

Numbers: God Out of the Box

BibleWay

1. God Out of the Box — Numbers 1:1–2, v. 52–54

"Each tribe of Israel will camp in a designated area... The Levites will camp around the Tabernacle of the Covenant to protect the community of Israel." — Num. 1:52–53

- Ancient Near East: every god lived in a box — you fed it, clothed it, protected it, so it would fight for you
- Israel's camp looked the same from the outside... until the pillar of cloud moved
- Yahweh doesn't stay in the box — He comes out front and leads His people

2. Faith in the Face of Giants — Numbers 13–14

"We seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." — Num. 13:33

"They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us!" — Num. 14:9

- Their faith had an upper limit — it only stretched so far
- If God's power depends on your religious performance, every giant will be bigger than God

What giant am I afraid God can't handle?

3. Come Needy, Come Hungry — Numbers 21:1–3

"If you will hand these people over to us, we will completely destroy all their towns..." The LORD heard the Israelites' request and gave them victory. — Num. 21:2–3

- 40 years later — same threat, completely different response
- They didn't come wondering if they'd fed God enough — they came hungry
- Jesus: "I am the bread of life" (John 6) — He feeds you; you don't feed Him

Voices Through the Ages

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

— **Augustine of Hippo**

"To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love." — **A. W.**

Tozer

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." — **John Piper**

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you." — **Henri Nouwen**