

Bible Commentary – 1 Corinthians – Chapter 10

We present to you our commentary on 1 Corinthians. In our study we will make use of the usual tools of exegesis but we will also support our conclusions by making reference to numerical clues in the Scripture. Our purpose is to show how spiritual numbers can be a valuable study aid. You will find a chapter by chapter exegesis of this book on Page 99 BIBLE of www.biblenumbersforlife.com

COMMENTARY

Summary of main points in the text:

- **'All our fathers were under the cloud and passed through the Sea ... all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink ... but with most of them God was not pleased because their bodies were scattered in the wilderness'** (v.1-5)
- **'These things have become examples to us'** (v.6) (v.11)
- **'That we would not lust ... become idolaters .. commit sexual immorality ... nor tempt Christ ... nor complain ... and were destroyed by the destroyer.'** (v.7-10)
- **'No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man ... God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear ... but with the temptation will also make a way of escape'** (v.13)
- **'Therefore my beloved flee from idolatry'** (v.14)
- **'The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?'** (v.16)
- **'The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?'** (v.16)
- **'For we, though many, are one bread, one body; for we all partake one bread'** (v.17)
- **'Observe Israel ... are not those who eat of sacrifices partakers of the altar?'** (v.18)
- **'The things the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons not to God'** (v.20)
- **'You cannot drink the cup of the LORD and the cup of demons'** (v.21)
- **'Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God'** (v.31)
- **'Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks, or to the church of God'** (v.32)

Parallel passage (Numbers 26)

1 Corinthians 10 is the 143rd chapter of the New Testament.

Numbers 26 is the 143rd chapter of the Bible. Numbers 26 is the account of the second census. The first census was taken on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites departed from Egypt, at the beginning of the wilderness journey. The second census was taken at the end of the wilderness journey, just before Israel began to enter the Promised Land. The size of the inheritance in the Promised Land was based on the number of names of sons in each tribe as of the second census. A larger tribe got a larger inheritance. A smaller tribe got a smaller inheritance.

The table below shows a comparison of the number of sons of each tribe at the beginning and at the end of the wilderness journey:

	Numbers 1 & 3		Numbers 26				Notable Rebels
	First Census	%	Second Census	%	Change	% Chge	
Reuben	46,500	7.7%	43,730	7.3%	-2,770	-6.0%	Dathan & Abiram
Simeon	59,300	9.8%	22,200	3.7%	-37,100	-62.6%	
Gad	45,650	7.6%	40,500	6.7%	-5,150	-11.3%	
Judah	74,600	12.4%	76,500	12.7%	1,900	2.5%	
Issachar	54,400	9.0%	64,300	10.7%	9,900	18.2%	
Zebulun	57,400	9.5%	60,500	10.1%	3,100	5.4%	
Ephraim	40,500	6.7%	32,500	5.4%	-8,000	-19.8%	
Manassah	32,200	5.3%	52,700	8.8%	20,500	63.7%	
Benjamin	35,400	5.9%	45,600	7.6%	10,200	28.8%	
Dan	62,700	10.4%	64,400	10.7%	1,700	2.7%	
Asher	41,500	6.9%	53,400	8.9%	11,900	28.7%	
Naphtali	53,400	8.8%	45,400	7.5%	-8,000	-15.0%	
TOTAL	603,550	100.0%	601,730	100.0%	-1,820	-0.3%	
Levi	22,000		23,000		1,000	4.5%	Sons of Korah
Aaron	not numbered		not numbered		not numbered		Nadab & Abihu

We don't know how many people from each tribe died in each plague but it is possible many of the 24,000 who died in the Sin of Peor were Simeonites¹. 3,000 died in the sin of the golden calf (Exodus 32). 603,548 died in the desert – every man of Israel who turned back from entering the promised land – all who left Egypt except Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:35-38). 250 died in Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:35) plus 14,700 who died in the plague because of it. Aaron died on Mount Hor (Numbers 20:28). 23,000 died in the plague of snakes. Moses died on Mount Nebo (Deut. 32:50).

Application to the passage of 1 Corinthians 10

The tribes of Israel are symbolic of nations in the world². The Promised Land is not symbolic of heaven – it is symbolic of the Holy Land in the Millennium. All Christians will go to heaven – it is a certainty. Believers who overcome sin and glorify Christ in this life will return from heaven with him to rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years on earth. A very great honor! Believers who do not overcome in this life, will remain in heaven and not return to Earth during the 1,000 year Millennium. They will receive salvation but they will not receive the peculiar honor of returning to reign with Christ.

¹ Based on Zimri being a Simeonite (Numbers 25:14) and the decline in the Simeonite population being the most severe.

² For validation of this key interpretation of Old Testament types, we draw your attention to our study of the Desert Camp of the tribes of Israel on Page 4.0 Prophecy on our website. We provide abundant evidence of the types: Judah (Babylon), Reuben (Holy Roman Empire), Simeon (Kings of Europe), Manassah (United Kingdom), and Ephraim (United States). Etc.

The theme of 1 Corinthians 10 is summed in the warning that many Israelites received no inheritance in the Promised Land – they died in the desert because of sins: ‘All our fathers were under the cloud and passed through the Sea ... all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink ... but with most of them God was not pleased because their bodies were scattered in the wilderness’ (v.1-5)

The inheritance that is lost cannot refer to salvation since that is assured for all believers. We will all rise from the dead and we will all ascend to heaven. The inheritance spoken of must refer to some other eternal reward than forgiveness of sins, resurrection, and going to heaven. Based on the parallel passage we argue the inheritance must refer to saints who return with Christ: who enter the Holy Land.

Christian, does it offend you that some believers will obtain a better resurrection than others? That those who are more faithful to Christ in this life will receive a greater reward than those who are less faithful in this life? Regardless of how you may feel, this doctrine is the plain teaching of Scripture.

Hebrews chapter 11 is the roll call of faith. Why did so many saints of old choose to suffer rather than to disobey the commands of God? At the end of the roll call of faith this is explained:

‘Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.’ (v.35)

In case you might suppose this only applies to Old Testament saints, consider what Paul taught:

‘But some will say: ‘How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come?’ ... God gives each a body as he pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, another of animals, another of fish, another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. **There is one glory of the Sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; and one star differs from another in glory. So also the resurrection of the dead...’ (1 Cor. 15:35-42)**

Some resurrected saints will shine like the Sun and the stars! Other resurrected saints will be like the moon and the planets – they will not shine – they will only reflect the glory of Christ that is in heaven.

In the Book of Revelations it says: **‘And to her [the bride of Christ] it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.’ (Rev. 19:8).** But who will return to earth? All the saints? Or those arrayed in fine linen? **‘Now heaven opened and behold a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Righteous and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses’ (Rev. 19: 11-14).** Make no mistake: the Christians who return with Christ in the Millennium are the ones who were faithful to the Lord Jesus in this life: whose deeds were righteous.

Spiritual Numbers

1 Corinthians 10 is the 143rd chapter in the New Testament. The number 143 means '**Factions**'. If a Christian belongs to a faction, knowing or unknowingly they proclaim that they no longer belong to Christ. Paul strives to communicate in 1 Corinthians 10 the truth that believers belong to one body: '**For we though many are one bread one body; for we all partake one bread.**' (v.17) **For Christians to splinter into factions of men is a travesty of the fundamental truth of the unity of our faith.**

1 Corinthians 10 is the 1,072nd book in the Bible. The number 1,072 = 16 x 67. The number 1,072 means: '**Sacrifice**' (16) <of> '**Gentiles Praise God**' (67). Here is how our life will be judged when believers stand before the judgment seat of Christ: if we sacrifice our life in this life, we bring praise to God. By logical inference: believers who do not sacrifice their life in this life will not bring praise to God. These are the ones who will enter heaven with no gift to bring the Father in their hands.

The first verse in 1 Corinthians 10 is the 204th verse in the book. The number 204 means '**Loss of Holy Life**'. The last verse in 1 Corinthians 10 is the 236rd verse in the book. The number 236 means '**High Priest Abandons Lords People**'. There are 33 verses in 1 Corinthians 10. The number 33 means '**Scattered Remnant**'.

What a profound warning is provided here! The rebels in the desert are Christians who deny that they belong to Christ by proclaiming with their membership in a religious organization that they belong to men. The rebels in the desert are the ones who follow men (like the sons of Korah who rebelled against Moses and Aaron) not Jesus. The Lord will abandon those rebels. Yes, those believers will be saved and go to heaven but their bodies will be scattered in the desert: meaning, they will receive no heavenly reward or honor.