no" = slaughter!

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Living as Children of Light - **17** So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. **21** Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

D. **Ephesians 4:25-32 = Poised to Imitate God**

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **26** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold. **28** He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

"You are either for Me or against Me; you are either helping me to gather or you are scattering"

46 Jesus, the Christ (**Luke 11:23**)

Numbers 16:

*Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent **2** and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. **3** They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?"*

***4** When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. **5** Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. **6** You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers **7** and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!"*

***8** Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! **9** Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? **10** He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too. **11** It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?"*

***12** Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come! **13** Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert? And now you also want to lord it over us? **14** Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? No, we will not come!"*

***15** Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them."*

***16** Moses said to Korah, "You and all your followers are to appear before the LORD tomorrow—you and they and Aaron. **17** Each man is to take his censer and put incense in it—250 censers in all—and present it before the LORD. You and Aaron are to present your censers also." **18** So each man took his censer, put fire and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. **19** When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the entire assembly. **20** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, **21** "Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once."*

***22** But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, "O God, God of the spirits of all mankind, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"*

***23** Then the LORD said to Moses, **24** "Say to the assembly, 'Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'"*

***25** Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. **26** He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins." **27** So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.*

***28** Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: **29** If these men die a natural death and experience only what usually happens to men, then the LORD has not sent me. **30** But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the grave, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt."*

***31** As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart **32** and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. **33** They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. **34** At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!"*

35 And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense. **36** The LORD said to Moses, **37** "Tell Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, to take the censers out of the smoldering remains and scatter the coals some distance away, for the censers are holy— **38** the censers of the men who sinned at the cost of their lives. Hammer the censers into sheets to overlay the altar, for they were presented before the LORD and have become holy. Let them be a sign to the Israelites."

39 So Eleazar the priest collected the bronze censers brought by those who had been burned up, and he had them hammered out to overlay the altar, **40** as the LORD directed him through Moses. This was to remind the Israelites that no one except a descendant of Aaron should come to burn incense before the LORD, or he would become like Korah and his followers.

41 The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the LORD's people," they said.

42 But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the Tent of Meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared. **43** Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting, **44** and the LORD said to Moses, **45** "Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once." And they fell facedown.

46 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with fire from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started." **47** So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. **48** He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped. **49** But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah. **50** Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, for the plague had stopped.

Hebrews 13:17 (+ James 3:1) = Obey your leaders & submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy & not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Ephesians 6:10-178 spiritual warfare/armor = Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Poised vs. Poisoned People... Patient vs. Impatient... Believers vs. Blasphemers: Num. 20-24

Numbers 21:4-9 (bronze serpent) Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. **5** The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." **6** The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. **7** So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and

you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. **8** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live." **9** And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

John 3:14-15 = "Jesus is to be lifted up the Moses' bronze serpent..."

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; **15** so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

Ephesians 6:18-20 = With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, **19** and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Poised vs. Poisoned People... Priestly vs. Popular... Plague "Stopper" vs. "Starter": Numbers 25

Numbers 25:1-13 = While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. **2** These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. **3** So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. **4** And the Lord said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the Lord, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." **5** And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor." **6** And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. **7** When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand **8** and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. **9** Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. **10** And the Lord said to Moses, **11** "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. **12** Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, **13** and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.'" "

Ephesians 6:23-24 = Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

NOTE: God keeps His promises... EVEN when we don't!!!

Numbers ends with Abraham's bloodline ready to enter the Promised Land!!!

55X The Lord “spoke” to Moses... vs. 9X God’s “anger” burns against the rebels/grumblers...

Caleb & Joshua vs. 10 Dead Spies!

Phinehas vs. Balaam

Overview thus far:

PLAN

PEOPLE

PECULIAR

PROMISE

PERCEPTIVE

PERSPECTIVE

PARTICULARS

PURITY

NUMBERS: “Poised and/or Poisoned” (PREDISPOSED)

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary definitions:

Pre = an English prefix, is the L. proe, before, probably a contracted word.

Dispose = 1. To set; to place or distribute; to arrange; used with reference to order. The ships were disposed in the form of a crescent. The general disposed his troops in three lines. The trees are disposed in the form of a quincunx. 2. To regulate; to adjust; to set in right order. Job 34 and 37. The knightly forms of combat to dispose. 3. To apply to a particular purpose; to give; to place; to bestow; as, you have disposed much in works of public piety. In this sense, to dispose of is more generally used. 4. To set, place or turn to a particular end or consequence. Endure and conquer; Jove will soon dispose to future good our past and present woes. 5. To adapt; to form for any purpose. Then must thou thee dispose another way. 6. To set the mind in a particular frame; to incline. Avarice disposes men to fraud and oppression. Suspicions dispose kings to tyranny, husbands to jealousy, and wise men to irresolution and melancholy. He was disposed to pass into Achaia. Acts 18. 1 Corinthians 10:27. To dispose of, 1. To part with; to alienate; as, the man has disposed of his house, and removed. 2. To part with to another; to put into another’s hand or power; to bestow; as, the father has disposed of his daughter to a man of great worth. 3. To give away or transfer by authority. A rural judge disposed of beauty’s prize. 4. To direct the course of a thing. Proverbs 16. 5. To place in any condition; as, how will you dispose of your son? 6. To direct what to do or what course to pursue; as, they know not how to dispose of themselves. 7. To use or employ; as, they know not how to dispose of their time. 8. To put away. The stream supplies more water than can be disposed of.

Dispose, v.i. To bargain; to make terms. **Dispose**, n.1. Disposal; power of disposing; management. 2. Dispensation; act of government. 3. Disposition; cast of behavior. 4. Disposition; cast of mind; inclination.

9:8 = Moses waited to hear from the Lord before deciding...

9:15-23 = the Lord's presence via the cloud/fire (stay or go per the cloud) key = vv.22-23

10:9-13 = sound your trumpet before battle... sent out via the cloud... (v.12 "cloud came to rest in desert of Paran")

Bronze serpent lifted up (Numbers 21:4-9) = Jesus on the cross (John 3:14-15)

33:(last verse) = God's threat to do to the disobedient that which He will do to the enemies...

Jude = Korah's rebellion & Balaam...

11:1ff = complaining led to God's fire to consume them... then Moses prayed for them and God relented

11:18-23 (v.20 = be careful what you wish for... and HOW you wish for it... "you will have quail until it is coming out of your nostrils and you loathe it...") & (v.23 = "Is the Lord's arm too short?")

11:25 = God put His Spirit on the 70 elders...

11:33 = After sending quail 3 feet deep for as far as the eye could see in every direction... while the "meat was still between their teeth..." - "God struck them with a severe plague."

12 = Miriam & Aaron begin talking against Moses...

"Moses was a very humble man, the most humble on the earth..."

"Why were you not afraid to talk against my servant Moses?"

Then Miriam was shown to have leprosy... & Moses cried out to God... please heal her...

NOTE: God healed her...

The people had to wait for her healing to move on (7 days)

The next stop for the people was the desert of PARAN!

13 = The Lord said to Moses, send the 12 spies...

NOTE:

Each spy was a LEADER!

v.25 = at the end of 40 days they returned back...

vv.30-31 = Caleb silenced the crowd... let's go and take possession of the land, for we can surely do it! vs. we "can't do it... they are stronger than we are... and they spread a bad report and infected the people.... (You are either for Me or against Me... you are either scattering or gathering! - Jesus)

14 = more grumbling... more wishing they could go back to Egypt...

People say they wish they had better leader(s)....

Joshua & Caleb give motivational/obedience speech... "the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid"

The people were ready to stone them...

Then the Lord came and spoke to Moses... I will strike them down and destroy them with a plague....

Moses again pleads with God to be merciful with these people... for the glory of God in the eyes of the nations.

v.8 = "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"

*** KEY: vv.17-19

vv.20ff = curse on the first generation...

v.24 = AWESOME truth! Caleb has a "different spirit"

40 years = 1 year for every day you inspected the land and refused to take it

10 DEAD SPIES: vv.36-38 = 10 spies struck down with a plague!

vv.40-45 = then people try to do it their own way... does timing matter?

*** They are beaten badly...

SUMMARIZE/Overview Numbers 13-14!

15 = vv.30-31 = obstinate sin = death (then, now, and eternally)

30-36 = death for breaking the Sabbath (gathering wood)

so 37-41 = God tells Moses to tell the people to make "reminders" (tassels for their clothing) that they remember not to worship the idols of their eyes/flesh and obey...)

16 = Korah's Rebellion (and 250 other leaders) became insolent

- “You have gone too far Moses... setting yourself up over us...”
- Moses falls on his face...
- Moses says we will see in the morning!

READ all of Numbers 16!

Lesson on Spiritual Leadership & one’s response to it...

Persnickety God vs. Pugnacious/Pernicious/Peevish (apt to mutter & complain: expressing discontent) people!

20 = More grumbling... “if only we had died when our brothers were taken (Korah)...”

Moses falls on his face and prays for them again...

God tells Moses to tap the rock and get water from it before their eyes...

v.12 is God’s declaration that Moses & Aaron will not go into the Promised Land because of their lack of honoring God when the people wanted water...

Battles begin on their way across the lands...

21 = Bronze serpent lifted up (Numbers 21:4-9) = Jesus on the cross (John 3:14-15)