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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Bamidbar – Our Wilderness Journey

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Bamidbar, which is Hebrew for “In the wilderness,” and it goes from Numbers 1:1 to Numbers 4:20

This Torah portion begins with a census of the tribes of Israel and then describes the duties of the Priests and Levites.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about our spiritual journey in the wilderness.

The name of this week’s Torah portion is *Bamidbar*, which is the original Hebrew name for the book of Numbers. But the Hebrew term *Bamidbar* doesn’t mean “numbers.” It means “in the wilderness,” as we see in the first verse of our Torah Portion:

Numbers 1:1

[The Lord \[YHWH\] spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out to the land of Egypt...](#)

Even though God had delivered the Israelites from Egypt, there was a long period of time that Israel spent wandering in the wilderness before they reached the land of promise. The Book of Numbers tells us of their journey, the trials and tribulations they faced, their failures, and the faithfulness of God in the midst of it all.

But why was there a need for Israel to journey through the wilderness? Why didn’t God simply just transport them to the Promised Land after saving them from Egypt? After all, He’s God—He had just split the Red Sea! He’s the Creator of the Universe! Clearly He could have just zapped the Israelites to their destination in a nanosecond if He wanted to. But He didn’t. Why?

Perhaps the biggest reason is that, although Israel had been physically delivered from Egypt, they were

still in bondage to Egypt spiritually in many ways. We see this all throughout the Book of Numbers—the constant complaining, the disobedience to God, the anger, the strife and hatred between tribes. As the saying goes, “Although they had left Egypt, Egypt had not yet left them.”

We can perhaps look at Israel’s wilderness journey as an allegory for our own lives as believers. After Messiah delivers us from the bondage of sin, there is a process of sanctification—a process of being set apart unto God—that God wants His people to go through. This isn’t only for His glory—although that’s the primary reason—but it’s for our own good as well. It would do us no good to live in the Promised Land if we are still enslaved to Egypt in our hearts.

Ultimately we are all on a wilderness journey, just like the Israelites. We have been saved and redeemed by the blood of Yeshua, our Passover lamb. Now we are in the midst of being sanctified unto God through a journey of trials, tribulation, learning God’s commandments, utterly failing, and then trying again.

That’s what this life is all about. It’s hard. But it’s for our good. And as we run the race to win, we are assured of the promise in the world to come.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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