

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question: What makes you feel a sense of injustice?

Pray: For God to help us understand the book of Numbers for our lives.

Read: Numbers 33:50-56, 35:33-34

Context:

- What is one thing that has stuck with you from Numbers?

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- Why must Israel drive out the Canaanites? What must they be careful to do? Why do you think that is?
- How do you feel about God's commands? How do you square his commands with his character? Micah 7:18-19, Exodus 20:1-6 & 34:5-7

How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- See Malachi 4, Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 21:5-8

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- How do we eradicate evil in our world? See Matthew 5:1-16.
- How should Christians feel about war or other injustices? Are we commanded to fight against every evil in society? What is the problem with trying to do this?
- What is the #1 way to make a difference in this world? In yourself and in others?

Pray: that God would help us be people that make war on evil.

Homework: Read Numbers 31-36

Remind: Village Celebration 18th September.

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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Numbers is the fourth book in what is called the “Pentateuch”, the five books of the Torah. These serves as the foundational books of the people of Israel, giving context to their relationship with Yahweh, the God who is and who created all things.

Numbers takes place in the Wilderness. Between the Exodus, where God rescues Israel out of slavery to Egypt, and the Promised Land, where Israel will experience the fullness of God’s blessings. After rescuing Israel, Yahweh covenanted with Israel. He promised them blessing but in response requires obedience to his good law. The question of Numbers is, will Israel trust God and obey? Or will they rebel as they have already done in Exodus and Leviticus. And, how will God respond if they do?

For Christians today. We too live in the wilderness. In the time between our salvation by faith in Christ, and our enjoying the fullness of eternity in the promised land of the new creation. We too are called to obey Christ by faith.

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- **Why must Israel drive out the Canaanites? What must they be careful to do? Why do you think that is?**

As we have already seen, when Israel flirts with the idolatry of other nations they inevitably begin worshiping their Gods. To worship other ‘god’s’ is to worship according to the religion of those ‘gods’, which is to commit terrible evils. God is wiping out the Canaanites for their terrible practices, Israel should expect the same if they become like the Canaanites.

- **How do you feel about God’s commands? How do you square his commands with his character? Micah 7:18-19, Exodus 20:1-6 & 34:5-7**

It’s common for modern Western Christians to struggle with God’s commands. There are many factors that contribute to these feelings. For example, our culture has long emphasised the love of God, sometimes at the expense of his justice.

The questions to consider are - is God entitled to our worship as our Creator? How evil is the worship of other religions and ‘gods’? Is God right to be ‘jealous’ and what does that mean in God’s context? Does real love allow evil to be rewarded?

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How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- **See Malachi 4, Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 21:5-8**

Jesus comes to separate good from evil. The Kingdom he brings has no place for those who worship other gods and pursue wickedness. Salvation and righteousness is only found by putting our hope and trust in Jesus.

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- **How do we eradicate evil in our world? See Matthew 5:1-16.**

We can be a light in the world by following Jesus. The best way to eradicate evil is to eradicate it in ourselves and pursue the virtues of Jesus.

- **How should Christians feel about war or other injustices? Are we commanded to fight against every evil in society? What is the problem with trying to do this?**

Christians should care about what Jesus and their Father in heaven cares about. God hates injustice. He came to end it. However, we are not God. That means we can't end all injustice. If we try, then we will wear ourselves out. We need wisdom in doing what we can with the gifts God's given us, trusting that God will ultimate bring true justice and peace through Christ.

- **What is the #1 way to make a difference in this world? In yourself and in others?**

People who trust in Jesus change the world for good. The best thing we can do is bring people to the forgiveness of Christ and Jesus' lordship. The other thing we can do is work on the evil in us. We all contribute to the wrongs of this world. By pursuing faithfulness to Christ, we make the world a better place.