

## BIBLE READING LIST FOR FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 5

<u>February 27</u> Numbers 9-11
<u>February 28</u> Numbers 12-14
<u>March 1</u> Numbers 15-16
<u>March 2</u> Numbers 17-18
<u>March 3</u> Numbers 19-21
<u>March 4</u> Numbers 22-23
<u>March 5</u> Numbers 24-26

God's Law required everyone to keep the Passover (Numbers 9:2) but it forbade keeping it if you were defiled from handling a dead body (verse 6). People would die and require burying around the time of the Passover, so did the requirements conflict? God had provision for that (verses 10-11). We can't disobey God and claim that His commands made it impossible to obey.

In Numbers 13, Israel sent spies into the land before beginning an invasion. It is best to know what you are getting into before you jump. However, they used this investigation to rationalize backing out of obeying. Know that where God guides, He provides—sometimes needed money, sometimes needed power for victory. Can God sometimes not tell us what will happen ahead of time because we would back out if He did?

Between Numbers 15 and 21, thirty -eight years of wandering in the wilderness take place with little being said about it. Most of life is unremarkable routine. But they did eventually wind up back at the border of Canaan. Just doing your regular job doesn't mean that you aren't getting anywhere. Still, because of unbelief, Israel took forty years to make a journey that should have taken a few weeks. The passing of time doesn't mean you are making any real progress.

About halfway through the wandering, Korah led a rebellion against Moses, falsely accusing him (Numbers 16:1-3). The rest of the chapter is God's judgment on rebellion. Then the next chapter records God's miracle of Aaron's rod budding to vindicate Moses so there would be no other such rebellions. Stay on God's side even when men turn against you. He can and will take care of His servants.

Balaam was a prophet in touch with God (Numbers 22:9-12). He was so renown that the Moabites (by Canaan) had heard of him all the way in Pethor (by Mesopotamia). But he wasn't above the temptation of wealth and position, and so he tried to help the Moabites corrupt God's people (Revelation 2:14). It turned out to be his own destruction (Numbers 31:8).