

Numbers Bible Study Assignment

October 27, 2022

Reading Assignment: Numbers 34-36

Discussion Questions

1. Caleb, son of Jephunneh, and Joshua, son of Nun, both supported the invasion of Canaan after spying out the land in Numbers 13, and both were rewarded by being allowed to enter the Promised Land. Caleb was appointed leader of the tribe of Judah, but Joshua was not appointed as a tribal leader. Why not?
2. How was it decided where each tribe of the Israelites would settle? Do you think this is a valid way to make decisions? Why or why not?
3. Where were the Levites permitted to settle in the land of Canaan? What purpose do you think this served?
4. Who could flee to the cities of refuge? What were these people taking refuge from? Why do you think this system was put into place?
5. Nine and a half tribes settled on the west side of the Jordan, while 2.5 settled on the east side of the river, yet three cities of refuge were to be established on each side of the Jordan. Why do you think a disproportionate number of cities of refuge were to be established on the east side of the Jordan?

6. Exodus 20:13 in the King James Version of the Bible reads, "Thou shalt not kill." How does the translation you use read? Do you think the version of this verse in your translation is more appropriate than in the KJV? Why or why not?

7. Do you (or did you) or someone you know believe that scripture should be interpreted literally? If so, what do you/they mean by that? Does your answer to #6 (above) change your thinking or what you would say to someone who believes this way? If so, how?

8. According to Numbers 35, what kind of killing was permissible? Are there any other instances in Numbers when killing is permissible? If so, what other killing was also permissible?

9. What reason was given for the death penalty for murderers in Numbers 35? Who was to carry out this punishment? What effect do you think it would have if murderers were punished in this way in the U.S.?

10. What marriage restrictions did Moses impose on the female heirs of Zelophehad? What issue did this restriction address?

November 3, 8:30 a.m. → Cracker Barrel Breakfast