

A New Hope (Numbers 26-27)

Introduction

“Something old (her family), something new (her life to come), something borrowed (from a happily married woman), and something blue (faithfulness).”

1. Something Old (26:1-50)

They were “the children of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt” (Num 26:4). Compare Deuteronomy, “The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers [that is, not merely them], but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Deu 5:3-6).

Similarly, “You died with Christ” (Col 2:20). “You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Col 3:3). “You were raised with Christ” (Col 3:1). God “raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” (Eph 2:6).

2. Something New (26:51-27:11)

The new generation is 601,730 strong, nearly identical with the number from the first generation, less than 2,000 shy. However five tribes had shrunk, especially the tribes who’d joined in the various rebellions. Simeon alone went from over 59,000 down to 23,200.

Maybe the previous generation in our family wasn’t faithful. Yet not only are we here today. We have the opportunity to pass on to our children and our children’s children to a thousand generation an inheritance in the land of promise.

3. Something borrowed (27:12-23)

“You *shall give some of your authority to him*, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient” (Num 27:18-20).

4. Something Blue (27:17)

Blue, being the symbolic color in Israel, not for faithfulness, but for royalty. This is fulfilled immediately in Joshua, then in David, 2Sam 5:2, “You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel” (2Sa 5:2). And even in the darkest times, God promised his people that in the last days, he would send them a good shepherd who would replace the worthless shepherds (Ezekiel 34). He would send David to them to shepherd his people Israel (Ezekiel 34:23-24).

But this was fulfilled in Jesus, the one who, when he came, saw the multitudes and “was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” (Matt 9:36).

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep...” (John 10:11-16)

Conclusion

It’s not enough for us to have a connection to the past, and a new generation in the future. It’s the Shepherd that gives us hope.