

Monday November 2nd 2020

## Introduction to Numbers

On Sunday Tony Haley led us in our last service for a while and he preached from a passage we have used much since the pandemic hit us (Hebrews 10). He pointed out the 4 'let us' please from vs 22-25.

- Draw near to God with sincere hearts
- Hold unswervingly to the hope we profess
- Not give up meeting together
- Encourage one another

Tony mentioned how we, as a nation, are not coming to God in prayer. When we turned to God in prayer during the war, God honoured that with miracles to our benefit. We have lost sight of the power of God, we do not draw near to him, we waver about the hope we profess and now have been forced once again to give up meeting together.

The book of Numbers tells the story of the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula for about 40 years after the miracles God performed to enable them to be freed from Egypt. They soon forgot God's power and faithfulness, grumbled and were disobedient. A whole generation failed to reach the promised land of Canaan as a result. Their unbelief prevented them from trusting that God would do as he said he would, preferring to send spies ahead to see what it was like 'on the other side' rather than having faith in God's word. Incidentally these 2 spies, who dared to believe, were the only 2 from their generation to enter the Promised Land.

Like the Israelites, God's people still fail him and test his patience. But God is always true to his word. 'You will be my people and I will be your God' (Ezek. 36 v 28, Genesis 17 v 7) Nothing has changed. God's redemptive plan will never be thwarted and we can rest assured of God's ultimate protection and eternal blessings.

As born again Christians we have been released from slavery to sin (Egypt) and are on that journey to the Promised Land in Heaven (Canaan). Numbers has much to say to all of us but particularly to carnal Christians whose unbelief and disobedience may prevent them from entering all that God has for them. 'These things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did'. (1 Cor. 10 v 6)

Tomorrow I hope to start a series of devotions based on Numbers starting at Chapter 10 as the Israelites set out from Sinai for the first time and at the Lord's command on their journey towards Canaan.

'Let us draw near to God with sincere hearts'