

Handout 1: Numbers Lesson 6

In Ex 15:22-25; 17:1-7 there is a pattern of the people's complaints, God's action and a memorializing of the incident in the naming of the site. The same pattern is found in the book of Numbers, but God's action becomes divine judgment:

- Complaint: 11:1, 4-5; 12:1-2; 14:1-4; 17:6-7; 20:3-5; 21:5
- Divine judgment: 11:1-2, 33; 12:9-10; 14:20-37; 16:32; 17:11; 21:7
- Naming the site as a memorial: 11:3, 34; 20:13; 21:3

The description of the manna in Exodus 16:14-16, 31 and Num 11:7-9 refutes each of the people's complaints about the manna in Num 11:5-6.

1. It was like coriander seed used to make food flavorful; therefore it wasn't tasteless.
2. It was white; therefore it was pleasing to the eye and easy to see.
3. It was plentiful; therefore everyone had enough to eat.
4. It was clean because it fell on a layer of evening dew.
5. It could be prepared in a variety of ways; therefore it was not monotonous.
6. It tasted like honey or rich cream; therefore it was easy to swallow and digest.
7. It was ready to be harvested without fail six days a week, and a double portion was collected on the day before the Sabbath.
8. They ate the manna as a free people and not as people who ate the food of slaves in Egypt.

The sequence from Numbers 10:33-11:32 is a repeat of events in Exodus 14:22-16:18:

The journey from Egypt to Sinai	Traveled for 3 days Ex 15:22	The people complained Ex 15:24	The manna Ex 16:4-5	The quail Ex 16:13
The journey from Sinai to Paran	Traveled for 3 days Num 10:33	The people complained Num 11:1	The manna Num 11:7-8	The quail Num 11:31-32
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The manna continued for 40 years, but the gift of the quail is only mentioned twice in Scripture (Ex 16:13; Num 11:31-32). There is an interesting pattern with the manna and quail, the Scriptural reference to forty years, and the Israelites' entrance into the Promised Land 40 years later when the gift of the manna ended:

manna & quail Ex 16:4-34	40 years mentioned Ex 16:35	manna & quail Num 11:4-7; 31-33	40 years mentioned Num 14:33-34	end of the 40 years Josh 5:6	manna ends Josh 5:12
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Handout 2: Numbers Lesson 6

The theme of Chapter 12 is the challenge to Moses' authority as God's representative to the people and the supreme covenant mediator. The chapter is divided into five parts:

1. The challenge to Moses' authority as God's representative (verses 1-2).
2. Moses character defined and God's affirmation of Moses unique role (verses 3-8).
3. Miriam's punishment (verses 9-10).
4. Moses' intercession on behalf of his sister (verses 11-13).
5. God's response to Moses' petition (verses 14-15).

Numbers 12:6-10 Yahweh's Defense of Moses

Yahweh's description of His relationship with Moses is expressed in verses of poetry laid out in a reverse chiasmic pattern. The first half of the poem describes how God communicates with other prophets (A, B, C). The second half of the poem describes God's unique communication to Moses (C* B* A*). The pivot point of the pattern expresses the theme of the poem: God confides in Moses as a friend and trusted servant.

Introduction: *6 Yahweh said: 'Listen to my words!*

A. If there is a prophet among you,

B. I reveal myself to him in a vision,

C. I speak to him in a dream.

D. 7 Not so with my servant Moses;

D to him my whole household is entrusted;*

C 8 to him I speak face to face,*

B plainly and not in riddles,*

A And he sees Yahweh's form.*

Conclusion: *How, then, could you dare to criticize my servant Moses?'*

The number forty symbolizes consecration or testing in Scripture. Some examples in Scripture where the number forty has been significant:

- The forty day sequences in the great Flood (Gen 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6)
- Moses ascent up Mt. Sinai for two forty day periods (Ex 24:18; 34:28)
- Israel ate the manna for forty years in the wilderness (Ex 16:35)
- The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years (Num 14:33)
- Joshua was forty years old when Moses sent him to reconnoiter the land (Josh 14:7)
- Forty years of rest was the period of peace between the rule of the Judges (Judg 3:11; 5:31; 8:28)
- Eli judged Israel for forty years (1 Sam 4:18)
- David ruled Israel forty years (2 Sam 5:4; 1 Kng 2:11)
- Solomon ruled Israel forty years (1 Kng 11:42)
- Jesus fasted and was tempted by the devil in the wilderness for forty days (Mt 4:2; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2)

Handout 3: Numbers Lesson 6

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<p><u>The Three Conditions for Mortal Sin</u> Grave matter Full knowledge Deliberate consent Num 15:30-31; Jn 5:16b CCC 1857-61</p>	<p><u>Venial Sin</u> Does not observe the standard prescribed by moral law Weakens charity A disordered affection for goods Impedes the soul's progress in virtue Merits temporal punishment Deliberate and unrepented venial sin disposes us to commit mortal sin Num 15:27-29; 1 Jn 5:16-17; Jm 5:19-20 CCC 1863</p>
<p><u>The Seven Capital Sins</u> Pride Avarice Envy Wrath Lust Gluttony Sloth (they are called "capital" because they engender other sins) CCC 1866-67</p>	<p><u>The Five Sins that Cry out to Heaven</u> Willful murder The sin of Sodom The suffering of the oppressed Oppression of the poor Injustice to the wage earner Gen 4:10; 18:20; 19:13; Ex 3:7-10; 20:20-22; Dt 24:14-15; Jm 5:4 CCC 1867</p>
<p><u>The Ways We Participate in Sin</u> By participation By ordering By advising By praising By provocation By approving By silence in not disclosing or hindering sin By protecting evil-doers By verbal defense of the sin Rom 1:31-32 CCC 1868</p>	<p><u>The Nine Sins Against God</u> Despair Presumption Indifference Ingratitude Lukewarmness Spiritual sloth Hatred of God Obstinacy in sin Final impenitence Dt 6:13; Lk 4:8 CCC 2091-94</p>
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