

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

AND THE LORD SPAKE SUDDENLY UNTO MOSES.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 4, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **NUMBERS 12:4-9**

Numbers 12:4-9, And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. **5,** And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. **6,** And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. **7,** My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. **8,** With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? **9,** And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Moses is the author of the book of **Numbers**, along with **Genesis**, **Exodus**, **Leviticus** and **Deuteronomy**.
- b. It was written between 1450 and 1400 BC and spans a period of about 39 years.
- c. It was specifically written to the Nation Israel; of course it has application to the church.
- d. If we were to take a bird's eye view of the first five books of the Bible, we would recall that **Genesis** is the book of creation and records the fall of mankind.
- e. Many beginnings are illustrated in this book.
- f. At the time of the writing of this book Israel was not a nation, but consisted of growing families and individuals who were told to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.
Genesis 1:28, And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- g. In the book of **Exodus**, we find that this family is becoming a great family going into Egypt and becoming a great nation. **Exodus 32:10,** Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.
- h. Moses' commission was to lead them out of the land of Egypt from under the bondage of Pharaoh.
- i. In **Leviticus**, the children of Israel are around Mount Sinai while God is giving the law

- and instructions for the tabernacle.
- j. In the book of **Numbers** we will learn about the march departing from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea.
 - k. **Because of their unbelief, there were many years of wandering in the wilderness.**
 - l. We will find that there were two separate censuses that were taken as the people were counted.
 - m. These censuses show the number of fighting men over twenty years old. **Numbers 1:46**, *Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.*
 - n. **Numbers 26:51**, *These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty.*
 - o. If we do the math this represents a loss of 1820 fighting men.
 - p. Do not come to the conclusion that there is a conflict in the Bible. One census was taken earlier and another was taken about 38-39 years later.
 - q. The interesting thing is that because of unbelief many people were wiped out and was not permitted to enter the Promised Land.
 - r. This book provides vital information to believers. God instructs us in **Romans 15:4**, *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*
1 Corinthians 10:11, *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.* to learn from these experiences.
 - s. Although there was much unbelief there was a remnant that believed God. **Hebrews 11:13**, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*
 - t. **John 17:14-15**, *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15, I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*
 - u. God is very vivid in this book in giving us a clear picture of **the sin of unbelief and its devastating effects on His people.**
 - v. When we analyze the distance from Mount Sinai and Kadesh-Barnea, it was about 150-200 miles and in that time it should have taken about 11 days in order to make the trip.
 - w. The Israelites spent 30 days at Kibroth; they spent 40 years on a journey that should have taken 40 days.
 - x. **Because of their unbelief and wandering around, they were afraid to go into the land because of a majority report that was given. Numbers 13:32**, *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*
Numbers 13:33, *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*
There was also a minority report that would have allowed them to execute God's plan. **Numbers 13:27**, *And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*

Numbers 13:30, *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

- y. As we study this great book we will find some interesting themes.
1. Our discipline from God is sometimes stern, but He ultimately rewards those who are obedient to His Word. Joshua and Caleb are two examples.
 2. Believers will never have to live in the wilderness, but we may have to walk through it.
 3. Just as God's punishment of disobedience is sure, so is God's pardon and restoration for repentance.
 4. We can progress as children of God only as we rely on Him to nurture our growth. Sixty six souls went into Egypt and Joseph had four souls that made a total of seventy souls.
 5. Murmuring and complaining are offensive to the God we serve.
 6. The census that was taken establishes the fact of (600,000+) fighting men. Dr. Melvin Grove-Kyle gives us some valuable insight concerning the total population. He estimates approximately 400,000 women; 200,000 senior citizens; 800,000 children; and a mixed multitude of about 100,000. This would equate to about 2.5- 3 million people. Keep in mind that the tribe of Levi was not included in this number.
 7. God does nothing without organization. **1 Corinthians 14:40**, *Let all things be done decently and in order.*
 8. When we look at the entire universe, we see how God has placed things in perfect order. It is only the person that is completely outside of the high-arch of God that claims there is no God. **Psalms 14:1**, *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*
 9. The children of Israel were totally disobedient and as a result God had to judge.
- z. With that background let's see what we can glean from this all-important book today.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message August 4, 2019

3. FOUR POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

h. Now the man Moses was very meek.

1. **Numbers 12:3**, *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*
2. When God calls us to a job, He wants us to be meek.
3. It is the world's view that meekness means weakness; however, God's view on meekness is strength.
2 Corinthians 12:10, *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.* This means we should depend on God.
4. The term meekness does not mean weakness at all. It means being obedient to the will of God and not our own.
5. When we are obedient to the will of God, He not only adds to the church but also causes the church to be blessed.
6. Our main focus at Chesswood Baptist church is to attempt to stay in the very center of God's will.

i. **And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses.**

1. **Numbers 12:4-9**, And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. 5, And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6, And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7, My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 8, With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold; wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? 9, And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.
2. Here is a very important principle that is laid down for us.
3. God does not choose to deal with Miriam, Aaron and Moses before the rest of the children of Israel. It was indeed a private matter only concerning God and those three. **Numbers 20:12**, And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
4. In no uncertain terms the Lord said, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation.
5. To make application to the church; if there is an issue in the church it is a private matter not the personal business of everybody and this information is not to be shared. We must follow God's procedure that is outlined in **Matthew 18:15-16**, Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16, But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
6. One of the things that happen in most churches is that there is a gossip circle going and they are not even privy to the facts because the whole congregation is not informed. This is not God's way.
7. Notice God deals with Miriam, Aaron and Moses only.
8. God had them understand that He was the one who will choose the prophets.
9. The Lord spoke some great things about Moses, that he was greater than all the others. who is faithful in all mine house. God deals with Moses differently than he does with anybody else.
10. If we were to dig out the nuggets of the Old Testament, we would find God dealt with other prophets in a different manner than He did with Moses.
11. God appeared to Abraham in dreams, He appears to Joseph in dreams also; but, when it comes to Moses, God deals with him face to face. I truly believe Moses will return and be one of the two prophets spoken of in the **Book of Revelation**.
12. Moses was different from all the other prophets that God deals with. **Deuteronomy 18:18**, I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. This prophet is like unto Moses and is none

other than Jesus Christ.

13. God sent His Son to die on the cross for you and me. **Galatians 4:4**, *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
14. The Lord challenges them to not speak against a servant of the Lord. Remember David said he would not touch the Lord's anointed. **1 Samuel 24:5-6**, *And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. 6, And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.*
15. *When a pastor preaches the Word of God and leads the congregation to do the right things in the church, he should not be the victim of viscous talk and gossip.* This is not God's way.
16. If there is a problem we are to follow the Scriptures and to deal with the people who are involved in the problem and those people only. **Galatians 6:1**, *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*
17. This is the principle that is laid out in God's Word and we must follow and adhere to it.
18. If we do not, the next point will indicate what will happen.

j. **And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle.**

1. **Numbers 12:10**, *And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.*
2. Miriam had done a foolish thing in challenging Moses' authority.
3. She had led in rebellion. The Bible says that rebellion is as witchcraft. **1 Samuel 15:23**, *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*
4. This invoked the severe judgment of God upon Miriam.
5. But, Moses being a meek man, was a man who did not hold grudges and displayed unconditional love at all times, prayed to the Lord for her to have grace in His sight. **Numbers 12:13**, *And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.*
6. As a result of Moses' prayer, God healed her.
7. There was a period of time before that took place and the severe consequences of rebellion of sin in the camp. **It held up the progress for a period of time.**
8. We are of the opinion that it does not make any difference and God's program will go forth.
9. I must remind you when there is much unbelief that the will of God is hindered. **Matthew 13:58**, *And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*
10. The journey of the children of Israel was shut down for a whole seven days because Miriam could not journey when she was a leaper.
11. She held up the march for a whole week.
12. We can slow the progress of God. We must be together if we are to get God's

best. **Psalms 133:1**, *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

k. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days.

1. **Numbers 12:15-16**, *And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days; and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. 16, And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.*
2. The question might come to mind "Why didn't Aaron get judged as well because he was involved also?"
3. I believe that Aaron's judgment was delayed. Remember God forbade and did not allow him to enter the promise land. He was the high priest, he occupied a position. **Numbers 20:24**, *Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.*
4. If God had struck him with leprosy, then there would have been no intercessor between the people and God so as a result, God dealt with Miriam who was the leader in the rebellion.
5. There are severe consequences for those who lead innocent people astray. **Proverbs 6:16-19**, *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17, A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*
6. *It happens in the church all the time. Something happens and rumors are spread and gossip starts circulating around and many innocent people are lead astray.*
7. Those who are the leaders of this discord among the brethren are going to be severely dealt with by Almighty God.
8. This was all because of jealousy of both Miriam and Aaron.
9. Aaron was not the leader in this, he was a follower, but at the same time, when Moses was away for a period of time, Aaron allowed the golden calf to be constructed. This can be found in **Exodus 32**.
10. The sin of jealousy and envy and challenging authority was what God judged.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour my friend?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you need to come to Him for salvation.
- c. We have seen that when God saves us He changes us. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- d. As a matter of fact, we are to avoid murmuring and complaining.
- e. Remember that God wiped out most of that whole generation of Israelites because of complaining.
- f. The first thing is you need to do is come to Jesus for salvation.
- g. The Bible says that all have sinned. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- h. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- i. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

10, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

j. Would you please stand?

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