

Midrash *Massei* (“Journeys of”) Numbers 33:1 – 36:13

“Journeys” **מָסָע** *masa'* “pulling up stakes” or “departure”

From the root **נָסַע** *nasa'* “to start”

...and related to **נָסַח** *nasa'* “to prove”

...indicating that Exodus was to prove Israel rather than test them

Deuteronomy 8:1-2

Also related to **אָשַׁע** *nasa'* “to raise up” (Brazen Serpent)

Numbers 21:4-9

...and **נִסֵּי** *nes* “miracle”

The Journey from Egypt to Canaan

Numbers 33:1-49

42 locations listed - most of them are no longer known

3 sets of 14 (42) Generations from Abraham to Messiah

Matthew 1:17

Two 42-month periods in Book of Revelation:

For the Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3

Power given to The Beast

Revelation 13:5

The Exodus occurred in 3 phases:

Egypt to Sinai

Sinai to *Kadesh Barnea* (*Ritma* –verse 18)

Kadesh Barnea to the plains of Moab

Aaron died on the 1st of Av in the 40th Year

Numbers 33:38

Instructions Concerning the Canaan Conquest

Numbers 33:50-56

God's Instructions to Joshua:

Numbers 33:20-54

Drive out all the inhabitants

Destroy their icons (images)

Destroy their statues

Canaan is the only place where God commanded this

Destroy their “high places” (centers of pagan worship)

Failure to do this will result in Israel's failure to occupy the Land

I Samuel 2:30-32

All this was based upon The Commands of God:

God gave Canaan to Israel

Genesis 15:18-21

God determined the distribution

Numbers 26:52-56

God ordered the Canaanites destruction

Exodus 23:23-33; 34:11-17

Leviticus 20:1-5; 22-26

Deut 7:1-5; 12:29-30; 13:6-19; 29:16-28

God's Warning about failure to drive out the inhabitants

Numbers 33:55-56

The 3 areas where they failed:

Golan Heights

Central region (Jericho, Ramallah, Jenin, etc)

Gaza

The Borders of Canaan

Numbers 34:1-29

God's promised borders: from the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates!

Gen 15:18-21; Deut 11:24

Have not yet possessed the full area

For a brief time during Solomon: Gaza to Euphrates

I Kings 4:24-25

But Ezekiel prophesied these future borders!

Ezekiel 47:15-20

The Cities for the Levites

Numbers 35:1-8

The Levites did not inherit any land – their inheritance is God

No land – but they inherited 48 cities

Dispersed among all the Tribes
...but living together within their cities

Genesis 49:7

The Cities of Refuge

Numbers 35:9-28

Of the 48 Levitical Cities: 6 designated as Cities of Refuge:
3 East of the Jordan: *Golan, Ramoth & Bosor*
3 West of the Jordan: *Kedesh, Shechem & Hebron*

Details duties of גֹּאֵל *ga'al* "redeemer":

Kinsman Redeemer

Redeems People & Land

Book of Ruth

Avenger of Blood

Avenges death of next of kin

Cities of Refuge were for accidental murder:
Murderer fled to nearest City of Refuge
Plead his case to the officials
If murder judged accidental, then allowed safe entry into City
Must remain inside walls
If not, then back outside into hands of Avenger
Released when the High Priest dies

Who is our City of Refuge?

Who is our High Priest?

Yeshua's Death:

From Man's Perspective: Murder
From God's Perspective: "Accidental"

Matthew 26:3-5
Luke 23:34

Regulations Concerning Murder

Numbers 35:29-34

Ancient cultures allowed retribution by executing any member of murderer's family
Torah: Only murderer is to forfeit his life
Cannot atone for it by "paying a fine."
Not even an unintentional murderer can ransom himself from CoR

"So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land..."

verse 33

To ransom a murder with money cheapens human life
And the land would be completely corrupted!

The state of our Nation (abortion, murder, etc.) has corrupted it
And God cannot dwell in a corrupt land!

The Daughters of Zelophehad Revisited

Numbers 36:1-13

In Chapter 27:

Daughters can inherit the land only if there are no male heirs

Here there is concern that if she marries outside her Tribe
.... that the land would revert to her husband's Tribe at the Jubilee

So the requirement is added to marry within her Tribe in order to inherit the land
"You can marry anyone you want as long as he belongs to your Tribe!"

God's desire is that the allotment of land to the Tribes is permanent and unchangeable!
....and we are to be who He created and not try to conform to another "Tribe!"
Are we to try to conform to Judah if we are of the House of Israel???

As we finish reading these final verses of Numbers, we say:

"Chazak, chazak, ve-nitchazek!" Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened!"

Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28, 4:1-2 Israel's Apostasy & Ultimate Restoration

Brit Chadashah: Luke 23:32-35 Yeshua Proclaims His Crucifixion as Unintentional!