

In the **WILDERNESS**

▪ The Book of Numbers ▪

GUIDEBOOK 2

STUDY 6

CHALLENGING GOD'S HIGH PRIEST

NUMBERS 16-17

1. Why are you thankful for your Christian leaders?

Read Numbers 16-17

2. Who were those that opposed Moses and Aaron?

3. What were their complaints (16:3 and 16:13-14)?

4. Does this remind you of previous incidents?

5. How many times do Moses and Aaron fall facedown in this passage? When do they do it and why?

6. Why does God send the plague on the people in 17:41-50?

7. Why does God stop the plague?

8. What do each of these stories demonstrate about Aaron's role as High Priest?

a) 16:1-35

b) 16:36-50

c) 17:1-13

9. How is the episode in 17:1-13 an act of God's grace?

10. What do the people realise in 17:12-13 (remember 16:36-40)?

Read Romans 3:21-26 and Hebrews 10:19-22

11. How do the episodes in Numbers 16 and 17 help us understand Jesus' role as high priest and his sacrifice?

PRAYER POINTS ...

Thank God for Jesus the great high priest, whose atoning sacrifice makes it possible for you to draw near to God with full assurance and confidence.

STUDY 7

THE ROCK AND THE SNAKE

NUMBERS 20-21

Almost forty years has passed since the people refused to trust and obey God on the edge of the Promised Land. Now a new generation (the children and grandchildren of those who had failed to trust God) find themselves once again on the edge of the Promised Land, with the same choice before them.

1. When have you been disappointed by not getting something that you had been looking forward to for a long time?

Read Numbers 20:1-13, 22-29

2. Why is Miriam's death mentioned in 20:1?

3. What is familiar about this situation?

4. How does God respond?

5. What did Moses and Aaron do?

6. What did Moses and Aaron do wrong? What was their punishment?

Read Numbers 21:4-9

7. Why does God send the snakes to bite the people?

8. How does God show them grace?

9. What did the people need to do to be saved?

Read Numbers 21:1-3, 21:21-24 and 21:31-22:1

10. Israel is finally on the move towards the Promised Land. What do we learn about the source of their military success (compare with Numbers 14:39-45)?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and John 3:14-15

11. How do these passages shed light on Numbers 20-21, and the way these incidents pointed forward to Jesus?

PRAYER POINTS ...

Thank God for Jesus, who is our Rock and the source of our salvation.

STUDY 8

BALAK & BALAAM (And the Talking Donkey Story)

NUMBERS 22-24

Having defeated some of the kings and nations south and east of the Promised Land, the Israelites are now camped at the foot of the mountains of Moab (and they stay here until the end of the book of Numbers).

1. Have you ever tried to manipulate God to do what you want?

Read Numbers 22

2. Compare Balak and Balaam using the table below:

	BALAK	BALAAM
Who was he?		
What was he like?		
What did he do?		

3. What was God's response to Balak's request?

4. What does the story about the donkey demonstrate about Balaam and about God?

5. In four groups, read and summarise Balaam's oracles (prophecies) and the outcomes of them. Each group look at one of them and then share together.

Numbers 23:1-12	
Numbers 23:13-26	
Numbers 23:27-24:11	
Numbers 24:12-25	

6. What common themes are there?

Read Genesis 12:1-3

7. How are each of the parts of God's promise to Abraham fulfilled in these chapters?

Read Genesis 3:15, 17:6, 35:11, 49:9-12. Compare with Numbers 24:7-9 and 24:17.

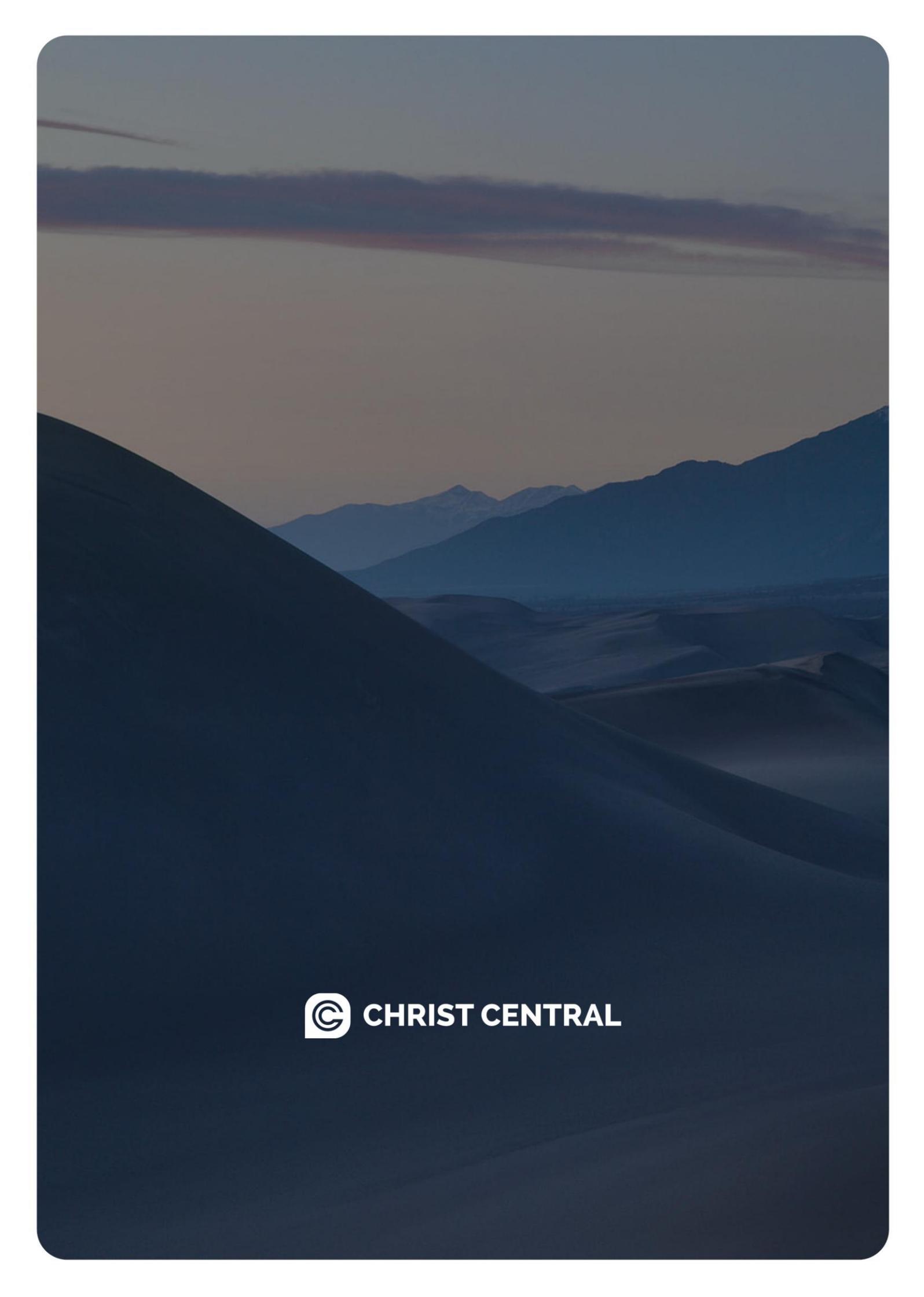
8. Who is Balaam speaking about?

Read Galatians 3:6-14

9. What does it mean for us to be blessed by God now?

PRAYER POINTS ...

Thank God that He communicates clearly, not only through donkeys but more so through the Bible.
Thank God that He is faithful to His promises of salvation and blessing, that are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.



 **CHRIST CENTRAL**