

October 13, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

What a book! The book of Numbers is named for the two times all the Israelites were counted, and it covers their forty years of desert wandering between Sinai and Moab.

Between the two census takings much happened. They traveled and stopped, traveled and stopped – depending on the movements of the cloud and pillar of fire. Some complained over their food and were devoured by plague. They explored Canaan; some reported in faith and some in fear. Some rebelled against Moses' authority and got swallowed up by the earth!

When it was all over came the second counting. Reuben's tribe had lost 3,000; Gad, 5,000. Simeon had lost 37,000 men!! Judah had gained 2,000; Manasseh had gained 20,500!

And so we all journey across the desert of this life – and some seem to prosper, and others seem to have more than their share of difficulties. But *all the Israelites partook of the Passover, and all were led by the cloud of fire. And you and we are all under the blood of the Lamb of God, and He is still shepherding His people toward heaven.*

So learn from the Israelites. Be patient through the trials. Be obedient in times of testing. Be full of faith. Don't complain. Don't question leadership over you. Don't doubt God.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,... let us fix our eyes on Jesus....” (Heb. 12:1, 2).

“Endure hardship as discipline....” (Heb. 12:7).

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy....” (Heb. 12:14).

“Let us be thankful....” (Heb. 12:28).

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority....” (Heb. 13:17).

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will....” (Heb. 13:20, 21).