

C. The Book of Numbers looks forward similarly to the Promised Land which is still ahead. Here is another reason why I believe the book of Numbers is of special importance for the Christian. Because the book of Numbers does not describe people who think they have already arrived. It does not tell about people who are already in the promised land. The opposite error that the Christian can easily fall into from that of constantly mourning over his sins and forgetting that if he has believed on Christ that he is saved, -- the opposite error which we also find perhaps in these days more commonly is to think that we have already arrived. The Lord wants us to realize that we are on a pilgrim journey, and we are headed for the promised land, and while our justification is complete, He has left us upon this earth in order to accomplish many things in our lives. We have a pilgrimage journey which we must go through if we are truly His. To think that we are still back in Egypt can do great harm to our Christian life. We have come out of Egypt if we have been saved. But to think that we are already in Canaan can also be harmful. We must realize that we are pushing forward. Paul says, Not as though I had already attained, but I push forward to the goal that the Lord has for me. We push forward. The promised land is ahead, and we will come into the promised land just as we were delivered from Egypt only through the Lord's power and what he will do through us and in our lives.

This is brought out in many passages in the Scripture. I'd like to call your attention to Ephz Heb. 11 = the account of Abraham, vs. 8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." We know where we are going, we are going to Canaan, we are going where the Lord wants us to go. Along the way there is much conflict, we are strangers and pilgrims, and our goal is ahead. We look for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. We haven't reached that city, and there are Christians who think they are going to make a perfect society upon this earth. There are people with a fine Christian faculty who are devoting themselves to the message of building Zion right here, and Zion is not here. It is ahead, and the Lord wants us to do all the good we can along the way and to stand for all that is good, but this is all to be secondary.