

Truth and Reason

Speaking the Words of Truth and Reason ♦ Acts 26:25

Volume I

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Number 4

A Way to Teach the Gospel

I AM PERSUADED THAT MANY Christians want to teach others but lack the confidence to do so. Often this stems from their unfamiliarity with the Bible and the fear that they will be unable to find the Scriptures they want to use.

To help those who may feel that way, I am sharing a method I have used to teach others. It is especially designed to be used when you suspect you will have only one opportunity to teach the person. It is a summary of one's need for salvation. Based on the Bible, it is actually a chain of Scripture references tied together by a series of short comments. The teacher is to make further application of each passage.

This method of personal evangelism when properly employed:

- Supplies you with all the Scriptures you will need to teach someone what they need to do to be saved.
- Allows you to do all your teaching from your Bible. That will show your student that your teaching is directly from Scripture not from some creed or doctrine of man.

To begin, go to one of the front pages of your Bible such as the fly leaf. In a spot that will be easy for you to remember, write:

- **“Salvation Lesson—Go to Genesis 1:27.”**

That passage is the first one of the chain.

In the margin, alongside Genesis 1:27, write,

- **“1. God created man in His own image. But all sought to sin. Go to Ecclesiastes 7:29.”**

In the margin next to Ecclesiastes 7:29, write,

- **“2. Man sought to sin so all stand as sinners before God. Go to Romans 3:9-10, 23.”**

Next to Romans 3:23, write:

- **“3. If one says he has no sin he is not truthful. Go to 1 John 1:8.”**

At 1 John 1:8, write,

- **“4. What is sin? Sin is unrighteousness. Go to 1 John 5:17.”**

You get the pattern by now. Simply follow the chart from Scripture to Scripture noting the

appropriate comments by each passage. The passages listed are ones I use. You may want to delete some, add or substitute others. Remember, as you become more comfortable with both your material and your method, you will do a better job.

Examine the chart on the next page. Familiarize yourself with it. Think of additional comments you will make at each passage. Practice teaching a lesson to yourself, a family member or friend. Time yourself to see how long it takes you. (Make it no longer than 30 to 45 minutes)

Whatever you do, **DO IT!** Whether it is this method or another—**DO IT!** The responsibility to be a light in the world (Matt. 5:16), to sound forth the word of the Lord (1 Thes. 1:8), and to spread the gospel to the whole world (Matt. 28:18-19) falls upon **every** Christian not just a few.

May each one of us feel compelled to have a greater part in the saving of lost souls. Let us all be doing our part to further the cause of Christ.

Gene Taylor

A Summary of Salvation

No.	Scripture	Comments
1.	Genesis 1:27	God created man in His own image.
2.	Ecclesiastes 7:29	Man sought to sin
3.	Romans 3:9, 10, 23	All stand as sinners before God.
4.	1 John 1:8	If one says he has no sin he is not truthful. What is sin?
5.	1 John 5:17	Sin is unrighteousness.
6.	Romans 1:16	Righteousness is revealed in the Bible.
7.	1 John 3:4	Sin is lawlessness (acting without law). What law?
8.	James 1:25	Authority is found in the perfect law of liberty, the gospel of Christ.
9.	Romans 14:23	Whatever is not of faith is sin. How does one get faith?
10.	Romans 10:17	Faith comes by hearing the word of God.
11.	James 4:17	Not doing good is sin. How does one know what is good?
12.	Micah 6:8	What is good is shown by God to man in the Bible.
13.	Isaiah 59:1-2	Sin is tragic. It separates man from God.
14.	Romans 6:23	Without God's help, sin will separate man from God eternally.
15.	John 3:16	God's love made it possible for man not to die because of his sin.
16.	Matthew 1:21	Jesus came to save man from sin.
17.	Jeremiah 10:23	God knew man needed help to deal with sin.
18.	Proverbs 14:12	The end of the ways of man is death.
19.	2 Peter 1:3	God, in His word, has given man what he needs for life and godliness.
20.	Romans 1:16	The gospel, God's word, is His power unto salvation given through Jesus.
21.	Matthew 7:24-27	People must hear the words of Christ.
22.	John 12:48	We will be judged by the words of Christ, therefore, we must live by them.
23.	John 6:68	We must hear Christ's words because they are the words of eternal life.
24.	Romans 10:17	We must hear Christ's words in order to believe (have faith).
25.	Hebrews 11:6	We must believe in order to come to God and be pleasing to Him.
26.	John 8:24	We must believe in Jesus to keep from dying in sin.
27.	Matthew 7:21	We must act on our belief (faith) with obedience.
28.	Hebrews 5:8-9	Jesus will only save those who obey Him.
29.	John 14:15	If you love Jesus, you will keep His commandments. What are they?
30.	Luke 13:3	Jesus commands all to repent.
31.	Acts 17:30	All people are required to repent.
32.	Matthew 10:32	All are required to confess Jesus as Lord.
33.	Romans 10:10	Confession is essential to salvation.
34.	Mark 16:16	Jesus commands baptism.
35.	1 Peter 3:21	Baptism now saves us.
36.	Acts 22:16	Baptism washes away sin.
37.	Galatians 3:27	In baptism one is put into Christ.
38.	Ephesians 1:3	All spiritual blessings are in Christ.
39.	1 Corinthians 12:13	Baptism puts one in the body of the saved.
40.	Colossians 1:18	That body is Christ's church.
41.	Acts 2:47	God adds the saved to His church.
42.	Ephesians 5:23	Christ is the Savior of the body, the church.
43.	2 Thessalonians 1:7-9	Those who do not know God and those who do not obey Him will perish.
44.	2 Corinthians 6:2	Now is the time to obey.
45.	James 4:13-14	There is no guarantee of a tomorrow.



Book of the Month

A Study of the Books of the Bible from Truth and Reason

Numbers

I. General Data

- A. Name: Numbers.
 1. The book gets its name from the numbering of the people of Israel to determine their military strength.
 2. The children of Israel are twice numbered in the book, once at the beginning (ch. 1-3) and again toward the end. (ch. 26)
 - B. Author: Moses. (cf. 33:2ff)
 - C. Time span.
 1. The book covers Israel's history from the second month of the second year after the exodus (1:1) to the tenth month of the fortieth year. (Deut. 1:3)
 2. There is a break of only one month between the erecting of the tabernacle at the end of Exodus and the command to number the people at the beginning of Numbers, the laws of Leviticus coming between the two.
 3. It is important to note that Numbers deals with two generations of people:
 - a. The old generation that came up out of Egypt. (ch. 1-14)
 - b. The new generation that grew up in the wilderness and then entered the promised land.
 - c. The book relates the period of transition during which the old generation died off and the new generation grew up.
 4. Aaron's death in the fortieth year after the exodus is the most important time mark in the book (20:22-29; 33:38), for it marks the end of the wandering and the beginning of God's dealings with the new generation.
 - D. Theme: The goodness and severity of God (Rom. 11:22a).
 - "In Numbers we see the **severity** of God, in the old generation which fell in the wilderness and never entered Canaan. We see the **goodness** of God, in the new generation which was protected, preserved, and provided for, until Canaan was possessed. In the one case we see the awful inflexibility of the Divine justice. In the other case we see the unfailing faithfulness of God to His promise, His purpose, His people." (J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, Vol. I, p. 162)
 - E. Important events. (Although the book covers nearly 40 years, it is not a true historical narrative in that it only highlights the most important events of that period. It reveals very little about the 38 years Israel wandered aimlessly in the wilderness.)
 1. The departure from Sinai. (9:15-23; 10:11-13)
 2. The murmuring of the people. (ch. 11)
 3. The two challenges to the leadership of Moses.
 - a. Aaron and Miriam. (ch. 12)
 - b. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. (ch. 16)
 4. The twelve spies being sent to Canaan. (ch. 13-14)
 5. The sin of Moses at Kadesh. (ch. 20)
 6. The death of Aaron. (ch. 20)
 7. The bronze serpent. (ch. 21)
 8. Balaam's prophecy. (ch. 22-24)
 9. The appointment of Joshua as successor to Moses. (ch. 27)
 - F. A Summary.
 1. "The book of Numbers follows naturally the legislation of Leviticus. The priestly laws have been revealed, and the nation is now ready to continue its march to the land of promise. Hence,
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Numbers first relates the preparations which were made for the departure from Sinai. It then narrates the departure of the Israelites from Sinai until finally they come to the plains of Moab, and then closes with the recital of certain events which occurred there, together with instructions for the conquest and division of the land" (Edward J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, p. 84).

2. First, a census whose primary purpose is to determine Israel's military strength is taken. The camp is then strategically distributed with a view to facilitating mobility. The services of the Levites in connection with the tabernacle are appointed. All is ready for the advance to Canaan's border. The march ensues with God leading the way. The promised land is in sight when a tragic breakdown occurs. Israel begins to waver in unbelief and rebels. Judgment falls. The forty years of wandering set in. Many thousands who came out of Egypt gradually die off. Eventually, God takes up with the new generation and the new numbering begins. The fresh advance to Canaan takes place. Final preparations begin for Israel, at long last, to possess the land of Canaan.

II. An Outline of Numbers

- A. Before Leaving Sinai. (1:1 - 10:10) [A period of 19 days. From the 1st to the 20th of the second month of the second year following the exodus]
 1. Numbering of the people. (ch. 1)
 2. Arranging of the camp. (ch. 2)
 3. Instructions for the priests and Levites. (ch. 3-4)
 4. Laws protecting from defilement. (ch. 5)
 5. The Nazarite vow. (ch. 6)
 6. Offering brought by the princes (tribal leaders). (ch. 7)
 7. Cleansing of the Levites. (ch. 8)
 8. Observing the second Passover. (9:1-14)
 9. God guides the camp. (9:15-23)
 10. Two silver trumpets—signals for calling and removing the camp. (10:1-10)
- B. From Sinai to Kadesh. (10:11 - 14:45) [A period of a few months]
 1. Departure from Sinai. (10:11-36)
 2. Israel's murmurings. (11:1-30)
 3. God's provisions and punishment. (11:31-35)
 4. Rebellion of Aaron and Miriam. (ch. 12)
 5. Spies sent to Canaan. (ch. 13-14)
 - a. Spies sent. (ch. 13)
 - b. Israel refuses to enter. (14:1-10)
 - c. God's punishment. (14:11-38)
 - d. Futile invasion attempt. (14:39-45)
- C. Wanderings in the Wilderness. (ch. 15-19) [A period of about 37 years from the end of the second year to the beginning of the 40th year (20:1)]
 1. Various laws. (ch. 15)
 2. Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. (ch. 16)
 3. Aaron's rod buds. (ch. 17)
 4. Regulations of priests and Levites. (ch. 18-19)
- D. From Kadesh to Moab. (ch. 20-36) [A period of ten months from the first month of the 40th year (20:1; cf. 20:28-29; 33:38) to the eleventh month of the 40th year (Deut. 1:3)]
 1. Moses' sin at Kadesh. (20:1-13)
 2. Israel travels to Mt. Hor where Aaron dies. (20:14-29)
 3. From Kadesh-barnea to Moab. (21:1 - 22:1)
 4. Balaam's prophecies. (ch. 22-25)
 5. Various instructions and laws. (ch. 26-31)
 6. Territorial distribution east of the Jordan. (ch. 32)
 7. Israel's journey from Egypt reviewed. (33:1-49)
 8. Instructions concerning conquest and settlement of Canaan. (33:50 - 36:13)

III. The Lessons of Numbers

- A. The types of Numbers.
 1. The book has the greatest illustrations of New Testament doctrine which are to be found in the Old Testament. (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-12).
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2. Many of the events recorded in Numbers are typical of things to come.
 - a. The journey to physical Canaan: Our journey to the heavenly “promised land.” (Heb. 3:16; 4:1, 6, 8-11)
 - b. The smitten rock (ch. 20): Our rock which is Christ (1 Cor. 10:4). As water flowed from that rock, “living water” flows abundantly from the Rock of Ages.
 - c. The brazen serpent which was lifted up to provide life (ch. 21): The lifting up of Christ upon the cross (John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-33). The details make this incident even more analogous:
 - 1) There was sin by the people. (v. 5)
 - 2) The people suffered because of their sin. (v. 6)
 - 3) They made supplication to the Lord. (v. 7)
 - 4) They received salvation by that which was lifted up. (vv. 8-9)
 - d. The cities of refuge (ch. 35): The city of refuge today—the church. (Heb. 6:18)
 - B. The tragedy of unbelief.
 1. The generation of Israel which left Egypt could not enter Canaan because of their “unbelief.” (Heb. 3:12-19)
 2. Moses could not enter into Canaan because of his unbelief. (Num. 20:12)
 - C. Rebellion against God’s appointed leaders is rebellion against God.
 1. The case of Miriam and Aaron. (ch. 12)
 2. The case of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. (ch. 16)
 3. We must be careful in our attitudes and actions toward those who have oversight in the church.
 - D. A warning against the sin of presumption.
 1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-11, application is made of Israel’s wanderings. Their faithlessness caused them to:
 - a. Lust after evil things. (v. 6)
 - b. Become idolaters. (v.7)
 - c. Commit sexual immorality. (v. 8)
 - d. Tempt God. (v. 9)
 - e. Complain. (v. 10)
 2. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - E. Murmuring is sinful. (14:1-3)
 1. To murmur is to grumble, whine, and/or complain.
 2. The causes of murmuring are discontentment and selfishness. Therefore, the cure for murmuring is to:
 - a. Be content with necessities (1 Tim. 6:7-8); with what one has (Heb. 13:5); with one’s lot (Phil. 4:11); and God’s way (Luke 5:5).
 - b. Deny self. (Matt. 16:24)
 3. Murmuring is forbidden because it is sin (Phil. 2:14-15; 1 Pet. 4:9) and it causes one to perish (1 Cor. 10:1-11).
 - F. A lesson for the church.
 1. Numbers relates the account of a nation that threw away its opportunity, the story of a generation that stood face-to-face with God and when offered the land of their dreams, instead of taking it, simply turned their backs and walked away.
 - a. They lacked faith.
 - b. They were not willing to pay the price to be blessed.
 - c. They placed more confidence in what men said than in what God said.
 2. How many congregations of God’s people are inactive today for the very same reasons listed above?
 - a. They lack faith to do the work before them.
 - b. They are not willing to pay the price of commitment, dedication, and obedience.
 - c. They place more confidence in the reasoning of men than in the wisdom of God.

Numbers Study Questions

1. From chapter one, what was the date of the census? Who was included in it? What was the sum total of those counted? (vv. 45-46) Why were the Levites not counted with the men of war? What were their special duties?
2. List the order of tribes of the children of Israel as to their place around the tabernacle in the encampment. (ch. 2)
3. List the marching order of the tribes of the children of Israel as they set forth from camp. (ch. 2)
4. Why does murmuring seem to be such a fitting way to describe the general attitude of the people of Israel from the time they left Egypt?
5. How were the people chastised for their murmuring? (11:1-3) What does their murmuring show their attitude to be toward God?
6. What was the mission of the twelve men sent forth by Moses? What did they find while on their journey? (ch. 13)
7. What was the report of the spies? What conclusion had most of them reached? (ch. 13)
8. Who were the dissenters to the general opinion of the other spies? What did they suggest? Upon what did they base their conclusion? (ch. 13)
9. What was the people's reaction to the report of the spies? What made the unbelief of the people inexcusable? What did God propose to do? (ch. 14)
10. Describe Moses' intercession for the people. (ch. 14)
11. What was the punishment for Israel's disobedience? What happened to the spies? (ch. 14)
12. What did the Israelites decide to do after learning of their punishment? What resulted because of their actions? (ch. 14)
13. In chapter 16, what was the complaint against both Moses and Aaron? From what two tribes were the main leaders of this conspiracy? Does that explain any reasons for such a conspiracy?
14. Why was the whole assembly endangered by the actions of the rebellious men? What warning was given to the people so that they would not be caught up in the punishment of the rebels? (ch. 16)
15. How did the rebels die? (ch. 16)
16. At Kadesh, what was the people's complaint? (ch. 20)
17. What was the sin of Moses and Aaron for which they were punished so severely? Was the sin simply in striking the rock? If so, how was Aaron involved since Moses was the one who struck it? Explain. (ch. 20)
18. What made this sin of Moses and Aaron so serious? (ch. 20; cf. Num. 27:15-17)
19. What request was made of Edom? What assurances were given concerning this request? What was Edom's response? How did this incident end? (ch. 20)
20. Where did Aaron die? What reason is given as to why he could not enter the land of Canaan? Who became high priest after his death? (ch. 20)
21. In chapter 21, who met the Israelites in order to fight against them? Why? What was Israel's response? Why was the place of the battle called "Hormah?" (ch. 21)
22. Why did the children of Israel once again complain? What were their complaints? (ch. 21)
23. How were the complaints of the people punished? What was their response to the punishment? How were they saved? What comparison did Jesus make in John 3:14-5? (ch. 21)
24. Who was Balak and Balaam? Briefly describe the incident between the two. (chs. 22-24)
25. Why was a second census necessary? What two principles were to be observed in the future distribution of the land among the tribes of Israel? According to verses 63 and 65, how was this second census related to the first one? (ch. 26)

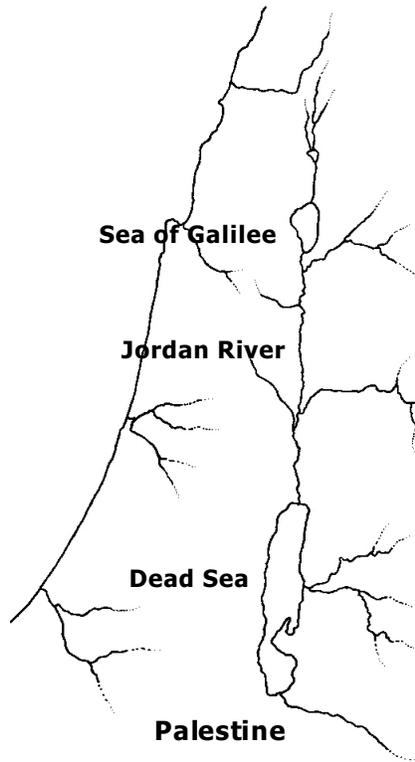
“There Is a Sea”

THERE IS A SEA WHICH DAY
by day
Receives the rippling rills.
And streams that spring
from wells of God,
Or fall from cedared hills;
But what it thus receives it gives
With glad unsparing hand.
A stream more wide, with
deeper tide,
Flows on to lower land.

“There is a sea which day by day
Receives a fuller tide;
But all its store it keeps, nor
gives
To shore nor sea beside.
Its Jordan stream, now turned to
brine,
Lies heavy as molten lead.
Its dreadful name, doth e’er
proclaim
That sea is waste and dead.”
(Lula Klingman Zahn, “There Is
a Sea,” *Songs of the Church*, West
Monroe, LA: Howard Publishers,
1975)

The two seas of the Jordan River are the setting for the words of the above song. The first verse speaks of the Sea of Galilee into which the Jordan flows from the north and from which it continues to the south. *Unger’s Bible Dictionary* says that “the lake is distant from Jerusalem about sixty miles; it is from eighty to one hundred and sixty feet deep, and is abundant with fish. Its waters are blue and sweet.” The Sea of Galilee gives what it receives in that it sends

forth a wider stream to the south. It “flows on to lower land” at the rate of sixty feet per mile.



The second verse of the song is about the Dead Sea, a dreadful name by which it has been called from the second century. The Jordan and several other smaller streams (The Zered and Arnon Rivers are two named in the Bible) pour six million tons of water into the Dead Sea each day. It has no outlet. Its only relief is evaporation which causes heavy clouds over it and makes the waters bitter. Its waters are oily to the touch and nauseous to the taste. It is so full of salt and other minerals that it coats the rocks on its shoreline as it splashes over them.

These seas provide us a valuable lesson. While both of them are fed by the waters of the Jordan, one passes the water on, the other consumes it. One is a blessing, the other causes death.

We receive blessings from God. What do we do with them? Do we selfishly consume and devour them or do we send out “a stream more wide?” Have we learned to be gracious with others or are we, like the worldly, selfishly watching out for “number one?” Do we consider the needs of others or do we turn our heads in the opposite direction to keep from seeing their need? Are we more like the priest and Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan or are we like the compassionate Samaritan? (Luke 10:30-37)

When Jesus gave His apostles spiritual gifts which could benefit others He told them, “Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:8) They were not to be selfish, but generous and gracious. All Christians are instructed to be considerate of others and their needs. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Gal. 6:10)

We must ask “Which shall it be for you and me?” Shall we be selfish or shall we send out a stream of good works and gracious blessings to those around us? 🙏

Gene Taylor

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