



Numbers

The book of Numbers tells the story of the time God's people spent in the wilderness. Although the first and last chapters contain a census of the people, the rest of the book describes what happened to those who had left Egypt with Moses; how most of them died during the wandering in the wilderness and how the next generation began to be prepared to settle in the Promised Land.



How long will it take?

Reading time: 3 hours
Short of time? Just read 1.1-4; 2.1-34;
 10.11-36; 22.2-24.25



Genre

History



Anything tricky?

Parts of Numbers contain complex regulations about the Levites' role and some of these descriptions can be hard to understand.

There are also sections of Numbers which are very dull!



Inspiring quotes

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;
²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

(*Numbers 6.24-26*)

God is not a human being, that he should lie, or a mortal, that he should change his mind. Has he promised, and will he not do it? Has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it?

(*Numbers 23.19*)

I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me.

(*Numbers 11.14*)

Traditionally Moses was regarded as the author of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis–Deuteronomy); known in Judaism as the Torah and in Christianity often as the Pentateuch (or five teachings).

Today many scholars would argue that Moses was not the author of the Pentateuch but that these five books grew up over a long period of time and were written down and edited from oral tradition.

