

NUMBERS

AUTHOR:

Numbers is the fourth book in the Pentateuch. When seen as a part of the whole it cannot be separated from the other books of the Law and therefore must also be seen as being written by Moses.

DATE:

As previously stated, if Moses wrote the Pentateuch, then it would have been recorded during his lifetime, which is from 1527 B.C. to 1406 B.C.

AUDIENCE:

Numbers, like the rest of the Pentateuch, was written for the Hebrew people.

CONTEXT:

The Israelites have been led by Moses out of Egypt and are now in the wilderness. This book spans the 40 years they spent there.

PURPOSE:

Numbers gives lists and censuses taken during the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites, however, the purpose is much more than to just number the people. Numbers narrates the transition from the old generation that left Egypt and sinned in the desert that is forced to wander for 40 years, to the new generation that stands ready to enter the Promised Land. This book presents a vision of new beginnings and hope.

