

A Study in the Book of Numbers



By Cecilia Perh



Entrusting the Word
to the Faithful

Book	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Key Idea	Beginnings	Redemption	Worship	Wandering	Renewed Covenant
The Nation	Chosen	Delivered	Set Apart	Directed	Made Ready
The People	Prepared	Redeemed	Taught	Tested	Re-taught
God's Character	Powerful, Sovereign	Merciful	Holy	Just	Loving Lord
God's Role	Creator	Deliverer	Sanctifier	Sustainer	Rewarder
God's Command	"Let there be!"	"Let My people go!"	"Be holy"	"Go in!"	"Obey!"

Numbers in the Pentateuch

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
ORIGINS of the nation	DELIVERANCE of the nation	LIFE of the nation	TEST of the nation	REMINDERS to the nation
THEOCRACY BORN	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED	THEOCRACY TESTED AND PREPARED FOR THE NEW HOME	
	<u>COVENANT</u> IS AMPLIFIED “Keep my covenant to be a peculiar treasure: “Kingdom of priests” “holy nation” (Exo. 19:5-6)	<u>LAWS</u> ARE PRESCRIBED “which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD ” (Lev. 18:5)		

Irvin L. Jensen, p 102
(Jensen's Survey of the OT)

Numbers is the story of God leading His people, Israel, through wildernesses on their way to Canaan, the rest land He promised.

The journey moves from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho.

- It was a brief journey in the dark unknown, demanding the utmost in trust and patience (Numbers 1:1-10:10).**
- It is a long, aimless wandering in judgment for unbelief, consuming all but two of first census, 20 years and above (Numbers 10:11-20:29).**
- It is a new and swift journey by the next generation with a few of the old leaders, to enter into the land of rest and blessing (Numbers 21:1-36:13)**

Numbers: Journey to God's Rest



The first word in the Hebrew text of Numbers is *wayyedaber*, “and he said.” But Jewish writings usually refer to it by the 5th Hebrew word in 1:1, *bemidbar*, “in the wilderness.” This relates better to the content of the book.

The Greek title in the Septuagint is *Arithmoi*, “Numbers”

The Latin Vulgate followed this title and translated it *Liber Numeri*, “the Book of Numbers”

These titles are based on the two numberings: the generation of Exodus (Num 1) and the generation that grew up in the wilderness and conquered Canaan (Num 26).

Numbers has also been called the “Book of the Journeyings,” the “Book of the Murmurings,” and the “Fourth Book of Moses”

Title of the Book of Numbers



External and internal evidences point conclusively to Mosaic authorship of all five books of the Pentateuch.

There are more than 80 claims that “the LORD spoke to Moses” (the first is 1:1).

Numbers 33:2 says, “And Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the LORD...”

Moses kept detailed records as an eyewitness of the events of this book. Moses, as the central character of Exodus to Deuteronomy, was better qualified than any man to write these books.

Author of the Book of Numbers



Leviticus covered only one month, but Numbers stretches over almost 39 years (about 1444 BC to 1405 BC – traditional dating).

It records Israel's movement from the last 19 days at Mt Sinai (1:1; 10:11) to the arrival in the plains of Moab in the 40th year (22:1; 26:3; 33:5; Deut 1:3).

Most of this time was spent wandering in and around Kadesh-barnea. Their tents occupied several square miles whenever they camped since there were over 2.5 million people. God miraculously fed and sustained them in the desert – He preserved their clothing and gave them manna, meat, water, leaders, and a promise.

Date and Setting of the Book of Numbers



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The theme of Numbers is the consequence of disbelief and disobedience to the holy God. The Lord disciplined His people but remained faithful to His covenant promises in spite of their fickleness.

Numbers displays the patience, holiness, justice, mercy, and sovereignty of God toward His people.

It teaches that there are no shortcuts to His blessings – He uses trials and tests for specific purposes.

Numbers was written to trace the history of Israel’s wanderings from Sinai to Moab. But the fact that there was almost no record of the 38 years of wandering shows that Numbers is a very thematic history. It selects those events that are important to the development of God’s redemptive program. The sins of the first generation were written as a reminder and a warning to the second generation. They must implicitly trust God before they can possess the land of blessing.

Theme and Purpose



The Generation of Those Who Had Come Out of Egypt

Preparation

- organization
- consecration
- instruction

The Test

- of faith
- of obedience

The Judgment

- wandering
- death

Wilderness

SINAI

KADESH

A New Generation

Reorganisation

- repair

Plains of Moab

MOAB



The Old Generation			The Tragic Transition				The New Generation																						
1	4	5	10:10	10:11	14	15	16	17	20	21	25	26	30	31	33	34	36												
Counting and Ordering of the People			Cleansing of the People			Complaints and Disbelief of the People			Instructions for Life in Canaan			The Rebellion of Korah			Aaron, the Levites and Moses			Serpent of Brass and Story of Balaam			Second Census and Laws of Israel			Settling east of Jordan			Preparations for Settling in Canaan		
Preparation			Preparation			Postponement			Postponement			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise					
Waiting			Waiting			Wandering			Wandering			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting					
Census, Instruction, Travel			Census, Instruction, Travel			-			-			-			-			-			-			-					
At Sinai			At Sinai			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab					
Sinai to Kadesh			Sinai to Kadesh			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness					
Preparation for the Journey			Preparation for the Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey					
About 2 months (39%)			About 2 months (39%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)					
Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19					
Getting Ready to Possess the land			Getting Ready to Possess the land			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD					
Structuring			Structuring			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing					
Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring					

Detailed Outline of the Book of Numbers

I. Preparations for Travel (Numbers 1:1-10:10)

- A. The First Census (chapter 1)
- B. The Order of the Tribes (chapter 2)
- C. The Census and Duties of the Levites (chapters 3-4)
- D. Cleansing and Consecration (chapters 5-6)
- E. The Tabernacle Service (chapters 7-8)
- E. The Supplementary Passover (chapter 9:1-14)
- F. The Fiery Cloud and the Silver Trumpets (chapters 9:15-10:10)

II. The Journey to Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 10:11-14:45)

- A. The Departure from Sinai (chapters 10:11-36)
- B. The Rebellion of the People (chapter 11)
- C. The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (chapter 12)
- D. Spying out the Promised Land (chapter 13)
- E. God's Judgment on Unbelief (chapter 14)

III. The Journey to the Plains of Moab (Numbers 15:1-22:1)

- A. Covenant Statutes Reviewed (chapter 15)
- B. The Rebellion of Korah (chapter 16)

- C. The Budding of Aaron's Rod (chapter 17)
- D. The Responsibility of Priests and Levites (chapter 18)
- E. The Red Heifer Sacrifice (chapter 19)
- F. The Waters of Meribah, Edom, Aaron's death (chapter 20)
- G. Journey to Moab (chapters 21:1-22:1)
- F. Balak and Balaam (chapters 22:2-24:25)
- G. The Idolatry of Israel (chapter 25)

IV. Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (Numbers 26:1-36:13)

- A. The Second Census (chapter 26)
- B. Daughters of Zelophehad (chapter 27:1-11)
- C. Joshua appointed as Moses' Successor (chapter 27:12-23)
- D. Laws concerning Offerings and Vows (chapters 28-30)
- E. The War against Midian (chapter 31)
- F. Inheritance of Eastern Tribes (chapter 32)
- G. Resume of the journey from Egypt (chapter 33:1-49)
- H. Final Instructions about Conquest and Inheritance (chapters 33:50-36:13)

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S BATTLE

Numbers 1-36

MOBILIZING HIS PEOPLE

GETTING READY TO POSSESS THE LAND

STRUCTURING

Packing your duffle bag

DISPLEASED WITH HIS PEOPLE

STEPS TO DISQUALIFY YOURSELF FROM SERVING GOD

TESTING

Giving up the mission

READYING

A NEW GENERATION

AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR READINESS TO ENTER THE LORD'S LAND

ENDURING

Passing the Entrance Exam

Census for warriors
Tribal positions & leaders
Census for Levites
Levitical duties
Nazirite law
Purification laws
Purification of leaders
Purification of Levites
Celebration of Passover

Numbers 1-9

At Mt. Sinai

MOVE OUT!

A Time of mobilizing the people and clarifying the law.

Setting out
Complaining spirit
Jealousy for leadership
Evil report of 10 spies
Rebellion against the Lord
Clarifying laws for Levites
Coup by Korah & priests
Resolving the coup
Various offering laws
Purification laws

Numbers 10-19

In the wilderness

YOU'RE DISQUALIFIED!

A Test of Their Faithfulness to their Lord's Commands

Preparing for new leaders
Serpents bite complainers
Balaam rebuked by Lord
Balaam's first 2 blessings
Balaam's last 2 blessings
Israel's harlotry
The new census
Moses asks for leader
Laws for offerings
Laws for seventh month
Laws for vows
Striking the Midianites
Reuben & Gad's portion
Record of their journeys
Border of the Land
Cities of Refuge & murder
Inheritance laws

Numbers 20-36

By the Jordan

ON WITH THE SHOW!

A Readying of the Second Generation to Accomplish the Mission their Parents Refused to Fulfill.

<http://www.foundationsofchristianity.com/References/OT/Pentateuch/Numbers/Numbers00.html>

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S BATTLE (Numbers 1-36)

MOBILIZING HIS PEOPLE

Numbers 1-9

**Getting Ready to Possess
the Land**

Structuring

- * Census for warriors
- * Tribal positions and leaders
- * Census for Levites
- * Levitical duties
- * Purification laws
- * Nazirite law
- * Purification of leaders
- * Purification of Levites
- * Celebration of Passover

At Mt. Sinai

MOVE OUT!

Packing your duffle bag

**A Time of mobilizing the people and
clarifying the law.**

Although God called the Israelites to meet with Him at Mount Sinai to establish His covenant with them, we instead see another emphasis of readying the people for possessing the land of Canaan. The Lord authoritatively organized His people. Total submission was critical for success. Their trust and submission meant more than their physical preparedness, caliber of weapons, stockhold of ammunition and well thought-out strategy.

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S BATTLE (Numbers 1-36)

DISPLEASED WITH HIS PEOPLE

Numbers 10-19

STEPS TO DISQUALIFY YOURSELF FROM SERVING GOD

Testing

- * Setting out
- * Complaining spirit
- * Jealousy for leadership
- * Evil report of 10 spies
- * Rebellion against the Lord
- * Clarifying laws for Levites
- * Coup by Korah and priests
- * Resolving the coup
- * Various offering laws
- * Purification laws

In the wilderness

YOU'RE DISQUALIFIED!

Giving up the mission

A Test of Their Faithfulness to their Lord's Commands

Numbers is a book of tests, and unfortunately, this one group failed to pass them. In an opportunistic way, God tested and proved His people that they were ready for the demanding job. In a very negative sense, the people tested and proved God. The Lord is not asking us to see whether we have enough faith for a certain action, but simply to obey Him. Obedience always precedes true success.

Numbers could have been a much shorter book! Disobedience puts off the accomplishment of certain tasks which would have made everything much easier.

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S BATTLE (Numbers 1-36)

READYING A NEW GENERATION

Numbers 20-36

An Examination of their Readiness to enter the Lord's Land

Enduring

- * Preparing for new leaders
- * Serpents bite complainers
- * Balaam rebuked by Lord
- * Balaam's first 2 blessings
- * Balaam's last 2 blessings
- * Israel's harlotry
- * The new census
- * Moses asks for leader
- * Laws for offerings
- * Laws for seventh month
- * Laws for vows
- * Striking the Midianites
- * Reuben and Gad's portion
- * Record of their journeys
- * Border of the Land
- * Cities of Refuge and murder
- * Inheritance laws

By the Jordan

ON WITH THE SHOW!

Passing the Entrance Exam

A Readying of the Second Generation to Accomplish the Mission their Parents Refused to Fulfill.

Although some might get lost sympathizing with the generation that died in the desert, we must be eternally grateful that God rose up a new generation which would bring God's great promises to fulfillment. This is the second chance for His people established by pure grace.

The Lord again readies them as in the first section but also again tries their hearts. He brings them through smaller battles and testings to see if there is any sign of faith. Most of this time was spent in Moab next to the Jordan River (see Deuteronomy). However, Numbers focuses on the preparations and the display of faith among the people unlike their parents' generation. We do not see a perfect people. God still hates and judges their sin. But we do see a God with perfect patience and wisdom equipping them for a task that would be scoffed at as impossible by the world. They were weak and frail, but considered ready. They passed the test.

- **THE CHALLENGE**

The younger generation so often criticizes the older one for lack of faith and boldness.

The accusation is too often true.

But what about the younger generation?

Will you be more faithful and true to what the Lord has set before you?

- **This is your turn!**

<http://www.foundationsofreesdom.net/References/OT/Pentateuch/Numbers/Numbers00.html>



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful



I. At Sinai: Obeying the Lord (1:1-9:14)

1. Numbering the Soldiers (1:1-54)
2. Organizing the Tribes (2:1-34)
3. Assigning the Duties (chapter 3-4)
4. Purifying the People (chapter 5-6)
5. Dedicating the Tabernacle (chapter 7-8)
6. Celebrating the Passover (9:1-14)

II. To Kadesh: Tempting the Lord (9:15-12:16)

1. The Camp Marches (9:15-10:36)
2. The People Complain (chapter 11)
3. Aaron and Miriam Criticize Moses (chapter 12)

III. At Kadesh: Rebellious Against the Lord (chapter 13-14)

1. Exploring the Promised Land (chapter 13)
2. Refusing the Claim the Land (14:1-9)
3. Turning away from the Land (14:10-45)

Numbers: Man's Failure and God's Faithfulness (Num 14:8-9) (Wiersbe)



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

IV. In the Wilderness: Learning from the Lord (15:1-20:13)

1. About Sacrifices (15:1-31)
2. About Authority (15:32-17:13)
3. About Responsibility (chapter 18)
4. About Purity (chapter 19)
5. About Humility (20:1-13)

V. In Moab: A New Beginning from the Lord (20:14-36:13)

1. New Victories (20:14-21; 21:1-35)
2. A New Priest (20:22-29)
3. New Dangers (chapter 22-25)
4. A New Generation (chapter 26)
5. New Regulations (27:1-11)
6. A New Leader (27:12-23)
7. New Commitment to the Law (chapter 28-30)
8. New Commitment to Battle (chapter 31-32)
9. New Laws for the New Land (chapter 33-36)

Numbers: Man's Failure and God's Faithfulness (Num 14:8-9) (Wiersbe)



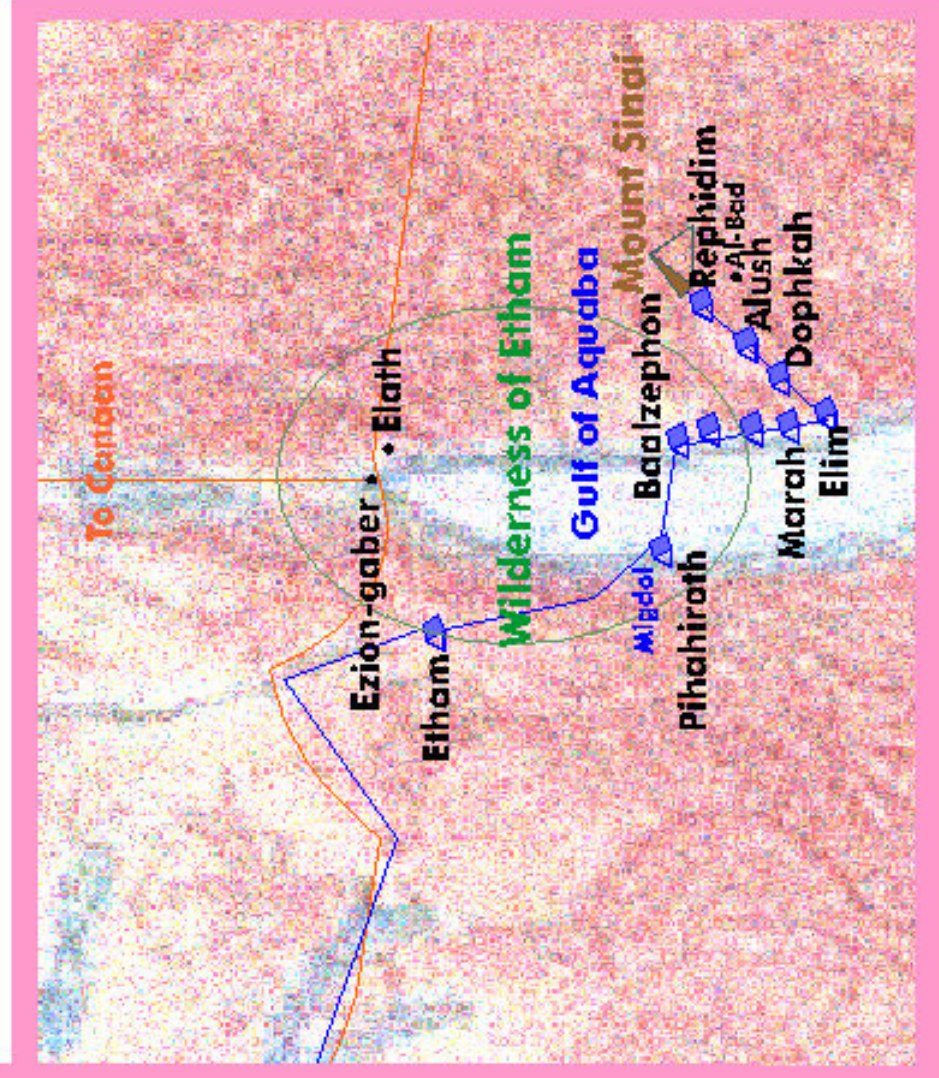
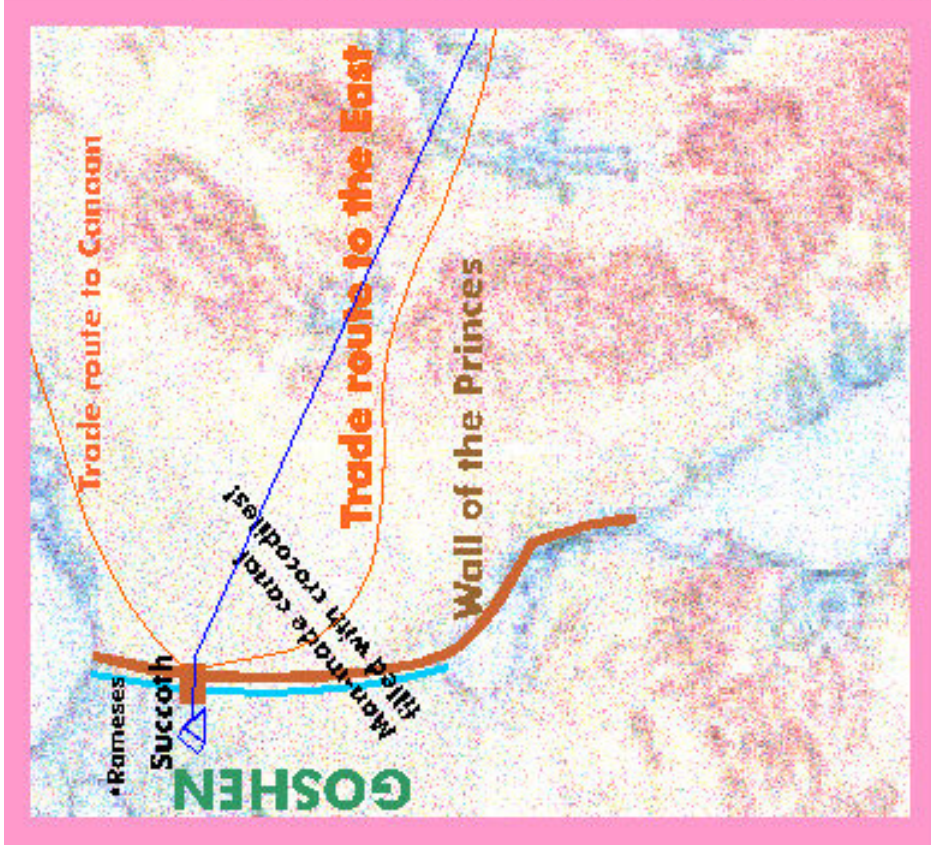
Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- **Moses' preparation of conquest involved four stages:**
 - **Celebrating the Passover (9:1-14)**
 - **Numbering the Soldiers (chapter 1)**
 - **Organizing the Tribes (chapter 2)**
 - **Assigning the Priestly Duties (chapters 3-4)**
- **The events in Numbers 7:1-9:15 precede the events in Numbers 1-6**
 - **Numbers 1:1 - Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt,**
 - **Numbers 9:1 - Thus the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt,**

Historical Setting



The 12 tribal leaders began to bring their gifts on that day (Numbers 7:1), a procedure that lasted 12 days

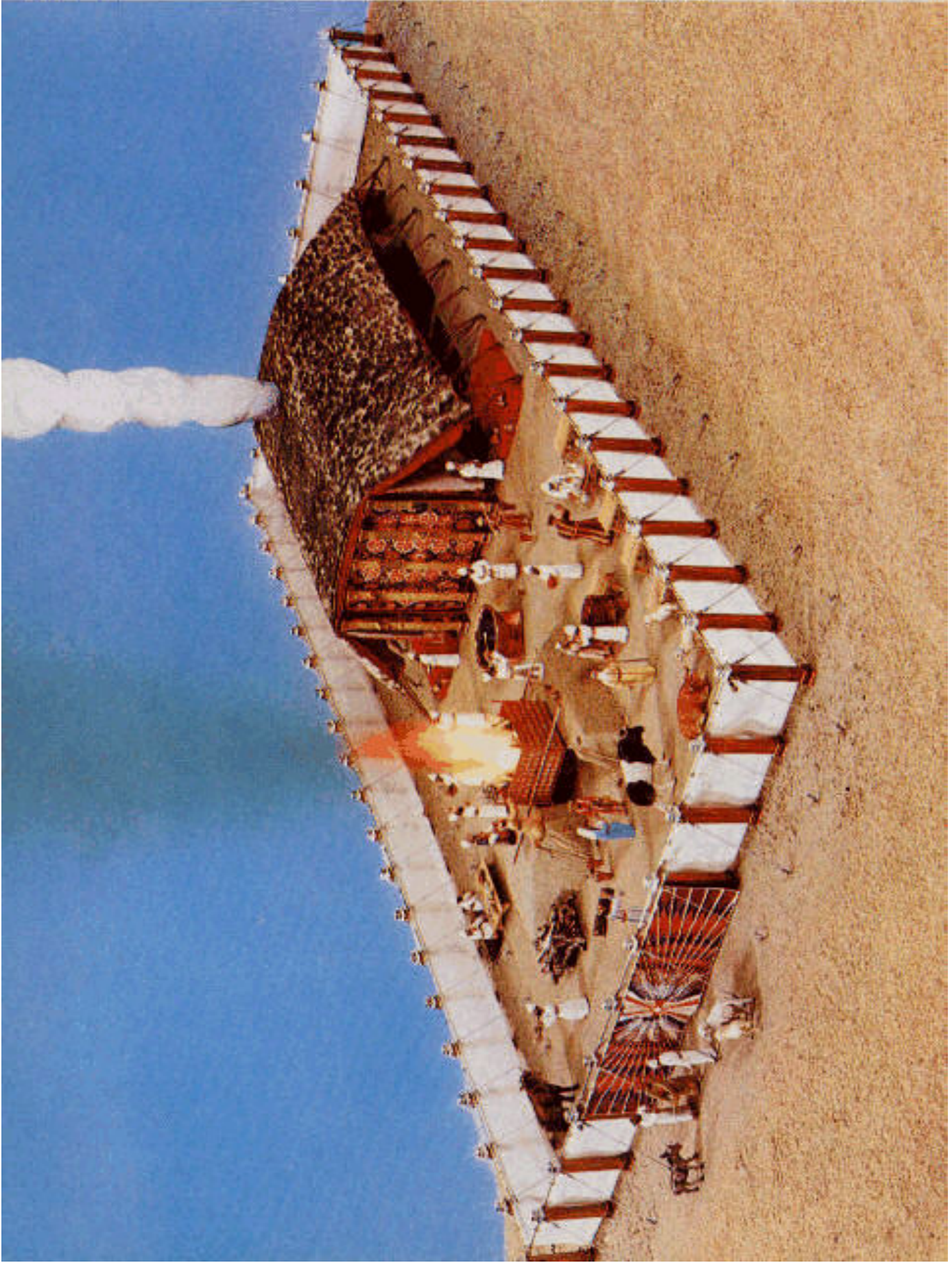


- This is the second year of Israel's National History (traditional dating, 1444 BC).



- The tabernacle was erected on the 1st day of the 1st month of Nisan (Exodus 40:2,17).
- The 12 Tribal Leaders began to bring their gifts on that day (Numbers 7:1), a procedure that lasted 12 days.
- On the 13th day, the Levites were consecrated (Numbers 8) and on the 14th day they celebrated the Passover (Numbers 9:1-14) – the last Passover they celebrated until Joshua led them into the Promised land nearly 40 years later (Joshua 5:10).

Historical Setting



v1-3 The Order Given

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head 3 from twenty years old and upward, whoever is able to go out to war in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the

Why the Census? To have a basis for the faithfulness of God

**He promised Abraham descendants more than the number of the stars -
can count up to 1/2 million stars with the naked eye**

- Joshua 7:14 **'In the morning then you shall come near by your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes by lot shall come near by families, and the family which the LORD takes shall come near by households, and the household which the LORD takes shall come near man by man.**
- **Israel is organized by households, families (clans) and tribes**

The Organization of Israel

- **Exodus 18:21 "Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.**
- **There were rulers for each unit of 10, 50, 100 and 1000.**

The Organization of Israel

leaders of a
division each

v4-16 The Leaders Appointed

4 "With you, moreover, there shall be a man of each tribe, each one head of his father's household.

5 These then are the names of the men who shall stand with you:

6 of Reuben, Elizur the son of Shedeur;

7 of Simeon, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai;

8 of Judah, Nahshon the son of Amminadab;

9 of Issachar, Nethanel the son of Zuar;

10 of Zebulun, Eliab the son of Helon;

11 of the sons of Joseph:

12 of Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud;

13 of Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur;

14 of Benjamin, Abidan the son of Gideon;

15 of Dan, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai;

16 of Asher, Pagiel the son of Ochran;

17 of Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel;

Numbers 1-16 Numbering the Sons of Israel

7:14)

Israel is divided
into tribes

The Nation
was organized
by
households,
families
(clans) and
tribes (Josh
7:14)

18 These are they who were called of the congregation, the leaders of their fathers' tribes; they were the heads of divisions of Israel."

- **A General of an Army has 3 or more corps under him**
- **a corps has 2 or more divisions**
- **a division has 2 or more brigades**
- **a brigade has 2 or more regiments**
- **a regiment has 2 or more companies**
- **a company has 2 or more platoons**
- **a platoon has 2 or more teams**
- **very highly organized structure**

The Structure of an Army
Exodus 15:3 "The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name."

35,400
BENJAMIN

40,500
EPHRAIM

32,200
MANASSEH

41,500
ASHER

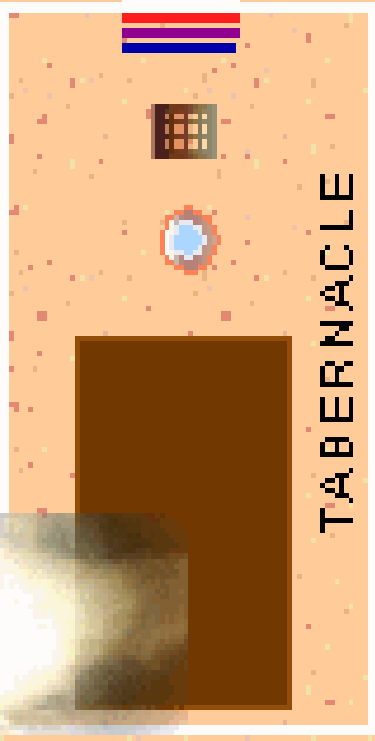
62,700
DAN

53,400
NAPHTALI

54,400
ISSACHAR

7,500
GERSHONITES

6,200
MERARITES



LEVITES

74,600
JUDAH

7,500

8,600
KOATHITES

57,400
ZEBULUN

45,650
GAD

46,500
REUBEN

59,300
SIMEON

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name, 18 and they assembled all the congregation together on the first of the second month. Then they registered by ancestry in their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, head by head, 19 just as the LORD had commanded Moses. So he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers



Reuben – 46,500

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

20 Now the sons of Reuben, Israel's first-born, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, *whoever was able to go out to war*, 21 their numbered men, of the tribe of Reuben, were 46,500.

22 Of the sons of Simeon, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, their numbered men, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, *whoever was able to go out to war*, 23 their numbered men, of the tribe of Simeon, were 59,300.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Simeon - 59,300

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

24 Of the sons of Gad, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to carry a shield or their numbered men, of the tribe of Gad, were 45,650.
Gad – 45,650

26 Of the sons of Judah, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 27 their numbered men, of the tribe of Judah, were 74,600.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Judah – 74,600

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

28 Of the sons of Issachar, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 29 their numbered men, of the tribe of Issachar **Issachar – 54,400**

30 Of the sons of Zebulun, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 31 their numbered men, of the tribe of Zebulun, were 57,400.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Zebulun – 57,400

Ephraim – 40,500

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

32 Of the sons of Joseph, *namely*, of the sons of Ephraim, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, *whoever was able to go out to war*, 33 their numbered men, of the tribe of Ephraim, were 40,500.

34 Of the sons of Manasseh, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, *whoever was able to go out to war*, 35 their numbered men, of the tribe of

Manasseh, were 32,200.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Manasseh – 32,200

Benjamin – 35,400

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

36 Of the sons of Benjamin, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 37 their numbered men, of the tribe of Benjamin, were 35,400.

38 Of the sons of Dan, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 39 their numbered men, of the tribe of Dan, were 62,700.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Dan – 62,700

Asher – 41,500

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

40 Of the sons of Asher, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 41 their numbered men, of the tribe of Asher, were 41,500.

42 Of the sons of Naphtali, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war, 43 their numbered men, of the tribe of Naphtali, were 53,400.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

Naphtali – 53,400

v17-46 The Numbers Recorded

44 These are the ones who were numbered, whom Moses and Aaron numbered, with the leaders of Israel, twelve men, each of whom was of his father's household. 45 **So** all the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households, from twenty years old and upward, whoever was able to go out to war in Israel, 46 even all the numbered men were 603,550.

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

- As to the possibility of 70 souls multiplying in the course of 215 years or 7 generations (to take the shorter interval rather than the longer of 430 years) into 2 1/2 millions of persons giving 600,000 fighting men, that need not be regarded as incredible till the rate of increase in each family is exactly known. Allowing to each of Jacob's grandsons who were married (say 51 out of 53), 4 male descendants (Colenso allows 4 1/2), these would in 7 generations - not in 4 (Colenso)--amount to 835,584, and with surviving fathers and grandfathers added might well reach 900,000, of whom 600,000 might be above 20 years of age.
- But in point of fact, without definite data about the number of generations, the rates of birth and of mortality in each generation, all calculations are at the best problematical. The most that can be done is to consider whether the narrative mentions any circumstances fitted to explain this large number of fighting men and the great size of the congregation, and then whether the customary objections to the Biblical statement can be satisfactorily set aside.

ISBE on the Multiplication of Men

v47-54 The Levites Exempted

47 The Levites, however, were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe. 48 For the LORD had spoken to Moses, saying, 49 Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor shall you take their census among the sons of Israel. 50 **But** you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings and over all that belongs to it. They shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it; they shall also camp around the tabernacle. 51 **So** when the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the Levites shall set it up. **But the layman who comes near shall be put to death.**

Numbers 1 – Numbering the Soldiers

v47-54 The Levites Exempted

52 "And the sons of Israel shall camp, each man by his own camp, and each man by his own standard, according to their armies.

53 "But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the testimony." 54

Thus the sons of Israel did; according to all which the Lord commanded Moses, so according to the

Soldiers



35,400

BENJAMIN

40,500

EPHRAIM

32,200

MANASSEH

ASHER

41,500

DAN

62,700

NAPHTALI

53,400

MERARITES

6,200

54,400

ISSACHAR

74,600

JUDAH

7,500

KOATHITES

8,600

57,400

ZEBULUN

GERSHONITES

LEVITES

45,650

GAD

46,500

REUBEN

59,300

SIMEON



- It would be impossible to break camp and start the march quickly and efficiently without some kind of order in the camp
- Moses, Aaron, the priests and Levites camped immediately around the tabernacle
- Judah, Issachar and Zebulun camped to the East with a total of 186,400 men. Since the entrance of the tabernacle was there, it was important to have the largest numbers of soldiers protecting it
- Reuben, Simeon and Gad camped South of the tabernacle with 151,450 men
- Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin camped West of the Tabernacle with 108,100 men
- Dan, Asher and Naphtali camped North of the

Organizing the tribes

- **Whenever the camp moved, the ark of the covenant went before, carried by the priests.**
- **Then the tribes of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun marched next, followed by the Gershonites and Merarites carrying the tabernacle proper (frames, curtains, coverings)**
- **Next came Reuben, Simeon and Gad, followed by the Kohathites carrying the tabernacle furnishings**
- **Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin were next, while Dan, Asher and Naphtali brought up the rear**
- **The largest number of soldiers (186,400) led the way and the next largest (157,600) were the rear guard.**

Organizing the Tribes



Numbers 2 – Organizing the Tribes



- 1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 "The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.
- 3 "Now those who camp on the east side toward the sunrise shall be of the standard of the camp of Judah, by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Judah: Nahshon the son of Amminadab, 4 and his army, even their numbered men, 74,600. 5 And those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of Issachar, and the leader of the sons of Issachar: Nethanel the son of Zuar, 6 and his army, even their numbered men, 54,400. 7 Then comes the tribe of Zebulun, and the leader of the sons of Zebulun: Eliab the son of Helon, 8 and his army, even his numbered men, 57,400. 9 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Judah: 186,400, by their armies. They shall set out first."

classic strategy of war – martial array

3 brigades, headed by Judah with Issachar and Zebulun flanking him

10 "On the south side *shall* be the standard of the camp of Reuben, **armed ambassadors of the sons of Reuben** and his army, even their numbered men, 46,500. 12 And the next to him *shall* be the tribe of Simeon and the leader of the tribe of Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, 13 and his army numbered men, 59,300. 14 Then comes the tribe of Gad, and the leader of the sons of Gad: Eliasaph the son of Deuel, 15 and his army, even their numbered men, 45,650. 16 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Reuben: 151,450 by their armies. And they shall set out second.



for Victory, send your extra forces to where you are winning, not losing or holding you own

17 ~~Numbers~~ ~~Set~~ of ~~Organizations~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ with the camp of the Levites in the

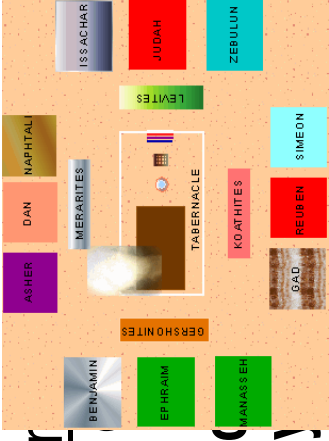
the camps; just as they camp, so they shall
set out, every man in his place, by their
standards.



18 "On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim. **Numbers 2: The sons of Gideon** **21** Ammihud, 19 and his army, even their numbered men, 40,500 next to him shall be the tribe of Manasse and the leader of **Manasse: Gamalier the son of Pedanzur, 21** and his army; numbered men, 32,200. 22 "Then comes the tribe of Benjamin, and the leader of the sons of Benjamin: **Abidan the son of Gideon, 23** and his army, even their numbered men, 35,400. 24 "The total of the numbered men of the camp of Ephraim: 108,100, by their armies. And they shall set out third.



25 "On the north side shall be the standard of the camp of Dan armed with spears and bows. The sons of Dan are numbered 26 and his army, even their numbered men, those who camp next to him. The tribe of Asher, and the sons of Asher: Pagiel the son of Ochran, 28 and his army, numbered men, 41,500. 29 Then comes the tribe of Naphtali, and the leader of the sons of Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan, 30 and his army, even their numbered men, 53,400. 31 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Dan, was 157,600. They shall set out last by their standards."



32 These are the numbered men of the sons of Israel
fathered by the total of 12 tribes, according to
camps by their armies, 603,550. 33 The Levites, who
not numbered among the sons of Israel, just as the
commanded Moses. 34 Thus the sons of Israel did; according to
all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they camped by their
standards, and so they set out, every one by his family,
according to his father's household.





v5-13 The Gift of the Levites

5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6 "Bring the tribe of Levi near and set them before Aaron the priest, **that** they may serve him. 7 And they shall perform the duties for him and for the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, to do the service of the tabernacle. 8 They shall also keep all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, along with the duties of the sons of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle. 9 You shall thus give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the sons of Israel. 10 So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons **that** they may keep their priesthood, **but the layman who comes near shall be put to death.**"

Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

v5-13 The Gift of the Levites

11 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel, every first-born, the first issue of the womb among

Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. 13 **For all the**

Mine; on the day that I struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the first-born in Israel, from man to beast. **They shall be Mine; I am the LORD."**



Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

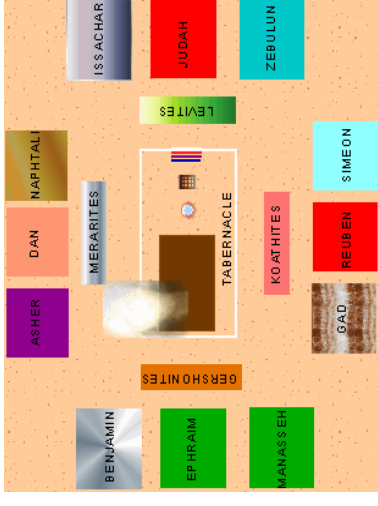




v14-20 The Numbering of the Levites

14 Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,
15 "Number the sons of Levi by their fathers' households, by their families; every male from a month old and upward you shall number."
16 So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, just as he had been commanded. 17 These then are the sons of Levi by their names: **Gershon** and **Kohath** and **Merari**. 18 And these are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei; 19 and the sons of Kohath by their families: Amram and Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel; 20 and the sons of Merari by their families: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to their fathers' households.

Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties



v21-26 Gershon – their Number and their Duties

21 Of Gershon was the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites; these were the families of the Gershonites. 22 Their numbered men, in the numbering of every male from a month old and upward, even **their numbered men were 7,500**. 23 The families of the Gershonites were to camp behind the tabernacle westward, 24 and the leader of the fathers' households of the Gershonites was Eliasaph the son of Lael. 25 Now the duties of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle and the tent, its covering, and the screen for the doorway of the tent of meeting, 26 and the hangings of the court, and the screen for the doorway of the court, which is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its cords, according to all the service concerning them.

Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties



v27-32 Kohath – their Number and their Duties

27 And of **Kohath** was the family of the Amramites and the family of the Izharites and the family of the Hebronites and the family of the Uzzielites; these were the families of the Kohathites. 28 In the numbering of every male from a month old and upward, **there were 8,600**, performing the duties of the sanctuary. 29 The families of the sons of Kohath were to camp on the southward side of the tabernacle, 30 and the leader of the fathers' households of the Kohathite families was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. 31 Now their duties involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister, and all the service concerning them; 32 and Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest was the chief of the leaders of Levi, and had the oversight of those who perform the duties of the sanctuary.

Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

v33-37 Merari – their Number and their Duties

33 Of Merari was the family of the Mahlites and the family of the families of Merari. 34 Their numbered men in the number of the males from a month old and upward, were 6,200. 35 And the households of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail camp on the northward side of the tabernacle. 36 Now the assignments of the sons of Merari involved the frames of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, all its equipment, and the service concerning them, 37 and the pillars around the court with their sockets and their pegs and their cords.



Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

35,400
BENJAMIN

40,500
EPHRAIM

32,200
MANASSEH

41,500
ASHER

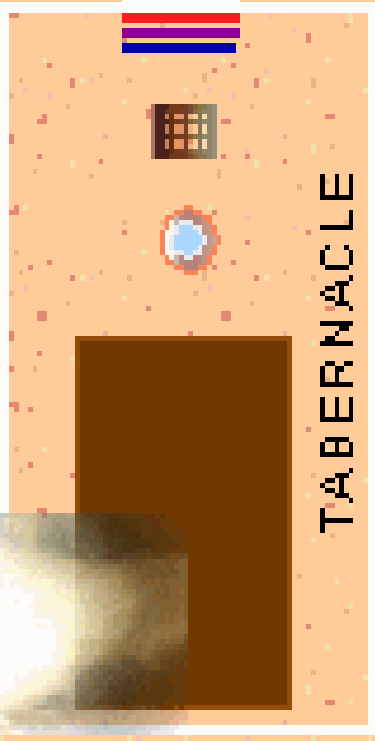
62,700
DAN

53,400
NAPHTALI

54,400
ISSACHAR

7,500
GERSHONITES

6,200
MERARITES



TABERNACLE

LEVITES

74,600
JUDAH

7,500

8,600
KOATHITES

57,400
ZEBULUN

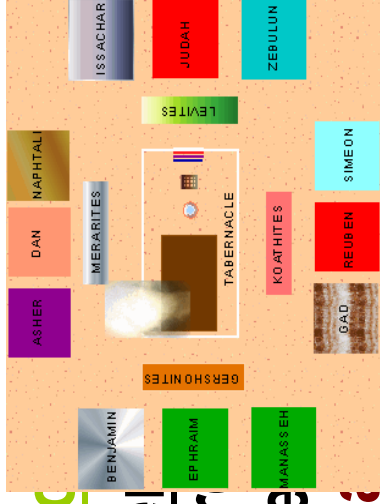
45,650
GAD

46,500
REUBEN

59,300
SIMEON

v38-39 Moses and Aaron and his sons

38 Now those who were to camp before the tabernacle before the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, and Aaron and his sons, performing the duties of the obligation of the sons of Israel; but the laymen was to be put to death. 39 All the numbered men of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the command of the LORD by their families, every male from a month old and upward, were 22,000.



Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

v40-43 The Number of All First-born Male

40 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Number every first-born Israel from a month old and upward, and make a list of their shall take the Levites for Me, I am the LORD, instead of all the sons of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the cattle of the sons of Israel." 42 So Moses numbered all the sons of Israel, **just as** the LORD had commanded him; 43 and all the first-born males by the number of names from a month old and upward, for their numbered men were 22,273.

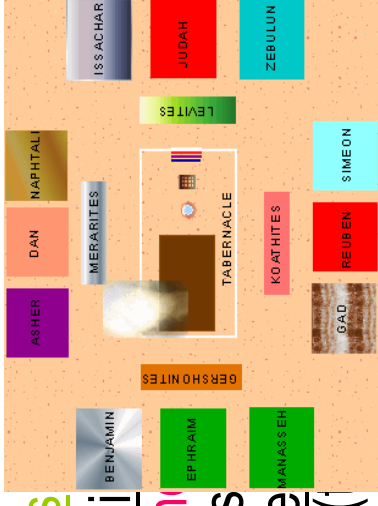


Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties



v44-51 The Ransom of 273 First-born Sons

44 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 45 "Take the Levites born among the sons of Israel and the cattle of the Levites. And **th Mine; I am the LORD.** 46 "And for the ransom of the 273 of the first Israel who are in excess beyond the Levites, 47 you shall take five head; you shall take *them* in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary (gerahs), 48 and give the money, the ransom of those who are in excess among them, to Aaron and to his sons." 49 **So Moses took the ransom money from those who were in excess, beyond those ransomed by the Levites; 50 from the first-born of the sons of Israel he took the money in terms of the shekel of the sanctuary, 1,365. 51 Then Moses gave the ransom money to Aaron and to his sons, at the command of the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.**



Numbers 3 – Assigning the Duties

v1-4 The Census from 30 years and upward

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 "Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households, 3 from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. 4 This is the work of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of meeting, concerning the most holy things.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



v5-14 The Duties of Aaron and His Sons

5 "When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it; 6 and they shall lay a covering of porpoise skin on it, and shall spread over it a cloth of pure blue, and shall insert its poles. 7 Over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall also spread a cloth of blue and put on it the dishes and the pans and the sacrificial bowls and the jars for the libation, and the continual bread shall be on it. 8 And they shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet *material*, and cover the same with a covering of porpoise skin, and they shall insert its poles. 9 Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for the light, along with its lamps and its snuffers, and its trays and all its oil vessels, by which they serve it; 10 and they shall put it and all its utensils in a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying bars.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



v5-14 The Duties of Aaron and His Sons

11 "And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall insert its poles; 12 and they shall take all the utensils of service, with which they serve in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and put them on the carrying bars. 13 Then they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. 14 They shall also put on it all its utensils by which they serve in connection with it: the firepans, the forks and shovels and the basins, all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread a cover of porpoise skin over it and insert its poles.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



v15 The Duties of the Sons of Kohath

15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they may not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties

v16 The Responsibility of Eleazar

16 "And the responsibility of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual grain offering and the anointing oil - the responsibility of all the tabernacle and of all that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings."

v17-18 The Priests' Responsibility to the Kohathites

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 18 "Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites. 19 **But** do this to them **that** they may live **and not die** when they approach the most holy objects: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each of them to his work and to his load; 20 **but they shall not go in to see the holy objects even for a moment, lest they die.**"

v21-28 The Gershonites and their Duties

21 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 22 "Take a census of the sons of Gershon also, by their fathers' households, by their families; 23 from thirty years and upward to fifty years old, you shall number them; all who enter to perform the service to do the work in the tent of meeting. 24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and in carrying: 25 they shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting with its covering and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the doorway of the tent of meeting, 26 and the hangings of the court, and the screen for the doorway of the gate of the court which is around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords and all the equipment for their service; and all that is to be done, they shall perform. 27 All the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their loads and in all their work, shall be performed at the command of Aaron and his sons; and you shall assign to them as a duty all their loads. 28 This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting, and their duties shall be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties

v29-33 The Merarites and their Duties

29 "As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families, by their fathers' households; 30 from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the service to do the work of the tent of meeting. 31 Now this is the duty of their loads, for all their service in the tent of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets, 32 and the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign *each man* by name the items he is to carry. 33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the tent of meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest."

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



v34-37 The Number of Kohathites Fit for Service

34 So Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the congregation numbered the sons of the Kohathites by their families, and by their fathers' households, 35 from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. 36 And their numbered men by their families were 2,750. 37 These are the numbered men of the Kohathite families, everyone who was serving in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties

v38-41 The Number of Gershonites Fit for Service

38 And the numbered men of the sons of Gershon by their families, and by their fathers' households, 39 from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. 40 And their numbered men by their families, by their fathers' households, were 2,630. 41 These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Gershon, everyone who was serving in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the LORD.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties

v42-45 The Number of Merarites Fit for Service

42 And the numbered men of the families of the sons of Merari by their families, by their fathers' households, 43 from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tent of meeting. 44 And their numbered men by their families were 3,200. 45 These are the numbered men of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



v46-49 The Total Number of Levites Fit for Service

46 All the numbered men of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers' households, 47 from thirty years and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who could enter to do the work of service and the work of carrying in the tent of meeting. 48 And their numbered men were 8,580. 49 According to the commandment of the LORD through Moses, they were numbered, everyone by his serving or carrying; thus these were his numbered men, **just as** the LORD had commanded Moses.

Numbers 4 – The Levites, the Census and their Duties



Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v1-4 Physical Defilement

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Command the sons of Israel **that** they send away from the camp every leper and everyone having a discharge and everyone who is unclean because of a dead person. 3 You shall send away both male and female; you shall send them outside the camp **so that they will not defile their camp where I dwell in their midst.**" 4 And the sons of Israel did so and sent them outside the camp; **just as** the LORD had spoken to Moses, thus the sons of Israel did.

Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v5-10 Interpersonal Defilement

5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6 "Speak to the sons of Israel, "When a man or woman commits any of the sins of mankind, acting unfaithfully against the LORD, and that person is guilty, 7 then he shall confess his sins which he has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong, and add to it one-fifth of it, and give it to him whom he has wronged. 8 **But** if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution which is made for the wrong *must go* to the LORD for the priest, besides the ram of atonement, by which atonement is made for him. 9 Also every contribution pertaining to all the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel, which they offer to the priest, shall be his. 10 **So** every man's holy *gifts* shall be his; whatever any man gives to the priest, it becomes his."

Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v11-31 Marital Defilement

11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'If any man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, 13 and a man has intercourse with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she is undetected, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act, 14 if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself, or if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has not defiled herself, 15 the man shall then bring his wife to the priest, and shall bring as an offering for her one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall not pour oil on it, nor put frankincense on it, for it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of memorial, a reminder of iniquity.



Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v11-31 Marital Defilement

16 'Then the priest shall bring her near and have her stand before the LORD, 17 and the priest shall take holy water in an earthenware vessel; and he shall take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put *it* into the water. 18 The priest shall then have the woman stand before the LORD and let *the hair* of the woman's head go loose, and place the grain offering of memorial in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest is to be the water of bitterness that brings a curse.

Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v11-31 Marital Defilement

19 And the priest shall have her take an oath and shall say to the woman, "If no man has lain with you and if you have not gone astray into uncleanness, being under the authority of your husband, be immune to this water of bitterness that brings a curse; 20 if you, however, have gone astray, being under the authority of your husband, and if you have defiled yourself and a man other than your husband has had intercourse with you" 21 (then the priest shall have the woman swear with the oath of the curse, and the priest shall say to the woman), "the LORD make you a curse and an oath among your people by the LORD's making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell; 22 and this water that brings a curse shall go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh waste away." And the woman shall say, "Amen. Amen."

Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v11-31 Marital Defilement

23 The priest shall then write these curses on a scroll, and he shall wash them off into the water of bitterness. 24 Then he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings a curse, **so that** the water which brings a curse will go into her and *cause* bitterness. 25 And the priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, and he shall wave the grain offering before the LORD and bring it to the altar; 26 and the priest shall take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial offering and offer *it* up in smoke on the altar, and afterward he shall make the woman drink the water. 27 **When** he has made her drink the water, **then** it shall come about, if she has defiled herself and has been unfaithful to her husband, **that** the water which brings a curse shall go into her and *cause* bitterness, and her abdomen will swell and her thigh will waste away, and the woman will become a curse among her people. 28 **But if** the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will **then** be free and conceive children.

Numbers 5 - A Clean People

v11-31 Martial Defilement

29 'This is **the law of jealousy**: when a wife, being under *the authority* of her husband, goes astray and defiles herself, 30 or when a spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he is jealous of his wife, he shall then make the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest shall apply all this law to her. 31 Moreover, the man shall be free from guilt, **but** that woman shall bear her guilt."

v1-8 Separation Described

1 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, "When a man or woman makes a special vow, **the vow of a Nazirite**, to dedicate himself to the LORD, 3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh or dried grapes. 4 All the days of his separation he shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine, from *the* seeds even to *the* skin.

Numbers 6 – A Separated people

v1-8 Separation Described

5 'All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. **He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled** for which he separated himself to the LORD; he shall let the locks of hair on his head grow long.

6 'All the days of his separation to the LORD he shall not go near to a dead person. 7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, **because** his separation to God is on his head. 8 **All the days of his separation he is holy to the LORD.**

Numbers 6 – A Separated people

v9-12 Separation Defiled

9 **'But if** a man dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his dedicated head *of hair*, then he shall shave his head on the day when he becomes clean; he shall shave it on the seventh day. 10 **Then on the eighth day** he shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the doorway of the tent of meeting. 11 And the priest shall offer one for a sin offering and *the other* for a burnt offering, and make atonement for him concerning his sin because of the *dead* person. **And that same day** he shall consecrate his head, 12 and shall dedicate to the LORD his days as a Nazirite, and shall bring a male lamb a year old for a guilt offering; **but** the former days shall be void because his separation was defiled.

Numbers 6 – A Separated people



v13-21 Separation Fulfilled

13 'Now this is **the law of the Nazirite** when the days of his separation are fulfilled, he shall bring the offering to the doorway of the tent of meeting.

14 'And he shall present his offering to the LORD: one male lamb a year old without defect for a burnt offering and one ewe-lamb a year old without defect for a sin offering and one ram without defect for a peace offering, 15 and a basket of unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil and unleavened wafers spread with oil, along with their grain offering and their libations. 16 **Then** the priest shall present *them* before the LORD and shall offer his sin offering and his burnt offering. 17 He shall also offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, together with the basket of unleavened cakes; the priest shall likewise offer its grain offering and its libation.

Numbers 6 – A Separated people

v13-21 Separation Fulfilled

18 'The Nazirite shall **then** shave his dedicated head of *hair* at the doorway of the tent of meeting, and take the dedicated hair of his head and put *it* on the fire which is under the sacrifice of peace offerings. 19 And the priest shall take the ram's shoulder *when it has been* boiled, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put *them* on the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his dedicated *hair*. 20 **Then** the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD. **It is holy for the priest**, together with the breast offered by waving and the thigh offered by lifting up; and **afterward** the Nazirite may drink wine.'

21 "This is **the law of the Nazirite** who vows his offering to the LORD according to his separation, in addition to what *else* he can afford; according to his vow which he takes, so he shall do according to the law of his separation."

Numbers 6 – A Separated people

22 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, '**Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel.** You shall say to them:

24 The LORD bless you, and keep you;

25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

27 "**So** they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I **then** will bless them."

Numbers 6 – A Blessed people



