

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 4

Overview:

1. Introduction: What is Biblical inerrancy?
2. Longman Chapter 4 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Numbers About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Numbers and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Numbers?
 - d. Connections: How Does Numbers Connect to the Gospel?

Introduction:

What is Biblical inerrancy?

1. **Age of Enlightenment and the Skepticism of Scripture-** In the Age of Enlightenment (mid 17th century) some people began to judge, critique, and reject portions of the Bible based on their human _____.

2. **Terms regarding the Bible's truthfulness:**
 - a. Inerrant- The understanding that "the Bible is completely truthful in _____ things that the biblical authors assert - whether in geographic, chronological, or theological details."¹ Those who advocate for Biblical inerrancy assert the Verbal Plenary view of inspiration.

 - b. Infallible- Infallibility is the assertion that the Bible is free of error in regard to _____ and _____.

 - c. Inspired- This is the claim that asserts that God was in _____ behind the writing of the Bible. (Example: Brian Simmons and the notorious 'Passion Translation)

 - d. Neo-orthodox- This term describes a short-lived _____ in the early to mid 20th century that asserted that God revealed himself to man, but because man is fallible, the writings of the Bible record God's revelation imperfectly.

 - e. Trustworthy, True, Authoritative- These are positive affirmations that describe the _____ of God's divine Word.

¹ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 38.

3. Scripture Regarding the Bible's Truthfulness:

- a. Numbers 23:19- "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"²
- b. Hebrews 1:1-2- "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."³
- c. Psalms 12:6- "The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times."⁴
- d. 2 Timothy 3:16- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"⁵
- e. 2 Peter 1:21- "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."⁶
- f. John 10:35- "...and Scripture cannot be broken"

4. What is the Historic view of the Bible regarding inerrancy?

- a. "While the exact term *inerrancy* (or non-English equivalents of this term) may not be found in early, medieval, or reformational church history, the *concept* or *idea* of inerrancy is the historic position of the church in _____ ages."⁷
- b. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy- This written statement affirms anew the inerrancy of Scripture and the dangers of denying this historic doctrine.

Longman Chapter 4 Discussion:

1. Content: What Is Numbers About?

Longman writes that "Numbers can be outlined according to the geographical setting of the different parts of the book [...] However, an even more interesting but looser structure

² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Nu 23:19. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

³ Hebrews 1:1-2

⁴ Psalm 12:6.

⁵ 2 Timothy 3:16.

⁶ 2 Peter 1:21.

⁷ Plummer, 40.

may be observed by noting two key chapters, 1 and 26, both of which present a census of military personnel.”⁸ Longman references this helpful breakdown from D.T. Olson⁹:

- I. The End of the Old: The _____ Generation of God’s People Out of Egypt on the March in the Wilderness (1:1-25:18)
 - A. The Preparation and Inauguration of the March of the Holy People of Israel (1:1-10:36)
 1. Preparation and ritual organization of the march (1:1-10:10)
 2. The inauguration of the march (10:11-10:36)
 - B. The Cycle of Rebellion, Death, and Deliverance of the Holy People of Israel With Elements of Hope but Ultimate Failure and Death (11:1-25:18)
 1. Repeated incidents of rebellion and atonement, each involving the death and/or threat of death of a portion of the first generation (11:1-20:29)
 2. The end of the first generation: signs of hope coupled with ultimate failure (21:1-25:18)
- II. The Birth of the New: The _____ Generation of God’s People Out of Egypt As They Prepare to Enter the Promised Land (Numbers 26:1-36:13)
 - A. The Preparation and Organization of the New Holy People of God As They Prepare to Enter the Promised Land (26:1-36:13)
 - B. Will This Second Generation Be Faithful and Enter the Promised Land (Promise) or Rebel and Fail as the First Generation (Warning)?

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Numbers and When?

- a. “The major issues of the authorship and date of writing of Numbers, part four of the Pentateuch, are treated in the chapter on Genesis.”¹⁰

⁸ Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 31.

⁹ D.T. Olson, *The Death of the Old and the Birth of the New: The Framework of the Book of Numbers and the Pentateuch* (BJS 71; Chico: Scholars, 1985), 118-120.

¹⁰ Longman, 27.

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Numbers?

- a. Narrative and Law-

4. Connections: How Does Numbers Connect to the Gospel?

- a. God's Commitment to His people- As Dillard and Longman write, "The sin of the first generation could have led to the _____ of the story of redemption and the destruction of the people of God. But God does not abandon his people [but] stays involved with [them] because of his covenant love for them."¹¹
- b. The Unchanging Theme of Salvation- Longman comments, "The New Testament continues this theme. Indeed, the New Testament is its climax. The Old Testament is simply a prelude to what happens on the _____. God's people continued to turn against him, yet he nevertheless sent his Son, Jesus Christ, whom they treated brutally (Mark 12:1-12). God did not abandon his people, but provided hope for them in the salvation offered by Jesus Christ."¹²
- c. The Second Generation and Hope for the Church- Like the second generation in Numbers (Num. 26-36), the Church is to respond to God's covenant grace with _____. Just as God worked in the midst of their sinful rebellion and gave the Israelites hope, it is because of His finished work in Jesus Christ that believers have hope.

R.E.A.P.

Numbers 14:1-10

"Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. ⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with

¹¹ Raymond B. Dillard, Tremper Longman III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 89.

¹² Longman, 27.

