

MARCH 2026 | DAY 15

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 11
Numbers 12
Numbers 13
Psalms 43

Have you ever given your entire soul to something? Translators often use “soul” for the Hebrew word nephesh, which can refer to a person’s whole self. As you learn in the video, humans are supposed to love God with all their nephesh. But in today’s reading, we see the Israelites turn away from God and start grumbling with all their nephesh.

It feels like Israel barely makes it off Mount Sinai before their groaning starts up again. First, the people complain about their food. They claim they’re so sick of manna that returning to brutal slavery for some cucumbers makes more sense to them. Then Moses’ siblings, Miriam and Aaron, complain about his leadership. Finally, the grumbling nation arrives at the border of the promised land.

Before entering, Moses wants to send 12 spies to see if the land is good or bad, and he asks them to bring back some of its fruit (Num. 13:18-20).

Notice the hyperlinks to the Eden narrative—seeing and taking, good and bad, and choosing fruit. Moses is following the poor choices of Adam and Eve by deciding that he and his spies will determine what is good and bad instead of trusting God’s wisdom.

Moses’ lack of trust in God here creates a tension point in the narrative: Will the people truly trust God, or will they decide for themselves what’s good and bad?

MARCH 2026 | DAY 16

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 14

Numbers 15

Numbers 16

Psalms 44

Have you ever gotten exactly what you asked for, only to discover that what you wanted was actually no good? Today's reading features several stories of people getting what they want, only to end up in tragedy situations.

First, the Israelites choose to trust the 10 spies' terrifying report about Canaan rather than God's promises. After decades of wilderness wandering, they're looking across the Jordan River into the promised land—they're right there! But they refuse to enter.

Whipped into a frenzy of fear, they think their best option is to return to slavery in Egypt. This betrayal grieves and angers God, but Moses intercedes for the people, urging God to stay true to his nature and promises. Interestingly, God does relent, but he also remains true to his word. He gives the rebellious Israelites what they said they wanted: to die in the wilderness instead of entering the promised land.

Then, a Levite named Korah aspires to become a priest, and his co-conspirators, Dathan and Abiram, want better land. So Moses turns them over to their own desires. You want the priestly responsibility? Okay, but know God will judge you according to a higher standard. You want to put your trust in physical property? Okay, but the property will end up owning you—the ground splits open and swallows the rebels whole.

God is slow to anger, but he does not neglect justice. Watch the video to learn about the connection between God's anger, justice, and love.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 17

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 17
Numbers 18
Psalms 45

Yesterday, we read about the Israelites rebelling against God's chosen representatives, accusing Moses and Aaron of seizing leadership positions for themselves. In today's reading, Aaron's staff miraculously sprouts new buds like a living tree, reaffirming God's choice of Aaron's family for the priesthood.

The dead wood bursting with flowers not only affirms God's choice but also rebukes the people for grumbling against them. God wants to be with his people, but they must approach his sacred space on his terms. In this case, that includes respecting God's choice of who will serve as priests. Since the priests and Levites have a unique role as Israel's representatives, God provides for them in a special way. Unlike Israel's other tribes, they will not receive an inheritance in the promised land. Instead, they receive a tithe, one-tenth of the other tribes' designated portions and holy offerings. The priests and Levites serve as living reminders that God is always providing for them, and they are to embrace his way by providing for one another.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 18

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 19
Numbers 20
Numbers 21
Psalms 46

Across the barren expanse of wilderness, the exhausted Israelites walk on and on. What should have been a relatively short trip to the promised land stretches into decades. The people reach a breaking point as their water runs out, and panic whips them into rebellious rage against Moses. They accuse him of bringing them into the desert to die.

Moses and Aaron seek God's counsel, but they fail to follow God's instructions. When God tells Moses to "speak to the rock" to bring forth water, Moses angrily smacks it with his staff. Even worse, Moses and Aaron take credit for God's miraculous provision. As Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron bear tremendous responsibility for high-stakes decisions. Their unbelief forfeits their opportunity to lead the people into the promised land, so they will die in the wilderness with the rest of the unbelieving generation.

However, things take a turn with the next generation. When a Canaanite king attacks them, they ask God for help. When they rebel against God and find themselves swarmed by venomous snakes, they repent and humbly ask Moses to intercede. And when Sihon and Og block their way to the promised land, the Israelites easily conquer the rival kings' armies. Will this be the generation that learns from their parents' mistakes?



MARCH 2026 | DAY 19

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 22
Numbers 23
Numbers 24
Psalms 47

Talking donkeys, kings consorting with sorcerers, angels with swords—today's reading pulls us into an intriguing drama unfolding in the hills of Moab. King Balak hires a famous sorcerer, Balaam, to curse the unsuspecting Israelites as they journey through the land.

Balaam, the greatest diviner in the land, fails to see an angel that his own (talking) donkey can see. Balak wants Israel to be cursed, but his actions multiply blessings for the nation instead. Meanwhile, the Israelites on the plains below have spent decades griping about God and accusing him of being out to get them. But from the hills above, God uses a foreign sorcerer to shower the oblivious Israelites with blessing.

This colorful story highlights a core aspect of God's character: his loyal love. In Genesis 12, God made a promise to Abraham and his family to give them land, make their name great, bless those who bless them, and curse those who curse them. Despite all the times the Israelites have turned their backs on God, he remains faithful to them and to his promise. Watch the video to learn more about God's loyal love.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 20

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 25
Numbers 26
Numbers 27
Psalms 48

At the end of Genesis, Abraham's family arrived in Egypt with famine behind them and an uncertain future ahead. Yet God took this humble and haggard group of shepherds and made them into a great nation. He rescued them from slavery by splitting open the sea. He showered them with bread from the skies and poured out water from the dry desert ground. He brought them to the borders of the promised land, protecting them from enemy armies and turning curses into blessings right over their heads.

Despite these gifts, Israel struggles to trust God and follow his instruction. In today's reading, Israel falls into sexual sin and idolatry, a common pairing in Scripture. Just as adultery violates the covenant of marriage, Israel's idolatry violates their covenant with Yahweh. God, like a loving spouse, wants his covenant partners to be faithful. The extreme measure Phinehas takes against Israel's unfaithfulness (Num. 25:6-8) points to the deadly consequences of Israel breaking their agreement with God. Following the plague crisis, the new generation of Israelites prepares to enter the promised land. Moses takes a new census of fighting-age men, and Zelophehad's daughters challenge Moses about Israel's inheritance laws. Now that permanent land will be established, women need property rights once reserved for men only. Moses sees their good point, agreeing to change the law so that the Abrahamic blessings will continue for all Israelite families. Then Moses appoints Joshua as his successor to provide Israel with a strong leader. The end of Israel's wilderness wandering is in sight!

MARCH 2026 | DAY 21

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SCRIPTURE

Numbers 28
Numbers 29
Numbers 30
Psalms 49

The Israelites camp at the Jordan River, poised to march into and claim God's promised land on the other side. When they settle in the land, they will need rhythms and reminders of God's faithfulness. They have God's name as a reminder of who he is. Now he gives them further instructions for the feast days that order their calendar. These festivals orient their lives to the story of God's redemption.

Each time the Israelites eat unleavened bread at Passover, they will remember the night in Egypt when God rescued them from slavery. Each time the Israelites lay their grain on the altar for the Festival of Weeks, they will remember that their abundant harvests are a gift from God. Each time the Israelites hear the blast of the ram's horn at the Festival of Trumpets, they will remember God's voice thundering from Mount Sinai as they became covenant partners. Each time they humble themselves on the Day of Atonement, they will remember God's gracious, ongoing forgiveness. And each time the Israelites spend a week sleeping in temporary shelters for the Festival of Booths, they will remember how God brought them safely through the wilderness to a land of abundance. By reliving these foundational events year after year, the Israelites declare who they are and who their God is. Watch the video to learn about the name God uses when revealing himself to Israel.