
Day 46 – February 15

Establishment of a Nation (1525 – 1400 BCE)
Moses Reviews History and Purpose

Readings: *Numbers 26:1-65*

Reflections:

- There is not a lot new information here but just a good summary of their journey to date.
- Things to note:
 - It is good to do these types of reviews with community to remember all of God's benefits and blessings;
 - Moses highlights the organization for pastoral care that shows how significant this was for the nation;
 - He seems to have no problem blaming the people for him not being able to enter the Promised Land. This still shows his humanity as well as honesty of the text.
- We see some great reminders woven into the summary that underscore for the people who God is and what it means to live in relationship with him:
 - “Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God.”
 - “...you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son...”
 - “...the Lord your God has been with you and you have not lacked anything.”
 - “...the Lord your God himself will fight for you.”
 - “What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?”
 - “But if...you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
 - “For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers...”
- We see it is good to not only tell the stories but to remind people what they mean and how God desires relationship and partnership. So often we get lost in the facts of the stories or of the theology of God and don't take time to reflect on what it all means.

- Moses speech has a great conclusion. He highlights again hearing God speak, seeing his power and knowing they have been chosen by him. These are the fundamentals of living in a trust relationship with God. Moses affirms the Law (“And what other nation is so great to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today.”) and yet in the end puts the emphasis on relationship with God and Law keeping as an expression of that relationship.