

I just want to make these few fundamental statements because they apply to the situation at the ~~beginning~~ ^g beginning of the book of Num. These people had had the law presented to them. It had been stressed to them. These laws had been given to them. Now they are ready for another step forward, a vital step in their pilgrimage journey.

And so now we turn to a capital C, capital C. under III The Situation at the Beginning of the Book of Numbers.

C. The Relation of the Beginning of Numbers to what Precedes. And here the analogy to the life of the Christian becomes very full. In the life of the Israelites they left Egypt. They went hurriedly into the wilderness. God delivered them out. God redeemed them from the power and oppression of Pharaoh. They came out and they ^{went} ~~came~~ through the experiences we have noted. One after another they were given the law, but now the ~~g~~ ^g time comes when they stop and take stock and move forward in a somewhat different way. ~~I~~ And I ~~think~~ think there is here that which is vital for the Christian. Whether he was brought up in a Christian home and has moved along more or less as things came to him through his life up to a certain point, or whether he has been converted and has for a period gone through the various circumstances that come to him. The time comes when he is in a situation where he looks back on these wonderful experiences in the early part of his Christian life, but he looks forward to the years ahead, and the greater period part of the Pilgrimage journey is represented by the book of Num. And so for most of us here, what is in Exodus has very great relevance, but it is in our past. But what we find in the book of Num. applies to our present situation and to our ongoing circumstances. And so it makes it of ^g very great importance and interest to us ~~those~~ ^{those} principles that are stressed here. And so we move on to

IV Preparation ~~for~~ For the Rest of the Wilderness Journey. That's the first part of Numbers is preparation. We have gone through the experiences in Exodus. We have had the law given to us, and now we have preparation to make for the ongoing in our wilderness journey. --- Num. 1:1- 10:11. That will be IV - Num. 1:1 - 10:11.