

MARCH 17

Happy St. Pat's Day! This is a good light reading for today.

Numbers 26:1-51

One thing you might do for interest is to go back to Numbers, chapter 1, and find the size of each tribe then and write it in next to the population of the tribe here. You'll notice that a couple of tribes got bigger.

V. 14 This is a shocker. What happened to Simeon? This is just guess work, but look back at yesterday's reading about the guy that Phinehas killed. In Numbers 25:14 it says what tribe he belonged to. It might be that the Midianites made their friendly offer at the location where the tribe of Simeon was located. Israel was probably like a city with 12 areas, like Brooklyn, the Bronx, etc. It makes sense that the Midianites had to begin in one place, at one of these tribes. If the tribe of Simeon made up the majority of the 24,000 who fell, it would explain the decrease.

I have the tribes of Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Zebulun, Ephraim and Naphtali in the minus category. What did you come up with?

Apparently, at this point, the generation of men who rebelled against the Lord at Kadesh-barnea was gone.

Luke 2:36-52

Vs. 36-38 Anna is another person who was on the scene when Simeon was blessing Jesus. Notice that she, like Simeon, was very devout and looking for redemption. And, she had a prayer life.

Between vs. 38 and 39 the wise men come, Joseph & Co. go to Egypt, Herod kills the children, Herod dies, and Joseph & Co. return and go to Nazareth.

Vs. 39 and 40 summarize their return to Nazareth.

Vs. 41-52 Joseph and Mary always went to Jerusalem and they always took Jesus. Apparently it was at this Passover that Jesus became fully aware that He was the Son of God.

V. 46 Most likely the three days is the time Jesus was missing. Joe and Mary walked a day north, then they walked a day back and then sometime on the third day they found Him.

V. 49 Jesus is simply saying, "You should have checked here first." The stunning part of this is Jesus calling God His Father. I'm sure that in the daily routine of life during the past 10 years, the predictions of His birth and the things that happen seemed dim. This would have been a slight wake-up call. In some respects, I'll bet this was a slightly different Jesus who returned with them.

Vs. 51-52 How would Luke have known this if Mary hadn't told him?

Psalm 60

It's interesting that yesterday Balaam prophesied that Edom would be subdued by Israel. Israel's first defeat of Edom happened because of the events this psalm laments. David would cry out to God and God would lead him to subdue the Edomites.

Vs. 1-3 God had promised Israel that if they followed Him they would never turn their backs on their enemies. As you can see in the introduction to the choirmaster, David was up north fighting against the forces from outside of Israel that were trying to take Israel. David was in his early days as the king of the entire nation. While he was in the north fighting, the Edomites came into Israel and wreaked havoc. This is why David is so upset. The only way this could happen in Israel is because Israel had sinned. David would work hard to reestablish the worship of God, but the nation had wandered for many years and there was a lot of rebuilding to do.

Vs. 4-5 David learned in all of his years of running that God was his refuge. Now David would have to begin leading his people in worship so that every man and woman would turn to God. This was their only hope.

Vs. 6-8 David is encouraging himself in God's sovereignty and also in God's Word. As we read yesterday, and as David knew, God had already spoken against Israel's enemies.

Vs. 9-12 And now David had to fight against Edom. David knew how to cry out to God and God answered.

Proverbs 11:15

This says not to be bound by your word or by a contract with someone you don't know. Paul says it to all of us when he says in 2 Corinthians 6:14, *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

Paul says it to Timothy, the pastor, in a slightly different way in 1 Timothy 5:22, *Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.*