

Numbers 26 - After the Plague

The LORD is quick to forgive

Num 26:1-2 ESV ***After the plague***, the LORD said to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron, the priest, 2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, ***all in Israel who are able to go to war.***"

AFTER THE PLAGUE -

- 24,000 people just died by the plague - yet He is ready to move on & support them in the battle

How long did it take the Father to forgive the prodigal son?

- Luk 15:20 ESV And he arose and came to his father. But ***while he was still a long way off***, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ***ran and embraced him and kissed him.***

How long did it take Jesus to proclaim the salvation of Zacchaeus

- Luk 19:8-9 ESV And ***Zacchaeus stood and said*** to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And ***Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house,*** since he also is a son of Abraham.

How long did it take the LORD to change his mind concerning the destruction of Nineveh

- Jon 3:9-10 ESV Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." 10 ***When God saw what they did***, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

How long did it take Jesus to accept the apostle Paul

- Act 9:6 ESV But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."... .. *[And the LORD told ANANIAS]* - Act 9:15-16 ESV "Go, for ***he is a chosen instrument of mine*** to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

His anger lasts for a moment - his favor lasts for a lifetime

- Psa 30:5 ESV For ***his anger is but for a moment***, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

HOW ABOUT YOU? - Maybe the LORD is ready to move you forward. How many times do we spend weeks, months or maybe years trying to get over some area of sin, we've repented, but maybe can't forgive ourselves, and the LORD was ready to move on a LONG TIME AGO?

The LORD speaks to our future

Vs 2 -- The LORD takes a Census of "all in Israel who are able to go to war"

- There were **601,730** -- Num 26:51 -- At the beginning Num 1:46 ESV -- there were **603,550**

All who are ABLE TO GO TO WAR is a statement pointing to the future

He tells them how to divide the land once they get there

- Num 26:53-56 ESV "Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names. 54 To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list. 55 But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. 56 Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller."

He sets a vision in front of them

- **A vision of victory** - triumph over the enemy - you will possess the land and divide it
- **A vision of blessing** - what He planned to give them in the promised land

He did the same thing with Joshua

- Jos 6:1-2 ESV Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua, "**See, I have given Jericho into your hand**, with its king and mighty men of valor.
- Jos 8:1 ESV And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. **See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai**, and his people, his city, and his land.
- **He spoke to the first generation in similar terms but they refused to follow through**
 - Num 13:2 ESV "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.

God speaks to our future in a way that shows we play a certain part in the outcome

- Deu 30:15-18 ESV "**See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey** the commandments of the LORD your God.... your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 **But if your heart turns away**, and you will not hear,you shall surely perish.

Jesus speaks to our future in a certain way as well

- Mat 7:24-27 ESV "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them **will be like a wise man** who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them **will be like a foolish man** who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

How 'bout you? - What does your future hold, what has He shown you?. What does the word say?