



## **The book of Numbers**

### ***DESCRIPTION SHEET***

#### **Author**

The book of numbers is part of the general plan of the Pentateuch. Following a thematic progression, the book continues with the theme of the holiness of God found in the book of Leviticus. In this book, the people are in preparation in the desert to enter the Promised Land. Both Jewish and Christian traditions recognize Moses as the author of the book. The text itself gives credit to Moses (Nu. 33:2; 36:13).

#### **Date**

Regarding the date of writing of this book, some propose between 1450 and 1410 BC. Others think that this book was written in 1407 B.C. It must be said that the proposed dates are not too far apart.

#### **Main theme and Target audience**

The book tells the story of the people of Israel in the desert. The book describes the geographical organization of the people around the tabernacle and the principles concerning priests and sacrifices. It also portrays the story of a God who is faithful to his promise, even though the people often proved unfaithful by rebelling against him. Because of the disobedience of this people, God exercised His judgment in the wilderness. However, God kept the promise he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give the people of Israel the land of milk and honey.

#### **Plan of the Book of Numbers**

1. The first generation of Israel in the desert (1 :1-25 :18):
  - a. Obedience of the people.
  - b. Desobedience.
2. The second generation (26 :1-36 :13):
  - a. Renewed obedience to God.
  - b. Preparation for the conquest of Canaan.
  - c. Anticipation of the Conquest of Canaan.