

## Handout 1: Numbers Lesson 13

Most scholars break the list of the encampments from Egypt to the Plains of Moab in Numbers Chapter 33 into three sections:

1. The 12 campsites from Egypt to Sinai (verses 5-15).
2. The 21 campsites from Sinai to the second visit to Kadesh (verses 16-36).
3. The 9 campsites from Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (verses 37-49).

There were 40 encampments not counting the first and last campsites, but there are a total of 42 named encampments (without repeats). Some campsites mentioned earlier in Scripture are not listed and 17 are only named in this passage, suggesting that the inspired writer manipulated the list to yield a certain number of campsites names.

In Scripture the number 40 signifies testing and/or consecration. It is a multiple of the numbers 4 and 10 (numbers signifying the earth and divine order). For example:

- The series of 40-day periods in the Great Flood (Gen 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6).
- The Israelites ate manna for 40 years (Ex 16:35).
- Moses was on Mt. Sinai for two 40-day periods (Ex 24:18; 34:28).
- The Israelite spies were sent to reconnoiter Canaan for 40 days (Num 13:25).
- Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness (Num 14:33; 32:13).
- David ruled Israel for 40 years (2 Sam 5:4).
- Jesus was tested for a 40-day period in the wilderness (Mt 4:2; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2).
- Jesus taught the Church for 40 days before His Ascension (Acts 1:3).

Forty-two is a number that appears again in 2 Kings 2:23-24 and the Book of Revelation (Rev 11:2; 13:5). The number 42 is the product of 6 times 7. 7 is one of the “perfect” numbers, signifying fullness and perfection, especially spiritual perfection, and 6 is the number of man and especially signifies man’s opposition to God’s plan for mankind’s destiny. In Scripture the number 42 appears to symbolize a connection or a conflict between man and the Spirit of God. Examples of the symbolic nature of the number 42 can be applied to these passages:

- The 42 stages of the Israelite’s journey marking their conflict with the will of God for Israel’s future.
- The 42 young men who mocked God’s choice after the ascension of Elijah and the transfer of his authority to Elisha (2 Kng 2:23-24).
- St. Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus is a deliberately structured list of 42 names ending with Jesus’ name, reveling that He is both man and God (Mt 1:1-17).
- In the Book of Revelation, the number 42 signifies the conflict of the Beast together with his offspring, the seed of the serpent, that stand in opposition to Christ and the Church for a symbolic 42 months (Rev 11:2; 13:5).

Origen (the famed director of the School of Christian Catechetics in Alexandria, Egypt in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) believed it was the inspired writer’s intent to manipulate the list of sites, and that the list reflects an allegory of the Christian’s spiritual journey from spiritual birth to union with God in eternity when the victorious Christian crosses over into the Promised Land of heaven. Michal E. Hunt © 2010 [www.AgapeBibleStudy.com](http://www.AgapeBibleStudy.com)

## Handout 2: Numbers Lesson 13

Numbers 33:50-34:29 is a complete section in which God gives divine instruction on conquering the land of Canaan (Num 33:50-56) and the Israelite's future lives there (Num 34:1-29). The division of this section includes divine legislation on:

1. The warning to drive out all the inhabitants and to destroy their cult objects and places of worship (Num 33:51-52a).
2. The command to distribute the land according to lot and population (Num 33:53-56).
3. The borders for the nine and a half tribes on the west side of the Jordan River (Num 34:1-12).
4. The territory of the two and a half tribes on the east side of the Jordan River (Num 34:13-15; also see Chapter 32).
5. The Ecclesiastical authority and the civil leaders appointed to allot the land (Num 34:16-29).

According to Num 33:54, the land was to be divided:

1. by lot according to clan location
2. by population for size of the parcel
3. by lot for tribal location

The punishment for failure to evict the inhabitants of Canaan in Num 33:55-56:

1. They will be a continual spiritual problem for the Israelites.
2. They will harass Israel militarily.
3. Disobedience to the command to evict the Canaanites and their false worship will result in God evicting Israel.

In addition to restoring justice to his family/clan as the *go'el ha-dam* (the blood redeemer), the kinsman-redeemer also served as:

1. Receiver of the reparations due a deceased family member (Num 5:8).
2. The one obliged to bring the relative who is a debtor out of slavery (Lev 25:47-54).
3. The relative who is willing to buy back his kinsman's ancestral lands (Lev 25:25-28, 48).
4. The relative who provides for a kinsman's childless widow by marrying her to carry on the family name (Rt 3:13).

Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer who paid, with His own blood, our blood-debt for sin and restored to mankind the Promised Land of heaven (see the Kinsman-Redeemer chart in the Charts/New Testament/Jesus Christ section).

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