



Numbers 34-36

1. The "inheritance" (or realization) of God's b-haps (big, happy, awesome promises) requires: 1) great attention to God's definitions/details (34:1-15 -the land of Canaan defined by its "borders"), 2) following the assigned path given to you by your appointed leaders (34:16-29 – "men who shall divide the land to you"; Heb 13:17).
2. God commands His people to live in areas where there are Levitical cities (today this w/b the church) for the purpose of receiving: 1) spiritual influence (35:1-5, 7-8; These cities/dwelling places of the Levites became the centers for biblical education; Heb 13:7), 2) justice (35:6, 9-34; These cities/dwelling places of the Levites also become the courts for protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty; 1Co 6:1-6).
3. The congregation of God's people (in each Levitical city) are to serve as witnesses and judges when determining the protection or punishment of those accused of a capital crime (35:9, 24-29; Lev 5:1).
4. Intentionality, use of a lethal weapon, enmity or hatred are the criteria when determining what makes a person guilty of murder in the wrongful death of another (35:9-24).
5. Justice (or equity) does not allow for: 1) speculation (35:30), 2) exceptions (35:31-32), 3) penal substitutes (35:33-34) (How then could Jesus be our penal substitute since this would mean God is a corrupt judge?).
6. Marrying w/in your clan is also necessary to protecting your inheritance from God (36:1-13 w/1Co 7:39; 2Co 6:14-18).

Luke 1

1. "Certainty" is the result of thorough investigation and sufficient evidence (1:1-4; "having followed all things closely for some time", "many have undertaken to compile...from the beginning were eyewitnesses").
2. Being "righteous before God": 1) means "walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord" (1:5-6), 2) is a very real possibility for imperfect people ("Zechariah" and "Elizabeth" were not perfect – e.g. 1:7-22; e.g. Heb 11).
3. Being a great man or woman of God includes turning (or returning) many Christians who are currently falling away, back to the path of faithfulness "to the Lord their God" – i.e. to being (once more) "a people prepared... ready for the Lord"(s) arrival (1:13-17).
4. Ministry to the Lord is a valid reason for extended periods of time away from your family (1:8 w/23 w/1Ch 24; In this light consider Num 35 w/Jos 21 = Levites/Priests lived in cities throughout the nation of Israel yet were required to travel to Shiloh/Jerusalem [up to 120 miles] for duty when it was the time appointed by lot for the "division").
5. God cares about how the faithful are viewed by those in the covenant community (not the world) and therefore gives to them what they need to be perceived as above approach (1:13-14, 23-25).
6. The announcement of Jesus' coming birth also revealed His identity as the fully God *and* fully human Messiah (1:26-33).
7. There is a difference between asking a question and questioning in re: to God (or God's Word) (1:18-20 versus 1:34-38).
8. Jesus' conception/birth to a virgin mother made sure that He circumvented original sin and could be our sacrifice for sin (i.e. a lamb w/o blemish) (1:35; Rom 5:12).
9. History bears witness to God giving greater blessings to those among His people who trust Him w/the difficult (or "impossible things") rather than those who choose to doubt Him (1:37 w/39-45).
10. History bears witness to God using His people's children to do great things for Him and the covenant community (1:46-55, 68-79) when they submit their wills to His design (1:57-66), and form of discipline/discipleship (1:80; see also Mar 1:6 = ML this was his prescribed adornment and diet while living in the "wilderness").
11. What makes us great is what we know/do/say in re: to God (that we are "strong in spirit" – 1:80) versus what we look like (again Mar 1:6 versus 1:15, 76-77).