



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: NUMBERS



## BEST (DAD) NAMES

**Eldad and Medad**, herefore known as the "dads," were two prophets who emerged in the camp of Israelites.

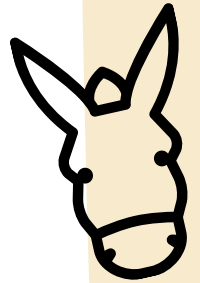
## NOT COOL CHARACTER

**Phineas** (not of Ferb fame), the original zealot, who murders Zimri to end the "plague" of marrying Moabites. He is rewarded with high priesthood.

## FAVORITE STORY

**The Daughters of Zelophehad: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirza** (honorable mention for best names!), stand up for their rights.

There are no male heirs in their immediate family, but their courage ensures that their family lands will remain in their possession. The LORD listens to them and changes an unjust law. Also check out the **Balaam** narratives. Talking donkeys are always in fashion.



## 3 SECTIONS

Skim some and read some:

- **Counting and Preparing:**  
Chapters 1-10
- **The Old Generation Rebels:**  
Chapters 11-25
- **A New Generation Emerges:**  
Chapters 26-36

## THE PRIESTLY BENEDICTION

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.*

**Numbers 6:24-26**



## TROUBLESOME STORIES

Lots of them. But here's a troublesome one that may at least offer hope. Miriam, sister of Moses is both warrior and prophetess. History has marginalized her -- when she and Aaron protest to God, it's only Miriam that is punished with leprosy. Miriam's incapacitation halts Israel's progress. They wait for her to heal. Miriam was a vital leader who will not be written away by patriarchy.

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Wilderness wanderings. Rebellion. Faithfulness. Leadership, both human and divine. Sense-making. People-herding. *Numbers* is a messy description of life. Lucky for us, the text, even with its many flaws, keeps us on a journey: we're always working to reconcile past, present, and future.



## IF NUMBERS WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

QUAIL ARE THE NUMBERS EXPRESSION OF MANNA. BOTH PARTRIDGES AND QUAIL ARE IN THE PHASIANIDAE FAMILY OF BIRDS. THEREFORE, THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS: THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY! HELLO WORLD, HEAR THE SONG WE'RE SINGIN'. COME ON, GET HAPPY!

