

# GOOD NEWS for our youth

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4 (02/05)

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## INTRODUCTION ... The Vision

The Holy Bible is a great book. It contains the greatest stories ever told and it contains the greatest truth we can ever learn. It's a book that can give us the greatest hope we will ever need. The Holy Bible is a book that contains stories of the greatest love we can ever desire. Reading the Bible will help us learn to live in a way that will make our Father God very happy with us. Let us search the Bible and learn. The goal of this newsletter is to bring out some of the truth of the "Good Book" to young people in a simple and interesting way. God has given this task to me and I will continually seek Him to accomplish it through "Good News". L/S/E/S J. Orokunle *"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee."* Proverbs 2:10-11

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## From the Book of Numbers

The Book of Numbers tells the story of the Israelites' journey. We remember the Hebrews had been delivered out of their bondage in Egypt. God sent Moses to set them free. God revealed himself to his chosen people and carried them over the land with miracle after miracle. Under the leadership of Moses, the people journeyed from Mount Sinai to Moab, which is the country that borders Canaan, the Promised Land. They had the Ten Commandments and the presence of God in their midst throughout their journey.

God told Moses to count the men of Israel. There were 603,550 men to go forward as conquerors to eventually claim the Promised Land. God was with them: during the day he led them in the form of a cloud, and at night they had a pillar of fire. The Meeting Tent, which represented God's presence, was placed in the middle of the camp, and everyone camped around it. *("On the day the Holy Tent, the Tent of the Agreement, was set up, a cloud covered it. From dusk until dawn the cloud above the Tent looked like fire. The cloud stayed above the Tent, and at night it looked like fire. When the cloud moved from its place over the Tent, the Israelites moved, and wherever the cloud stopped, the Israelites camped.")* Numbers 9:15-17)

God continued to lead and guide His people. He showed them how to live according to His will. He showed them how mighty and miraculous He is. With all of this, the Israelites still found reason after reason to complain and grumble. God showed them that His arms were not too short to provide their needs and neither were they too short to punish them for their sins. The scriptural word of the Book of Numbers gives us great insight into our Almighty Father God.

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## PROPHET BALAAM'S DONKEY SPEAKS

The Moab king, Balak, sent for Prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites when they were passing through Moab. Although Moses was only passing through with no intention of causing any trouble for Moab, the king had heard how the Israelites defeated other nations. Balaam refused at first, but that night God spoke to Prophet Balaam and told him to go to Moab. Along the road to Moab, God sent an angel with a message for Balaam. He couldn't see the angel, but his donkey could. The donkey turned off the road and Balaam hit the animal. The second time the angel appeared, the donkey scraped Balaam's foot against a wall while trying to avoid hitting the angel, Balaam then struck the

donkey for the third time. The angel blocked the narrow path so the donkey then lay down with Balaam still on its back. When Balaam lashed out at the donkey again, God gave the animal the power to speak. The donkey asked Balaam what reason did he have for beating him three times. Finally, God allowed Balaam to see the angel. The angel told Balaam to continue his trip to Moab. He told Balaam to say only what God told him to say. Instead of cursing the Israelites, Balaam blessed the Israelites. Balaam also prophesied that an Israelite king would one day destroy Moab. Centuries later King David fulfilled this promise. *(Numbers 22-23)*

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**DID YOU KNOW?** . . . The number of Israelites traveling through the Sinai Desert was about two million? In so many ways, the Israelites' journey was a miracle. It would have been impossible for that number of people to find enough food and water naturally from the wilderness land of the Sinai. They were actually traveling through a wilderness and Jehovah Jireh, the Lord Our Provider, fed them and provided for them during the forty years of their journey. Life was hard, but all along the way their needs were met. They were blessed with natural and supernatural resources.

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**“HAVING GOD’S LOVE, HIS GUIDANCE,  
AND HIS PROVISION WASN’T ENOUGH  
FOR THE ISRAELITES.”**

## **THEY ALSO WANTED TO EAT MEAT!**

The Israelites complained about so many things on their exodus journey. They also began to complain they were tired of eating manna. They wanted meat. They were remembering all of the foods they had eaten in Egypt. The Israelites seemed to have forgotten the way they had also suffered as slaves in Egypt. God decided to teach them a lesson. On a mighty wind, the Lord drove quail in from the sea. The quail was all around the camp. The people who had grumbled about wanting meat to eat were told to gather the quail. But even while they were still eating the meat they had grumbled about, God struck them with a plague. They died before they could even finish the meal. *(Numbers 11:33: But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.)*

To follow God, it may often be necessary to give up things we have enjoyed in the past. However, God is love and does not want us to suffer and He is ready to provide for all of our needs. We have to trust that He alone knows what is best for us. It is only God who can see yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It is only God who knows the blessings that He has stored up for His children who have the faith to trust Him. *(Numbers 11:4 says: Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat?”)*

There will always be people of the world who will try to influence us against the word of God. They will try to show us that we are lacking in different things because we have chosen to follow God. Those things we turn our backs on to follow God are things that we don’t need in order to live for God. When we trust God, our needs and desires will always be met. More importantly, we will begin to have the greatest desire for those things that will allow us to live eternally.

## **“Moses: God’s Humble Servant”**

Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? *(Numbers 12:6-8)*

## **“WILL YOUR JOURNEY OF 40 DAYS BECOME A JOURNEY OF 40 YEARS”?**

After the people had traveled for so long, they reached the land of Canaan. God told Moses to send in spies to see the land and the people living there. *(Don’t we know that God already knew what was there?)* Moses obeyed God and sent in one man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The men returned after forty days and reported that the land was wonderful, but there were people living there who looked too mighty to over throw. Joshua and Caleb did not agree with the others. They trusted God and believed they could conquer these people and take the land which God had promised them. The people could not be convinced and they refused to go into Canaan and fight for the land.

Moses begged God and, once again, He forgave the people. So many times the people had been stubborn and refused to trust God. This was their final offense. God told them because of this disobedience, they would never reach the Promised Land. God said the people would spend the rest of their lives in the desert, all except Caleb and Joshua, who believed Him. God said the Israelites would wander in the desert for forty years. They would die there and their children would be the ones to settle in the Promised Land.

When the Israelites heard their punishment, they cried and moaned. It was too late for them this time. God did not change his mind on this punishment. The Israelites then decided on their own that they would go in and fight for the land. God was not with them and they lost the battle.

For the next forty years, the Israelites had to wander in the land that was so close to Canaan, their Promised Land. Because of their own foolishness, they could not enter this land of milk and honey that God has promised them.

*Numbers 14:31-34: But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. According to the number of days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know my rejection.*

**WORDS OF BLESSING:** The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you should bless the Israelites. Say to them: “May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord show you his kindness and have mercy on you. May the Lord watch over you and give you peace.” *(Numbers 6:22-27)*