

THE MEANING OF THE BOOK OF NUMBERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN

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The New Testament tells us that the matters ~~that~~ that are~~described~~ described set forth in the OT^o are for our edification. Paul wrote to Tim^o that all ~~of~~ Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable, and then he goes on to list the various ways in which it is profitable. All the Scripture is needful for the Christian. It all has ~~of~~ meaning for him. Some of it is more vital at one time than at another time, but all of it is important to him.

The pilgrimage journey of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan is described from Exodus 12 to the end of the Book of Deut^o. The longer part of the journey is described in the Book of Numbers. What is the value of the account of this journey (2nd) for the Chn^o?

In the first place, for anyone who is interested in ancient history, this narrative has value as showing what happened. It is interesting and important to see ~~how~~ how the Israelites left ~~the~~ Egypt, how they traveled through the wilderness, and how they reached the promised land. Promised Land. The Chn^o is interested in facts, and it is of importance to him to learn about these facts~~d~~.

The facts, ~~however~~ however, are of much more importance to the Chn^o than fact facts in ordinary secular history. This the ~~account~~ account of how the Lord led a whole nation out of Egypt into the promised land (caps?) where they could have a life apart from the paganizing influences that were in most of the world. It is the account of how the Lord prepared the way for keeping the memory ~~of~~ of His name Name and the knowledge of Himself alive among (the people of) one nation when most of the world had turned away from Him. Thus it is of great importance from a religious ~~of~~ viewpoint to the Chn^o simply to know the fact of what occurred and how the Lord accomplished this great thing. (bw?)

As we read this OT^o account in the light of the NT^o we know of course that all of those who believed in the provision that God would make for sin were born again and were saved for all eternity. It does not definitely state which individuals were thus saved and which were not. We cannot tell with certainty~~y~~ who is saved today.