

Sefer Bamidbar - one book, two books, or three? /shiur #9

Where, When, & Why Sefer Bamidbar differs from Sefer Devarim

Source sheet for shiur by Menachem Leibtag,

INTRODUCTION

This week, continue our discussion of the differences between the story of the spies in Bamidbar vs. Devarim, and in light of that discussion, explore other differences between the two books

. Review: Sefer Bamidbar - What 'belongs' & what doesn't! in **yellow** - topics in Devarim

Chapter	Ongoing Narrative	Mitzvot l'dorot (Commandments)
**	Preparing to leave Har Sinai	
1->4	Organizing the camp, army etc.	
5		Laws of "asham" * "sotah"
6		Laws of "nazir" & birkat kohanim
7	Dedication of Mishkan by the Nsiim	
8	Ceremony for Leviim, replacing bchorim	
9	Pesach in the desert; instructions on how to travel following the 'anan'	[Pesach sheni/ reason for delay?]
10	Using the "chatzrotot" for travel signals; Travel begins on 20 Iyar; "va'yhi b'nsoa"	
**	Failure of first generation	
11	Sin of the "mitavim"; 70 elders appointed	
12	Sin of Miriam, talking against Moshe	
13-14	Sin of the spies; & the "maapilim"	
15		Laws re: korbanot, taking challa, Sanhedrin, shabbat, & tzizit
16-17	Korach's rebellion ; test of the 12 staffs	
18		Laws re: Compensation for shevet Levi
19		Laws re: 'para aduma' / "tumat meyt"
20	Moshe & Aharon's sin at Mei Meriva; Fortieth year/ journey around Har Seir	
21	War with Arad; sin of "nachash nchoshet" War with Sichon/ Conquer of Transjordan	
22-24	Story of Bilam & Balak	
25	Sin of Bnei Yisrael with 'bnot Moav'; revenge taken by Pinchas etc.	
**	Preparing to Enter Canaan	
26	Census, who will inherit the land	
27	Daughters of Tzlofchad request 'nachala'; Moshe is told to die, Yehoshua appointed	
28-29		Laws of Tmidim u'Musafim (holidays)
30		Laws re: annulling vows
31	War against Midyan	
32	Inheritance taken by Reuven, Gad & Menashe; & their promise to fight....	
33	Summary of Travel thru the desert	[Commandment to conquer the land?]
34	Borders of Eretz Cannan (to conquer)	
35	Cities of Levites & Cities of Refuge	
36	Bnot Tzlofchad - protecting inheritance	

The 'meraglim' story in Devarim vs. Bamidbar

Discuss:

What is similar/ what is different?

Re-examine the entire story in light of Devarim 9:1-3

As well as Devarim 4:1 / 5:28-30 / 6:1-3 / 6:17-19 / 8:1 / 11:22-25

Why is 'keeping the laws' part of 'military' preparation

[relate to the purpose of Moshe's speech in Devarim chapter 1 thru 3]

What was the logic in sending 12 tribal leaders?

What did Hashem expect them to do?

Why doesn't Hashem accept the 'repentance' of the "Maapilim"?

An isolated story or a chain of events?

Discuss:

- First ten chapters vs. chapters 11 thru 14
- The midrash re: like a child on the last day of school [leaving Har Sinai]
- What did Hashem expect to happen
- Complaints in chapter 11 – how they reflect overall attitude
- Leadership 'failure'? - what would have happened had there not been 'helpers'
- [compare chapter 11 with the story in Devarim chapter 1]
- What would have happened had the 'spies' not been sent?

B. The conquest of Sichon / and non- conquest of Edom, Moav & Amon

Review the story in Bamidbar chapters 20->21

Compare with the story in Devarim chapters 2 ->3

Why does Devarim go into much greater detail.

Relate to the concept of a 'pep-talk' vs. a historical nar