

BEMIDBAR OVERVIEW

'In the wilderness'...Bemidbar

Today we are starting the 4th book of the Torah, called Bemidbar, meaning 'In the wilderness.' The English name for this book is different from the Hebrew. It is called Numbers, because the book starts off with Yahweh commanding Mosheh and Aharon to take a census of the children of Yisra'el.

We ended the book of Vayikra (Leviticus) with Yahweh telling the children of Yisra'el all the blessings that they will receive in the land if they obey Him, and all the curses that they will suffer in the land if they disobey.

Because each parsha is so rich in information, we will only be able to examine certain parts of each parsha per lesson. We do encourage parents and their children to do their own studies. In future years, we plan to fill in the pieces from each parsha that we did not cover previously.

The book of Bemidbar starts off in the 1st day of the 1st month of the 2nd year that the children of Yisra'el have spent in the Wilderness of Sinai. Yahweh wants a census of the children of Yisra'el, and also of the Lewites. We will also learn about the special duties of the Lewite clans of Gershon, Merari and Qehath, which they are to perform for the Dwelling Place. We will learn about the cloud that covered the Dwelling Place and how its movements led the children of Yisra'el, under their tribal banners, to the Wilderness of Paran. We will see what happens when the spies return with their reports after scouting out the land. Along the way we will witness some rebellions, such as the one led by Qorah, as well as travel to the Wilderness of Tsin and learn what happens when Mosheh and Aharon disobey Yahweh. We will study a famous story about a talking donkey and learn that Yisra'el is forever blessed by Yahweh. Yahweh will command a fresh census of the next generation as their armies prepare to go into Kena'an. The book concludes with the instruction regarding distribution of the land to each tribe, and Yahweh's right-rulings for women who have neither father nor brother to take care of them.

Here is a breakdown of the 10 parashot in the book of Bemidbar:

- Bemidbar (In the wilderness) - Ch. 1-4
- Nasso (Lift or Take up) - Ch. 4-7
- Beha'alotcha (When you ascend or When you set up) - Ch. 8-12
- Shelach - (You send) - Ch. 13-15
- Korach (Baldness or Qorah) - Ch. 16-18
- Chukat - (Laws or Statutes) - Ch. 19-21
- Balak - (Balaq) - Ch. 22-25
- Pinchas - (Devastator) - Ch. 25-29
- Matot - (Tribes) - Ch. 30-32
- Massei - (Journeys) - Ch. 33-36

We pray that you will be blessed as we begin our study in the 4th book of the Torah. Let's dig in!

SHALOM FROM YMTOI/MTOI

