



Fire in the Camp: Numbers 1-11

Lesson 39 Visuals

- **Numbers begins with the Lord God speaking to Moses inside the Tent of Meeting.**
- **God told Moses to conduct a census of the Israelites. When a large group of people are counted, it is called census.**
- **More than 600,000 men were counted in the census.**
- **There were likely more than 2 million Israelites including the women, children and Levites.**
- **The Levites were given the special honor of being able to take care of the Tabernacle and its furnishings.**



- **Aaron and his sons were Levites; but they also had the special role of also being the priests.**
- **The Kohathites, a Levite family, had a very important yet dangerous job. They had the responsibility to move the Ark of the Covenant.**
- **The Kohathites were to never touch the Ark of the Covenant. If they touched it, they would die. God's presence is that powerful!**
- **The Kohathite men were to cover the Ark of the Covenant with curtains and carry it with poles.**



- **God gave instructions to Aaron and his sons to speak a priestly blessing over the Israelites. This is it: “May the Lord bless you and protect you; may the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look with favor on you and give you peace.”**
- **That priestly blessing shows the purpose of the priests which was to follow God’s instructions so that the Israelites could be blessed and protected by God.**
- **The Israelites knew it was time to start traveling again when they saw the cloud of the Lord’s presence lift up from the Tabernacle.**



- They followed that cloud until it stopped. They knew when it was time to make camp when the cloud stopped.
- When the Israelites complained about how hard life was in the desert wilderness, the Lord punished them for complaining.
- The Lord sent fire from the Lord to blaze among the Israelites and burn the outskirts of their camp.
- Complaining is evil because it shows a person is not trusting the Lord.
- The Lord took good care of the Israelites. They should have been thankful and trusted that He would continue to take care of them.



- **The Israelites complained which is the opposite of being thankful and trusting the Lord.**
- **The Israelites did not learn their lesson about complaining and later complained about not having meat.**
- **The Lord said He would give them so much meat to eat for a whole month that it would make them sick.**
- **Moses questioned how the Lord could possibly provide meat for all the Israelites for a whole month. The Lord asked Moses, “Is the Lord’s arm weak?”**
- **God’s arm is not weak. He can do anything!!**



- **The Lord sent a strong wind that blew quail in from the sea.**
- **When the people ate that quail meat, a plague struck them causing that meat to make them sick.**
- **God gave the Israelites what they wanted; but He punished them in the process.**
- **When you are tempted to complain, choose to be thankful. Remember all the ways God has taken care of you in the past. Ask the Lord to help you see what to be thankful for. And tell the Lord thank you.**



- **When you are tempted to complain, choose to trust the Lord. Trust that just as He took care of you in the past, He will continue to take care of you.**
- **The Lord loves you and He will see you through every difficult time in your life. Remember, He can do anything. His arm is not weak!**