

Definition of Providence:

The continuing action of God.....*as the Jews begin their wanderings*
preserving His creation.....*through sanctification, through judgment*
guiding it toward His holy, wise, and intended purposes.....*the second generation's entrance into the promise land.*

Numbers:

Hebrews called this "The Book Wanderings"

God orders wanderings to show us the condition of our hearts and to demonstrate His goodness.

He is the:

1. God of Creative Order: Ch. 1 - 4

- Census is taken – 1:2-3
- Encampment is designed – 2:2

- Who orders our lives? Our desires, our goals, our dreams?

2. God of a redeemed people, desiring them to be holy: Ch. 5 - 10

- 5:1-7 Calling for the unclean to go outside the camp – our sin distinguishes us as not the people of God
- 9:1-5 The anniversary of the exodus being observed with Passover – God has provided deliverance
- 9:13-14 encourages the stranger to follow lawful guidelines – God has provided guidelines to follow

- Are we experiencing sanctification? Becoming holy as He is holy?

3. God is a sovereign guide: Ch. 9:15 - 10:36 – (Jesus said: 'follow me.....')

- Cloud/Pillar of fire: 9:5-18
- Order of march: 10:11

- God includes other people to help us have 'another set of eyes' on our lives. Hobab, an in-law: 10:29-35
- Heb 10:24,25

- Are we following Jesus, even in our wanderings? Finding the good and His glory? Rom 8:28

4. God demonstrates His justice through the tensions of a complaining, rebellious people: Ch. 11 - 20

- begins with people complaining about their circumstances: 11:1
- continues with Moses complaining about his circumstances: 11:14
- continues with Miriam & Aaron complaining about Moses wife: 12:1-16
- continues with the 10 complaining spies: 13,14; I Cor 10:1-5
- continues with Korah's rebellion: 16:1-40
- continues with Israel questioning Aaron and Moses authority: 16:41-50
- continues with Israel complaining about water and Moses failure to uphold holiness: 20:2-13

- Are we turning our rebellion into faith-building repentance?

5. God who is working against the enemies of His people: Ch. 20 - 25

- Edom – descendants of Esau
- Enemy of unbelief – serpents vs. bronze snake on a pole
- Moab – Balaam and Balak 23:19-24

- Am I merely avoiding the enemy's battle or actually contending for God's work?

6. God who prepares the next generation: Ch. 26 - 36

- new census
 - new leader – Joshua: 27:15-23
 - renewed offerings and vows – Ch. 28 - 30
 - new plan to conquer Canaan and establish Israel in the land – Ch. 31 - 36
- Am I willing to follow where God is leading?**