

“Numerous Starting Places”

Numbers Chapter 33

40 years earlier the Children of Israel had left Egypt. There were many locations where they had stopped along the way. The Lord had Moses record each one and this chapter they are listed. What is fascinating about this chapter is the Lord doesn't call these places "STOPS". The Lord calls these places "STARTING PLACES".

In Maine there is a church called "New Beginnings" Its slogan is "*In life what sometimes appears to be the end is really a New Beginning!*". You and I in our journey have many stops and starts. What the Lord is looking at isn't so much the stops but the starts. It requires faith and humility to start again.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
Lamentations 3:22-24

Num 33:1 1) The Starting Places vs 1-49

These are the journeys of the sons of Israel, by which they came out from the land of Egypt by their armies, under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

Num 33:2 Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the LORD, and these are their journeys according to their starting places.

- "By their armies" - There has been a change.
 - They came out from Egypt after 400 years of slavery. In Exodus 13 it says they were delivered "*from the house of slavery*". It doesn't say they were an army. The best is said of them is that they were the "*Sons of Israel*"
 - Moses here writes they came out "*by their armies*" This last 38 years has been God's boot camp for Israel to train them for war. (to take the Promised Land and drive out the inhabitants.)
 - At this point in their journey they look and behave like an army. The New Recruit fresh off the bus at boot camp may be undisciplined, may not understand authority and duty but the drill sergeant knows where he is taking them. They are soldiers. He will train them for war. He sees them for what they will become.
- "*according to their starting places*" - God sees the Sons of Israel start again.

From Egypt to the Sea

Num 33:3 They journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel started out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians,

Num 33:4 while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn whom the LORD had struck down among them. The LORD had also executed judgments on their gods.

- God knows our beginnings. Israel's journey began at Rameses
 - Interesting note that Ramses II who most archeologist claim that this city is named after ruled 400 years after the Exodus. Two theories are put forth to rectify this problem.
 - 1) Scribes entered into the Mosaic writings updated names well after the older original name was no longer the common usage.
 - 2) Ramses II actually took a name that was a name from a more ancient people and that the city was named Rameses.
- This beginning the Lord is glorified as being the deliverer by striking down the Egyptian first born and executing judgment on their gods.
- See notes on Exodus Chapters 7-10. Each plague was a direct attack on the different deities that Egypt worshiped.

Plague

God Attacked

Water into Blood	Hapi (the God of the Nile)
Frogs	Heqt
Lice	Kheper (God of beetles and flies)
Flies	Kheper
Disease on Livestock	Apis (Sacred Bull)
Boils	Imhotep (physician God) & Thoth (Magic and healing)
Hail	Nut (Sky Goddess)
Locusts	Seth (God of Crops)
Dark	Ra (Sun God)
First Born	Pharoah

- Num 33:5 Then the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses and camped in Succoth.
- Exodus 12:37
- Num 33:6 They journeyed from Succoth and camped in Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.
- Exodus 13:20
- Num 33:7 They journeyed from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, which faces Baal-zephon, and they camped before Migdol.
- Exodus 14:2
- Num 33:8 They journeyed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness; and they went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah.
- Exodus 15:23
- Num 33:9 They journeyed from Marah and came to Elim; and in Elim there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.
- Exodus 15:27 12 Springs and numerous Palm trees at Elim
- From the Sea to Mt Sinai**
- Num 33:10 They journeyed from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.
- Num 33:11 They journeyed from the Red Sea and camped in the wilderness of Sin.
- Exodus 16:1
- Num 33:12 They journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.
- Num 33:13 They journeyed from Dophkah and camped at Alush.
- Num 33:14 They journeyed from Alush and camped at Rephidim; now it was there that the people had no water to drink.
- Exodus 17:1 + 8 Attacked at Rephidim by Amalekites
 - Moses struck the rock and water came forth.
- Num 33:15 They journeyed from Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Sinai.
- From Mt Sinai To Edge of Promised Land**
- Num 33:16 They journeyed from the wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah.
- Exodus Numbers 11
- Num 33:17 They journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.
- Num 33:18 They journeyed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.
- It is at this point that they journeyed to the Wilderness of Paran and sent spies in the land. See Numbers 12 + 13. This place was a terrible failure.
 - Here we see that this place is not mentioned. Here God is focused on Israel's journey of moving out. Their faith.

**From Edge of
Promised Land
to Wander 38
Years**

Num 33:19

- Verses 19-36 are the journeys through the wilderness. These places are not detailed through the book of numbers. Yet God knows every place they camped and every place they moved out.

They journeyed from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.

Num 33:20 They journeyed from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.

Num 33:21 They journeyed from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

Num 33:22 They journeyed from Rissah and camped in Kehelathah.

Num 33:23 They journeyed from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

Num 33:24 They journeyed from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

Num 33:25 They journeyed from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

Num 33:26 They journeyed from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

Num 33:27 They journeyed from Tahath and camped at Terah.

Num 33:28 They journeyed from Terah and camped at Mithkah.

Num 33:29 They journeyed from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

Num 33:30 They journeyed from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.

Num 33:31 They journeyed from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.

Num 33:32 They journeyed from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad.

Num 33:33 They journeyed from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

Num 33:34 They journeyed from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

Num 33:35 They journeyed from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.

Num 33:36 They journeyed from Ezion-geber and camped in the wilderness of Zin, that is, Kadesh.

**From Wandering
to the Edge of the
Promised Land**

Num 33:37 They journeyed from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, at the edge of the land of Edom.

Num 33:38 Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the LORD, and died there in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt, on the first *day* in the fifth month.

Num 33:39 Aaron was one hundred twenty-three years old when he died on Mount Hor.

Num 33:40 Now the Canaanite, the king of Arad who lived in the Negev in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the sons of Israel.

- Miriam died at Kadesh
- Aaron died at Mount Hor
- The the Canaanite King Heard the Israelites were coming. The reputation of an army from the desert preceded them.

Num 33:41 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

Num 33:42 They journeyed from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

Num 33:43 They journeyed from Punon and camped at Oboth.

Num 33:44 They journeyed from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim, at the border of Moab.

Num 33:45 They journeyed from Iyim and camped at Dibon-gad.

Num 33:46 They journeyed from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.

Num 33:47 They journeyed from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.

Num 33:48 They journeyed from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan *opposite* Jericho.

Num 33:49 They camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab.

- This is where the Children of Israel are camped currently in our narrative.

Num 33:50 **2) On Assignment** vs 50-56

Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan *opposite* Jericho, saying,

Num 33:51 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

Num 33:52 then you shall **drive out** all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and **destroy** all their figured stones, and **destroy** all their molten images and **demolish** all their high places;

Num 33:53 and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.

- Notice verse 51 God tells them "WHEN" you cross over. Not "IF" you cross over.
- God has an assignment for Israel.
 - Drive out the inhabitants ALL Ungodly People
 - Destroy their figured stones (pictures) ALL Arts / Important Images / Idols
 - Destroy their molten images ALL Statues of Heros or Gods
 - Demolish their high places ALL Places of worship of their deities.
- Drive out or Destroy is very clear. There is to be no assimilation. No co-existing.
- ALL - speaks of complete. Not keeping a token for remembrance sake.
- The Land is given to them by God and they are to possess it.

Num 33:54 'You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the larger you shall give more inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give less inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to anyone, that shall be his. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

- The land is to be divided up by lot.
- Larger families will get a larger allotment.

Num 33:55 'But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come about that those whom you let remain of them *will become* as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides, and they will trouble you in the land in which you live.

Num 33:56 'And as I plan to do to them, so I will do to you.'

- Here is the warning.
- If they do not drive out the inhabitants:
 - Pricks in your eyes You will be blinded
 - Thorns in your sides You will experience painful sorrowful living
 - Trouble in the land You will have constant difficulty (war, poverty, oppression)
- If they obeyed the opposite is true:
 - You will see truth, You will see the Kingdom of God around you
 - You will maintain a peace even through difficult times
 - Trouble will have a harder time finding you.
 - What he plans for the Canaanite he will do to them.

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