

## Numbers 20-36 Reflection

### ? Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

**These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:**

? (Cpt. 20:10) What is so serious about Moses' action here?

? (Cpt. 28-29) Why did God want public worship emphasized over private sacrifices? In our culture, which do we tend to emphasize more: private or public worship? (See ESV Study Bible, p. 311)

### ! Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

#### ! Blessings and Curses

(22:6-17; 23:7-13, 25-27; 24:9-10) This motif is seen as a part of the major theme we noticed in Genesis 3 as God is the source of all that is good, and evil exists as a direct result of our choice to be without Him. Adam and Eve experienced curses as a consequence of their choice to be independent of God. Israel is presented with the same choice as God merely requires that they recognize their dependence on him. In this overarching theme of choice, we see the continued motif of blessings and curses, and that this choice is impossible without His Spirit. Even as Israel chooses wrong, however, God sovereignly and graciously works for their ultimate blessing.

#### ! Egypt

(20:5,15-16) The Israelites continually grumble against God and ironically long for the pleasures of Egypt, the place they experienced slavery! This motif of Egypt, while used by God to remind them of their dependence on him as the source of salvation is ironically perverted by the Israelites as a source of seduction. They continually fail to trust that God is enough and give in to the idol worship of surrounding peoples.

↻ **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we praise You as the true source of life and salvation, joy and pleasure. Dear sweet Jesus, You are the true source of all restoration- of all things touched by sin. Thank You, as You have shown through the Israelites and throughout Your redemption story, that our failure and sin will not hinder, or stop Your redemption plan or Your coming kingdom!