Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

10 Sep 2017 Message 4 of 66

NLT 60 Minutes

**Be Prepared**

***Book of Numbers***

**Topic:** Preparation

**Subject:** How does God prepare us to serve him?

**Complement:** God organizes, warns, and rewards us to be prepared for service.

**Purpose:** The listeners will be prepared for God’s way for them to serve him.

**Attribute:** We worship the God of Preparation

**Reading:**

**Song:**

# Introduction

### Interest: We should be prepared for things in life in general. This is the motto of the Boy Scouts: “Be Prepared.” You would prepare for a hurricane like Harvey or Irma this week, right? How would you do it?

Scouts  
(7 slides)

Scouts  
(2 slides)

### Need: We should be even more prepared to serve the King of Kings!

#### Are you prepared to serve the Lord Jesus?

#### What are you doing right now to better serve the Lord?

### Subject: How does God prepare us to serve him? How can we be prepared to work for his will?

Subject

### Background: Israel invested a year to build their equipment and get to know the LORD. God responded by filling the tabernacle with his presence. Now they needed God to prepare them for service—to do his will.

Backgrd

(14 slides)

### Preview: Today we’ll observe three ways God prepares us to serve him.

3 ways

### Text: We’ll study the entire book of Numbers.

(What’s the first way God prepares us to serve him?)

# I. God organizes us to be holy.

MP

## God fulfilled his covenant to Abraham through an orderly and holy nation (1:1–10:10; 20 days at Mount Sinai).

### God organized Israel's old generation and Levites for efficient travel through the wilderness and conquest of Canaan (Num 1–4).

Num 5–10

(8 slides)

Num 1–4

(12 slides)

### God sanctified Israelites through separation, worship, and his guiding presence so they could enter Canaan as a holy nation (5:1–10:10).

SP

## Follow God’s directions instead of your own way to order your life.

### How is God working in you *to organize* to be prepared for his plan for your life?

Organize

(3 slides)

### God has given you all you need to serve him (Phil 2:13).

Phil 2:13

### God will never require you to sin (1 Cor 10:13).

1 Cor 10:13

### God gives you all the strength you need (Phil 4:13).

Phil 4:13

(So we must be careful to organize our lives according to the will of God. But what’s the second way God prepares us to serve him?)

Subject

MPI

# II. God warns us of the cost of unbelief.

MP

[The LORD disciplines us with loss of reward.]

## God judged the old generation’s unbelief by blocking entry to Canaan (10:11–25:18; 38-year wilderness wandering).

Chart

### God judges Israel's unbelief en route to Kadesh shown in complaining over manna and opposing leadership by Moses to affirm his just yet faithful guiding to Canaan (10:11–12:16).

Num 10-12

(10 slides)

### God judges Israel's unbelief to enter Canaan from Kadesh by forbidding future entrance into the land to teach that his rest can be claimed only by faith (Num 13–14).

Num 13-14

(13 slides)

### God judges Israel's unbelief in the wilderness by resisting his leaders and teaches about priests for Israel to respect leaders and obey the covenant for God's nonstop presence (Num 15–19).

Num 15-19

(25 slides)

### God judges Israel's unbelief by complaining en route to Moab yet still defeats the Transjordan nations (Num 20–21).

Num 20-21

(13 slides)

### God judges Israel’s sexual idolatry at Moab but still gives undeserved blessing through Balaam (Num 22–25).

Num 22-25

(17 slides)

Failures

Transition

(3 slides)

## God instructs us through the failures of others.

### Sometimes marriages fail so that the grandparents end up raising their grandchildren.

Parenting

(2 slides)

### Numbers depicts the journey of our own growth in sanctification.

Discipline

(5 slides)

(What’s the third way God prepares us to serve him?)

# III. God rewards our faithfulness.

MP

[The LORD will return to us far more than we ever gave him in our service.]

## God organized the believing new generation (Num 26–36; 5 months near Moab).

Num 26-27

(8 slides)

### God provides for the new generation to inherit the land by reorganizing them in a new census, new law of inheritance, and new leader (Num 26–27).

### The rules on offerings and vows sanctify the new generation to worship God (Num 28–30).

Num 28-30

(6 slides)

### God defeats the Transjordan, summarizes his wilderness guidance, and defines land boundaries to prepare Israel to enter Canaan (Num 31–36).

Num 31-36

(19 slides)

## God will continue leading you when you are obedient.

Continue

### Harvey and Irma Schuler have been blessed with 75 years of marriage and 120 foster children.

Couple

Title

Title

### Do you really doubt that staying on God's tracks won't be rewarded?

Rewards

(3 slides)

Review

(2 slides)

(How does God prepare us to serve him?)

# Conclusion

### God prepared Israel to enter Canaan by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites (EI).

MI

### God organizes, warns, and rewards us to be prepared for service (MI).

### Be rewarded in service by heeding God’s directions and warnings (MI restated).

### How does God prepare us to serve him (Main Points)?

MPI

#### God organizes us to be holy.

MPII

#### God warns us of the cost of unbelief.

MPIII

#### God rewards our faithfulness.

### How to be prepared

APP 1

#### Realize that God has given you everything you need to do His will, but disobedience deserves discipline.

• Realize

#### God will get His will done either through you or in spite of you.

• Through you

#### Are you characterized by commitment or complaining?

• Which?

### Be Prepared! How is God directing or warning you right now?

APP 2

#### How is he saying, “Go this way”?

• Go!

#### How is he saying, “Don’t go that way”?

• Don’t go!

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### The nation has just received God’s blessings of his presence (Exodus) and instructions how to remain a holy nation (Leviticus).

### Now it remains for God to complete final preparations and bring them into the land of Canaan.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### It is easy for us to think that when we sin, it is sometimes due to God failing us.

### Numbers contrasts Israel’s failures with God’s grace, showing man to be at fault instead of God.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### God had done all that was needed for the nation to succeed.

# Questions

### Should the focus of the text be man’s failings, God’s faithfulness, or the contrast between them?

### How does Numbers relate to the Abrahamic covenant?

# Tentative Main Ideas

The way God prepares us to do his will is to organize,

God's faithful preparation of his people to enter Canaan contrasts with Israel's unbelieving rebelliousness in the wilderness to teach the nation his unconditional commitment to fulfill his Abrahamic Covenant but only through a believing generation.

The way God prepared his people to enter Canaan was by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites.

The way God showed faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant was by preparing Israel to enter Canaan only through believing Israelites.

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

Population Changes in the Wilderness

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tribe | Numbers 1 (1444 BC)  Start of Wanderings | Numbers 26 (1406 BC)  End of Wanderings | Increase (Decrease) |
| Reuben | 46,500 | 43,730 | (2,770) |
| Simeon | 59,300 | 22,200 | (37,100) |
| Gad | 45,650 | 40,500 | (5,150) |
| Judah | 74,600 | 76,500 | 1,900 |
| Isaachar | 54,400 | 64,300 | 9,900 |
| Zebulun | 57,400 | 60,500 | 3,100 |
| Ephraim | 40,500 | 32,500 | (8,000) |
| Manasseh | 32,200 | 52,700 | 20,500 |
| Benjamin | 35,400 | 45,600 | 10,200 |
| Dan | 62,700 | 64,400 | 1,700 |
| Asher | 41,500 | 53,400 | 11,900 |
| Naphtali | 53,400 | 45,400 | (8,000) |
| Total | 603,550 | 601,730 | (1,820) |

These numbers only include men at least 20 years old who served in the army (26:2, 4). Women, children, Levites and the handicapped were not counted. Assuming each soldier had a wife and an average of only one child puts the total population nearly 2 million. The tribe of Reuben decreased partly due to rebelling with Korah (26:8-9; cf. 16:1-35). The tribe of Simeon shrank the most. Perhaps this was due to the plague that killed 14,700 (16:49) and/or the tribe’s immorality at Beth Peor, which killed 24,000 (25:9), as its leader Zimri was a Simeonite (25:14).

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**The way God prepared Israel to enter Canaan was by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites.**

# I. The way God prepared Israel’s old generation to enter Canaan was by fulfilling the covenant to Abraham through an orderly and holy nation (1:1–10:10; 20 days at Mount Sinai).

## God organizes Israel's old generation and Levites for efficient travel through the wilderness and conquest of Canaan (Num 1–4).

### God organizes the people through an army census, camp arrangement, and marching order as his preparation to defeat the Canaanites (Num 1–2).

#### The first census in Israel numbers 603,550 soldiers to show God faithful to provide Israel an army to defeat the Canaanites (Num 1).

#### The camp planning and marching order affirms God's desire for an orderly people (Num 2).

### God organizes the Levites to care for and transport the tabernacle and redeems them for lifelong service that Israel would treat his holy things respectfully (Num 3–4).

#### God appoints the three Levite clans to care for the tabernacle so that Israel would treat the holy things respectfully (3:1-39).

#### God substitutes Levites for the firstborn sons as compensation for sparing the firstborn Israelites at the Exodus to provide lifelong servants for the tabernacle (3:40-51).

#### God assigns the tabernacle transport to the three Levite clans to orderly move his holy things (Num 4).

## God sanctifies Israelites through separation, worship, and his guiding presence so they could enter Canaan as a holy nation (5:1–10:10).

### Laws of holiness by separation preserve the camp’s physical, social, spiritual, and marital purity (Num 5–6).

#### Make ritually unclean people live outside the camp to protect its *physical* purity (5:1-4).

#### Recompense for financial wrongdoing to protect Israel’s *social* purity (5:5-10).

#### Test women suspected of adultery to protect Israel’s *marital* purity (5:11-31).

#### Separate Nazirites to protect Israel’s *spiritual* purity (6:1-21).

#### Bless the Israelites that God might separate them as his own *unique* people (6:22-27).

### Israel's sanctification through worship will give God his due honor (7:1–9:14).

#### Each tribe offers identical gifts at the tabernacle dedication as sanctified worship to honor God (Num 7).

#### The arrangement of the lighted lamps gives Israel more formerly unrevealed teaching about its worship (8:1-4).

#### The Levites' consecration provides divine approval for the worship of Israel (8:5-26).

#### God allows Passover for the ceremonially unclean one month later but only in the prescribed manner to encourage Israel to worship God in holiness (9:1-14).

### Israel's sanctification through God’s guidance in the tabernacle cloud and assembly trumpets assures his presence so Israel might enter Canaan as a holy nation (9:15–10:10).

#### God guides Israel through the tabernacle cloud to sanctify the people with his presence and help them depend on him for direction (9:15-23).

#### Trumpets must be blown for meetings, battle, and feasts to recall his guiding presence (10:1-10).

# II. The way God prepared believing Israelites for Canaan was by judging the old generation’s unbelief and blocking their entry (10:11–25:18; 38-year wilderness wandering).

## God judges Israel's unbelief en route to Kadesh shown in complaining over manna and opposing leadership by Moses to affirm his just yet faithful guiding to Canaan (10:11–12:16).

### Israel leaves Sinai at the LORD’s command in original trust in God's guidance (10:11-36).

### God provides quail for the people when they complain about the manna but judges them with plagues for their rebellion to teach his grace balanced with justice (Num 11).

### God judges Miriam and Aaron for envy of Moses by briefly making Miriam leprous to show he approves of Moses (12:1-15).

### Israel leaves Hazeroth north of Sinai and camps in the Desert of Paran to move closer to the Promised Land (12:16).

## God judges Israel's unbelief to enter Canaan from Kadesh by forbidding future entrance into the land to teach that his rest can be claimed only by faith (Num 13–14).

## God judges Israel's unbelief in the wilderness by resisting his leaders and teaches about priests for Israel to respect leaders and obey the covenant for God's nonstop presence (Num 15–19).

### A review of offerings for thanksgiving and unintentional sins and a story of the death penalty for intentional sin show God’s covenant requirements (Num 15).

### God kills Korah and his followers, 250 men, and 14,700 Israelites for opposing Moses and Aaron to warn Israel to obey his appointed leaders (Num 16).

### Priestly instructions remind Israel to obey and pay God's workers to maintain their purity for God's continued presence (Num 17–19).

#### God vindicates Aaron by making his rod bud before rebels who challenged his authority to provide a lasting memorial to obey his appointed leaders (Num 17).

#### The roles and salary of priests and Levites remind jealous Levites that only Aaron's offspring can be priests and remind the nation to care for God's workers (Num 18).

#### Priests must sacrifice a red heifer for ceremonial purification from corpses to maintain ritual cleanness in the nation for God's presence to abide with the people (Num 19).

## God judges Israel's unbelief by complaining en route to Moab yet still defeats the Transjordan nations (Num 20–21).

### In the Desert of Zin, God judges Moses and Aaron for hitting a rock, Miriam and Aaron die, and Edom refuses passage to Israel all due to Israel’s unbelief (Num 20).

### En route to Moab, Israel defeats Canaanites, Sihon of Heshbon, and Og of Bashan but defeat themselves by grumbling, yet God heals them with a bronze snake (Num 21).

## God judges Israel’s sexual idolatry at Moab but still gives undeserved blessing through Balaam (Num 22–25).

### Balak (king of Moab) *doesn’t turn God against Israel* when he hires the pagan Balaam to curse Israel, but he blesses them to show God's commitment to Israel (Num 22–24).

### At Baal of Peor, Balak *turns Israel against God* by Moabite prostitutes and by idolatry that kills 24,000 before Phinehas atones for the sin due to God's hatred of defiant sin (Num 25).

# III. The way God prepared the believing new generation for Canaan was by organizing them, teaching offerings and vows, and outlining Canaan (Num 26–36; 5 months near Moab).

## God provides for the new generation to inherit the land by reorganizing them in a new census, new law of inheritance, and new leader (Num 26–27).

### Israel's second census shows the new generation of 601,730 is barely smaller than the old generation 38 years earlier as God's provision of soldiers to defeat Canaan (Num 26).

### Inheritance goes to five daughters of Zelophehad, a man who died without sons, showing God's grace for those who would otherwise have no inheritance (27:1-11).

### God gives a leader to the new generation in Joshua’s appointment to succeed Moses (27:12-23).

## The rules on offerings and vows sanctify the new generation to worship God (Num 28–30).

### Offering regulations for daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly sacrifices help the new generation to worship God appropriately (Num 28–29).

### Regulations on women's vows highlight keeping promises made to God to help the new generation to worship God appropriately (Num 30).

## God defeats the Transjordan, summarizes his wilderness guidance, and defines land boundaries to prepare Israel to enter Canaan (Num 31–36).

### The defeat of the Transjordan ends by destroying the Midianites but defining inheritances according to man's will reveals that God's inheritance is always best (Num 31–32).

#### Israel defeats the Midianites and divides the spoil for turning Israel away from the LORD at Peor to show God's jealous love for his people (Num 31).

#### The eastern two-and-a-half tribes receive their lands provided they fight in Canaan and forfeit their Canaan inheritance to show God's inheritance is always best (Num 32).

### A summary of God’s faithful provision on Israel's journey from Egypt to Moab helps the people further trust in God for entrance into the land (33:1-49).

### The land west of the Jordan (Canaan) is defined in boundaries, Levite towns, cities of refuge, and separate tribal areas to prepare Israel to enter the land (33:50–36:13).

#### The Western tribes are promised their inheritance in Canaan if they drive out the inhabitants to teach Israel that God's gifts involve human responsibility (33:50–34:29).

#### Forty-eight cities in Canaan are granted to the Levites, including six cities of refuge for fugitives of unintentional murders, to protect God's name from slander (Num 35).

#### Daughters inheriting land must marry within their tribal clan so every Israelite will retain his father’s property and thus prevent mixing lands in a tribal area (Num 36).

**Be Prepared**

***Book of Numbers***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way God prepared Israel to enter Canaan was by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites.

# I. The way God prepared Israel’s old generation to enter Canaan was by fulfilling the covenant to Abraham through an orderly and holy nation (1:1–10:10; 20 days at Mount Sinai).

## God organizes Israel's old generation and Levites for efficient travel through the wilderness and conquest of Canaan (Num 1–4).

## God sanctifies Israelites through separation, worship, and his guiding presence so they could enter Canaan as a holy nation (5:1–10:10).

# II. The way God prepared believing Israelites for Canaan was by judging the old generation’s unbelief and blocking their entry (10:11–25:18; 38-year wilderness wandering).

## God judges Israel's unbelief en route to Kadesh shown in complaining over manna and opposing leadership by Moses to affirm his just yet faithful guiding to Canaan (10:11–12:16).

## God judges Israel's unbelief to enter Canaan from Kadesh by forbidding future entrance into the land to teach that his rest can be claimed only by faith (Num 13–14).

## God judges Israel's unbelief in the wilderness by resisting his leaders and teaches about priests for Israel to respect leaders and obey the covenant for God's nonstop presence (Num 15–19).

## God judges Israel's unbelief by complaining en route to Moab yet still defeats the Transjordan nations (Num 20–21).

## God judges Israel’s sexual idolatry at Moab but still gives undeserved blessing through Balaam (Num 22–25).

# III. The way God prepared the believing new generation for Canaan was by organizing them, teaching offerings and vows, and outlining Canaan (Num 26–36; 5 months near Moab).

## God provides for the new generation to inherit the land by reorganizing them in a new census, new law of inheritance, and new leader (Num 26–27).

## The rules on offerings and vows sanctify the new generation to worship God (Num 28–30).

## God defeats the Transjordan, summarizes his wilderness guidance, and defines land boundaries to prepare Israel to enter Canaan (Num 31–36).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will be prepared for God’s way for them to serve him.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: We should be prepared for things in life in general.

### Need: We should be even more prepared to serve the King of Kings!

#### Are you prepared to serve the Lord Jesus?

#### What are you doing right now to better serve the Lord?

### Subject: How does God prepare us to serve him? How can we be prepared to work for his will?

### Background: Israel invested a year to build their equipment and get to know the LORD. God responded by filling the tabernacle with his presence. Now they needed God to prepare them for service—to do his will.

### Preview: Today we’ll observe three ways God prepares us to serve him.

### Text: We’ll study the entire book of Numbers.

(What’s the first way God prepares us to serve him?)

# I. God organizes us to be holy.

## God fulfilled his covenant to Abraham through an orderly and holy nation (1:1–10:10; 20 days at Mount Sinai).

### God organized Israel's old generation and Levites for efficient travel through the wilderness and conquest of Canaan (Num 1–4).

### God sanctified Israelites through separation, worship, and his guiding presence so they could enter Canaan as a holy nation (5:1–10:10).

## Follow God’s directions instead of your own way to order your life.

(What’s the second way God prepares us to serve him?)

# II. God warns us of the cost of unbelief.

## God judged the old generation’s unbelief by blocking entry to Canaan (10:11–25:18; 38-year wilderness wandering).

### God judges Israel's unbelief en route to Kadesh shown in complaining over manna and opposing leadership by Moses to affirm his just yet faithful guiding to Canaan (10:11–12:16).

### God judges Israel's unbelief to enter Canaan from Kadesh by forbidding future entrance into the land to teach that his rest can be claimed only by faith (Num 13–14).

### God judges Israel's unbelief in the wilderness by resisting his leaders and teaches about priests for Israel to respect leaders and obey the covenant for God's nonstop presence (Num 15–19).

### God judges Israel's unbelief by complaining en route to Moab yet still defeats the Transjordan nations (Num 20–21).

### God judges Israel’s sexual idolatry at Moab but still gives undeserved blessing through Balaam (Num 22–25).

## God instructs us through the failures of others.

(What’s the third way God prepares us to serve him?)

# III. God rewards our faithfulness.

## God organized the believing new generation (Num 26–36; 5 months near Moab).

### God provides for the new generation to inherit the land by reorganizing them in a new census, new law of inheritance, and new leader (Num 26–27).

### The rules on offerings and vows sanctify the new generation to worship God (Num 28–30).

### God defeats the Transjordan, summarizes his wilderness guidance, and defines land boundaries to prepare Israel to enter Canaan (Num 31–36).

## God will continue leading you when you are obedient.

(How does God prepare us to serve him?)

# Conclusion

### God prepared Israel to enter Canaan by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites (EI).

### God organizes, warns, and rewards us to be prepared for service (MI).

### Be rewarded in service by heeding God’s directions and warnings (MI restated).

### How does God prepare us to serve him (Main Points)?

#### God organizes us to be holy.

#### God warns us of the cost of unbelief.

#### God rewards faithfulness.

### Be Prepared! How is God directing or warning you right now?

#### How is he saying, “Go this way!”

#### How is he saying, “Don’t go that way!”



**Rick Griffith**

10 September 2017

Message 4 of 66

**Be Prepared**

***Numbers***

# Introduction

### We should be prepared to serve the King of Kings.

### How does God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to serve him?

### Israel is almost ready to enter Canaan according to God’s will.

# I. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to be holy.

## God fulfilled his covenant to Abraham through an orderly and holy nation (1:1–10:10; 20 days at Mount Sinai).

### God organized Israel's old generation and Levites for efficient travel through the wilderness and conquest of Canaan (Num 1–4).

### God sanctified Israelites through separation, worship, and his guiding presence so they could enter Canaan as a holy nation (5:1–10:10).

## Follow God’s directions instead of your own way to order your life.

# II. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us of the cost of unbelief.

## God judged the old generation’s unbelief by blocking entry to Canaan (10:11–25:18; 38-year wilderness wandering).

## God instructs us through the failures of others.

# III. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our faithfulness.

## God organized the believing new generation (Num 26–36; 5 months near Moab).

## God will continue leading you when you are obedient.

# Conclusion

### God organizes, warns, and rewards us to be prepared for service (Main Idea).

### Be Prepared! How is God directing or warning you right now?

#### How is he saying, “Go this way!”

#### How is he saying, “Don’t go that way!”

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**Numbers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Preparation to Occupy the Land** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Preparing the**  **Old Generation** | | **Postponement**  **for Unbelief** | | | | | **Preparing the**  **New Generation** | | |
| **1:1–10:10** | | **10:11–25:18** | | | | | **26–36** | | |
| **God’s Faithfulness** | | **Israel’s Faithlessness** | | | | | **God’s Faithfulness** | | |
| **God’s Blessings** | | **God’s Discipline** | | | | | **God’s Blessings** | | |
| **Israel’s Commitment** | | **Israel’s Complaining** | | | | | **Israel’s Commitment** | | |
| **Order** | | **Disorder** | | | | | **Reorder** | | |
| **Mount Sinai** | | **Wilderness** | | | | | **Moab** | | |
| **20 Days** | | **38 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days Deut 2:14** | | | | | **ca. 5 Months** | | |
| Organization  (1–4) | Sanctification (5:1–10:10) | To Kadesh (10:11–12:16) | Kadesh Sin (13–14) | Wilder-ness (15–19) | To Moab (20–21) | Moab Sin (22–25) | Provision for Land (26–27) | Offerings & Vows (28–30) | Final Preparations (31–36) |

**Key Word: Preparation**

**Key Verses: *Discipline*–“Not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me these ten times–not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers…”   
(Numbers 14:22-23)**

***Blessing*–“God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it” (Numbers 23:19-20)**

**Summary Statement:**

**God prepared Israel to enter Canaan by showing that he would fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant only through believing Israelites.**

**Applications:**

**We as believers need to realize that God has given us everything we need to do his will, but disobedience deserves discipline.**

**God will get his will done either through us or in spite of us.**

**Are we characterized by commitment or complaining?**