Numbers - 36 chapters

Title:

Numbers- referring to the census and the two occasions of counting the people
Hebrew Title- “In the Desert”- (1:1)

Author:

Anonymous, attributed to Moses

Occasion and Purpose:

Written at the Exodus for the new nation to understand their identity, heritage and responsibility.
A record of Israel’s failure as a warning to not repeat their unfaithfulness. A record of God’s faithfulness as an encouragement that the promises have not failed and will not fail, even in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness.

Themes:

1. Faith and Obedience
2. Rebellion and Punishment
3. God’s Faithfulness

Summary:

Continuation of the story of Israel moving out of Egypt into the Holy Land. God prepared them to move immediately into the promised land, but because of their rebellion, they were forced to continue in the desert for 40 years. The story of their wanderings, victories and preparation for entering the land God had promised.

Organization:

At Sinai	Preparations to leave	Census and marching order – 1:1-2:34	1:1-8:26
		The Levites and the tabernacle – 3:1-4:49	
		Purity in the Camp – 5:1-6:27	
		Provisions for the tabernacle – 7:1-8:26	
	Climax in the Passover celebration		9:1-14
In the Desert	Leaving Sinai		9:15-10:36
	Rebellion, Punishment, and Grace	Whining about food – 11:1-35	11:1-17:13
		Challenge to Moses' leadership – 12:1-16	
		Unbelief at Kadesh (spies) – 13:1-14:12	
		Moses' intercession – 14:13-19	
		Punishment – 14:20-44	
		New Grace – 15:1-41	
		More Rebellion – 16:1-17:13	
	Wandering in the Desert	Priestly regulations – 18:1-32	18:1-20:13
		Cleansing Waters – 19:1-22	
		Moses' sin – 20:1-13	
	Death of Aaron and Holy War		20:14-21:35
Plains of Moab	Baalam cycle		22:1-24:25
	Sin at Peor		25:1-18
	Provisions for the Promise	The Second Census – 26:1-65	26:1-36:13
		Provision for inheritance – 27:1-23	
		Provision for worship – 28:1-30:16	
		Provisions for conquering – 31:1-32:42	
		Summary of travels – 33:1-49	
		Provisions for in the land – 33:50-36:13	

Key Verses:

6:23-27; 11:1; 14:11-12; 23:19-21; 32:13