**NUMBERS**

**Chapters 1-4: Skip.**

**Chapter 5:** Bizarre ritual for a woman suspected of being unfaithful to her husband. There is no record of this being used. However, this would be a way for the woman to prove herself innocent. At this time, the woman’s word didn’t mean much, and this would have been her best way to prove herself to the husband and community.

**Chapter 6**

- Nazarite Vow. Well known Nazarites are Samson and John the Baptist. The Apostle Paul took a Nazarite vow during his life as well- Acts 21:21-29.

- Verses 24-26 should sound very familiar to you.

**Chapter 7**

Read verses 1-11 and skim 12-88.

**Chapter 8**

God is consecrating and purifying the Levites as Priests for the work in the tabernacle. Remember, they had to follow God’s commands as given or death would happen. This was serious work.

**Chapter 10**: Skim verses 14-28.

**Chapter 11**

- Verses 31-34: This is the second time God sent Quail for the Israelites. Moses questioned God on how He was going to provide meat to so many people (21-22). Why would Moses question how God would bring food? It is reminiscent of the Disciples of Jesus. Jesus feed the 5,000 (Mark 5:30-44) but the Disciples questioned where they would get food (37). Jesus miraculously provided enough for everyone with five loaves of bread and 2 fish. In Mark 8:1-10, Jesus feeds 4,000 and His Disciples question where they would get food for everyone. This came after the feeding of the 5,000. They still didn’t get it. They, like Moses, saw that God do a miracle and still doubt how God would do it again.

**Chapter 14**

- Verses 17-19: Moses pleads for the people using God’s self-description from Exodus 34:16-17.

 **Chapter 18:** Priest’s Portions

**Chapter 21:**

- Verses 21-35: We read about the defeat of Sihon, King of Hesbon and Og, King of Bashan. These are big victories for the Israelites and will be referred to in the next couple of books. The defeat of these two nations helped develop a reputation for Israel that would go before them. Look for these two kings to be mentioned in the next few books of the bible. Joshua 2:10 for example. Rahab told the spies how they heard how they defeated these kings.

**Chapter 22-25**

- In Numbers 22-24, we read about a man named Balaam. At the end of the day, Balaam was a wicked man. Even though God did speak to Balaam, he still was selfish and ultimately helped Israel’s enemies know how to entrap the people of Israel (Numbers 31:16). We read about it in Numbers 25.

- One of the puzzling aspects of Balaam is in Numbers 22:19-22. God gives permission to Balaam to go and then gets angry about Balaam going. There are a few ideas that you hear about on why God got angry with Balaam. First, in verse 20, God says, “IF the men have come to call you, rise and go.” Some translations replace ‘IF’ with ‘since’ (NIV). Balaam was ready to go and wanted to go, so got up and got the men of Moab to leave with him. The men of Moab did not come and get Balaam, Balaam went to them ready to go. This violates the “IF” they come and get you. A second thought is that God already told Balaam not to go to Midian and so when Balaam asked a second time, God told him to go so that He could punish Balaam on his way.

**Chapter 26:** Skim

**Chapter 28-29:** Skim. These are the offerings to be made during their feasts and special days.

**Chapter 33:** Verses 1-49-skim. This is an account of all the stops Israel made between Egypt and the Promised Land.

**Chapter 34:** Skim

**Chapter 35**

- Verses 1-5: Priest portions. They were given some land throughout Israel. They were not given an area of land for their whole tribe.

- Verses 9-34: A murderer was to be put to death. An 'avenger' (35:12) also known as an 'avenger if blood' (35:19) would be the one who could kill the murderer. This person was usually a family member of the one murdered. If the death was unintentional the person could go to a City of Refuge where they could go for protection until a trial could be held. They were to stay in the City of Refuge until the high Priest died. These cities of refuge were 6 cities that were from the Levite towns.