



September 1, 2013  
Numbers 26  
*"Inheritance"*  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

In 2011, an article appeared on DailyFinance.com entitled, "The 10 Most Infamous Family Inheritance Feuds."<sup>1</sup> Pastor Gary commented on the fact that the family feuds are never about money, they are always about inheritance.<sup>2</sup> Not an inheritance of fame or fortune, but an inheritance that was a gift from God, in the form of land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This inheritance from God would be a place where they could live, build homes, and raise their families. It would be a place where they could make a living, work the land, and raise livestock. This would be a land they could call their own.<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 400 years before this time, they had lived as slaves in Egypt, working the land for others, living in a land that wasn't their own. And, sadly, because of sin, they had lived as homeless wanderers in the Sinai Desert. It's incredible to know that they did not receive their inheritance from the Lord for 11 generations!

In preparation for occupying the land, God gave instructions concerning the taking of a census, for the purpose of setting aside an inheritance based on the size of the tribe.<sup>4</sup> In **Numbers 26:51** we learn that there were 601,730 fighting men, age 20 and older, not counting the women, children, elderly, or anyone from the tribe of Levi. When you factor in these people, the population would have been about 2.5 to 3 million people. However, don't forget that this was the second census. The first was taken in Numbers 2, just after they left Egypt. At that time the number of fighting men was 603,550,

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailyfinance.com/2011/06/06/the-10-most-infamous-family-inheritance-feuds/>

<sup>2</sup> Inheritance is mentioned only six times in the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus. The word is used 42 times in Numbers, including 34 times in the last ten chapters of Numbers.

<sup>3</sup> In **Genesis 15:18b**, some 600 years earlier, God spoke to Abraham, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates..."

<sup>4</sup> **Numbers 26:4a**

meaning that in the past 40 years, they actually decreased by 1,820 fighting men.<sup>5</sup> The reason their population didn't increase was because of their sin and rebellion.

In this study, Pastor Gary looks at the common theme of inheritance in last ten chapters of the book of Numbers. He will provide a detailed look at the various places they lived, and how these places are pictures of places we will find ourselves on the journey of life. We'll also learn about the toll sin takes if we choose to live a life of open sin and rebellion against God, and how these choices will remove us from the blessed and fruitful life God promises to those who trust and believe in him.

### God's Promised Inheritance

1. The promise of God's inheritance was a motivating factor that kept the people moving forward through the wilderness until they came to the place God had promised.
2. God's promise for Believers today is not found in this world; it's an eternal inheritance in heaven and being with him forever.
3. **1 Peter 1:3-5** - *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."*
4. The Believer's inheritance through Jesus Christ often becomes the motivating factor that keeps us pressing on through all of life's circumstances, whether good or bad.
5. **Philippians 3:14** - *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*
6. **Second Corinthians 4:17** - *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*
7. **Numbers 33** records 43 of their stops along the way from Egypt to the Promised Land.

---

<sup>5</sup> **Numbers 2:32**

8. The Hebrew meaning of some of these places provides classic illustrations of life, and how life can be a mixed bag of...
  - a. Good news and bad news.
  - b. Good times and bad times.
  - c. Peaks and valleys.
  - d. Triumphs and trials.
  - e. Highs and lows.
  - f. Joys and sorrows.
  - g. Laughter and tears.
  
9. Sometimes in life we will find ourselves in our own time of wilderness wanderings, and the only thing that will keep us focused and grounded is the knowledge that we have an inheritance!

### The Good

10. Elim – [Numbers 33:9](#)
  - a. In Hebrew, Elim means, “strong trees.”
  - b. Elim had 12 springs and 70 palm trees.
  - c. Elim is a picture of life when we experience the blessing of springs and palm trees!
  
11. Rephidim – [Numbers 33:14](#)
  - a. In Hebrew, Rephidim means, “places of rest.”
  - b. We know that there was no water at Rephidim, but that was the place in which God did a miracle by bringing water out of a rock.
  - c. Rephidim is a picture of life when we are tired, overworked, and out of balance.
  - d. Rephidim reminds us of the places of God’s rest.
  - e. [Acts 3:19](#) – *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”*
  
12. Mount Shepher – [Numbers 33:23](#)
  - a. In Hebrew, Mount Shepher means, “mount of brightness or beauty.”
  - b. Mount Shepher reminds us of times when our future is bright and beautiful, when we’re on the peaks and far above the valleys.
  - c. [Ecclesiastes 3:11a](#) – *“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”*
  
13. Mithcah – [Numbers 33:28](#)
  - a. In Hebrew, Mithcah, means, “sweetness.”
  - b. Mithcah reminds us of times when life is sweet!

14. Hashmonah – [Numbers 33:29](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Hashmonah, means, “fruitfulness.”
- b. Hashmonah reminds us of times when life is blessed with abundance, in the form of a family and children, a career and the blessing of provision, friends, etc.

15. Kadesh – [Numbers 33:36](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Kadesh, means, “holiness.”
- b. Kadesh reminds us of the times such as the moment in time we came to faith in Christ or when we stood before God in our marriage ceremony.

The Bad

16. Marah – [Exodus 15:23](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Marah, means, “bitter.”
- b. When the people came to Marah they couldn’t drink the water, and the first time the word “grumbled” appears in the Bible as in this account.
- c. Marah reminds us of the times in life when others have betrayed, deceived, cheated, and lied to or about us, when life has not worked out the way we had hoped, as well as times when we are bitter toward others or God.

17. Kibroth Hataavah – [Numbers 11:34](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Kibroth Hataavah, means, “graves of craving.”
- b. Kibroth Hataavah was the place where the Israelites complained about manna and craved meat.
  - i. God judged their complaining by sending a plague, and many died and were buried there.
- c. Kibroth Hataavah reminds us of the times when we’ve experienced grief, sorrow, or anguish.

18. Haradah – [Numbers 33:24](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Haradah, means, “fearful or place of terror.”
- b. Haradah reminds us of times when we’ve received the phone call in the middle of the night, we lose our job, our marriage is falling apart, or when fear and terror come upon us in other ways.

19. Zalmonah – [Numbers 33:41](#)

- a. In Hebrew, Almonah, means, “dark and gloomy.”
- b. Zalmonah reminds us of times when we experience depression, a death in the family, sickness, or when someone we love is critically ill.

20. Punon - [Numbers 33:42](#)
- In Hebrew, Punon, means, “ore pit.”
  - Punon reminds us of times when we feel as though we are in the pit!
  - David, in [Psalm 40:1-2](#), wrote about a time when he felt like this: *“I waited patiently for the Lord; and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”*
21. Dibon Gad - [Numbers 33:45](#)
- In Hebrew, Dibon Gad, means, “wasting away.”
  - Dibon Gad reminds us of times when we feel as though life is empty and we were wasting away.

### The Conclusion

22. Life is not always full of palm trees, restful places, beauty, sweetness, and fruitful times, and life will have its share of bitter times, death, fears, darkness, and gloom; but it's in these times that we have to remember and hold onto our inheritance!
23. The Bible tells us that God gives us the Holy Spirit as a “*deposit*” that guarantees the inheritance that is to come!
24. [Ephesians 1:13b-14](#) - *“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.”*
25. [Ephesians 1:18-19](#) - *“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*
26. [Acts 20:32](#) - *“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”*

### Discussion Questions

- Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.

2. Read [Numbers 26:1-4, 51-56](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Allow the people in your group to share their personal experiences regarding inheritance.
4. Read and discuss [1 Peter 1:3-5](#), [Philippians 3:14](#), and [2 Corinthians 4:17](#).
  - a. How have the difficulties in life kept you from remembering the eternal inheritance you have in Christ?
  - b. How have you been motivated to press forward in life because you had an eternal perspective?
  - c. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comment regarding focusing on eternity (See #9 above).
5. Would you say that there have been times in your life when the choices you've made caused you to be in one of the "good" or one of the "bad" places pictured in the places the Israelites stayed?
6. Provide an overview of the "good" places the Israelites camped, and allow the people in the group to share about times when they experienced places of rest, refreshment, beauty, holiness, fruitfulness, and sweetness.
7. Provide an overview of the "bad" places the Israelites camped, and allow the people in the group to share about times when they experienced places of bitterness, fear, darkness and gloom, feelings of wasting away, or being in a pit.
8. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comment concerning holding on to our inheritance (See #22 above).
9. Read and discuss [Ephesians 1:13-14, 18-19](#).
10. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be thankful for God's provision in this life, and the inheritance God has prepared for them in heaven.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).