

Wednesday, 9/10

Read: Numbers 3:1-39

Ask yourself or one another: What were the Levites to do? What would happen to a layman who came near (v. 10, 38)? Why?

Review the names of the sons of Israel.

Pray: “Father forgive us for the thoughtless ways we approach You and for our neglect in approaching You at all. Teach us to run to You in Christ alone, our great priest according to Your command.”

Thursday, 9/11

Read: Numbers 3:40-51

Ask yourself or one another: What is the ransom money about? Why are the Levites His? Why does He switch the first born and Levites?

Sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Pray: Ask God to show you all the ways He has ransomed us through His first born. Thank Him for making us His own.

Friday, 9/12

Read: Numbers 4:1-49

Ask yourself or one another: Do we really understand God as holy?

Meditate on the holiness of God: “so that they may not touch the holy objects and die.” (v. 15)

Pray: Ask God to reveal His holiness to you and to us as His people. Beg Him to teach us what it means to be holy as He is holy.

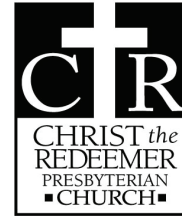
Saturday, 9/13

Read: Numbers 5:1-31 in preparation for tomorrow’s gathered worship.

Ask yourself or one another: What does it mean to defile the camp? Why was this so abhorrent? What does it mean for God to dwell in our midst? What is the jealousy thing all about?

Sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Pray: “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and the cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side; songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee.” (Williams)



ORGANIZED AS THE LORD’S ARMY

Sermon Notes from 9/7/08

Numbers 1:1-19

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Book Overview

Numbers/Wilderness: God has prepared the Promised Land for Israel as an inheritance where they are to dwell together with Him in their midst enjoying unprecedented intimacy and delight. While the first generation brought up out of Egypt failed to trust Him and so died in the wilderness, they are to press on in faith and obey His Word in every regard so they will live in His blessing.

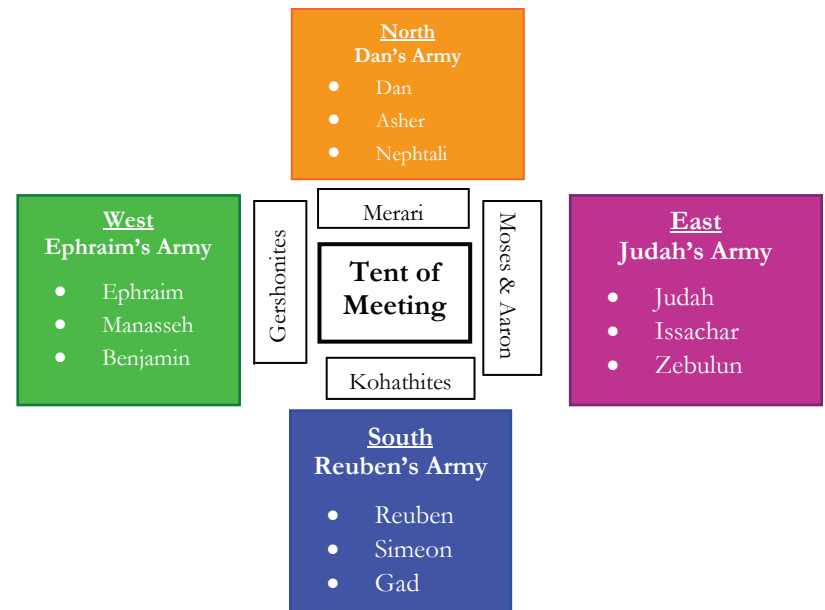
Principles for Possession and Enjoyment of the Land

1. Perfect obedience is necessary for life and blessing
2. The Lord organizes His army for the possession of her inheritance.
3. It is impossible for fallen people to walk with the righteous God.
4. God Himself prepares His people to receive His inheritance.

Section Outline

The first section of the book includes the first four chapters:

1:1-54	Initial Census—twelve tribes following Israel’s blessing
2:1-3:51	Positioning the Tribes
	2:1-34 Outer ring of 12
	3:1-39 Inner ring of Levites
	3:40-51 First-born/Levite swap
4:1-49	Duties of the Levites



The LORD spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said: ² **“Take a census** of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. ³ You and Aaron are **to number** by their divisions all the men in Israel twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army. ⁴ One man from each tribe, each the head of his family, is to help you. ⁵ These are the names of the men who are to assist you:

- from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;
- ⁶ from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;
- ⁷ from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;
- ⁸ from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;
- ⁹ from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon;
- ¹⁰ from the sons of Joseph:
 - from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud;
 - from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur;
- ¹¹ from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni;
- ¹² from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;
- ¹³ from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran;
- ¹⁴ from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;
- ¹⁵ from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.”

¹⁶ These were the men appointed from the community, the leaders of their ancestral tribes. They were the heads of the clans of Israel. ¹⁷ Moses and Aaron took these men **whose names had been given**, ¹⁸ and they called the whole community together on the first day of the second month. The people indicated their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men twenty years old or more were listed by name, one by one, ¹⁹ **as the LORD commanded Moses**. And so he counted them in the Desert of Sinai:

- I. **The Marching Orders Are From God Himself.**
- II. **God Assembles His People as a Conquering Army.**
- III. **This Army’s Core Is the Tent of Meeting.**

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you think and pray through the following questions:

- Do we really believe that the Bible is God speaking authoritatively?
- What are the usual ways that you avoid keeping God’s commands?
- How is His tabernacle the power in your life? In our life together?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Will you join me in reading and studying Numbers together? Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let’s wade into the Wilderness together.

Read: Numbers 1:1-19; Gen. 35:9-15

Ask yourself or one another: What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review Application.

Sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (words in *Order of Worship* from this morning)

Pray: “Lord, teach us to listen to Your Word. Help us obey Your commands. Thank you for Your promises to the children of Israel. Thank you for the perfect obedience of Christ in our place. Teach us what it means to rest in Him and so press on in Him, living as becomes Your adopted children we pray, amen.”

Read: Numbers 1:1-20-54; Gen 29:31-30:24; 35:16-29

Memorize the names of the sons of Israel:

Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

Ask yourself or one another: Why would the children of promise come from such a messed up family?

Pray: Ask God to reveal your need for His grace in your life in specific and humbling ways.

Read: Numbers 2:1-34; Gen 48:1-22

Ask yourself or one another: What are the ways we are marching together as God’s army? How are we organized? In what ways do we resist this organization? Why is Joseph’s blessing doubled?

Sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Pray: “Lord, show us Your ways and teach us to trust You. Forgive us for resisting Your commands. Show us Christ and how we have been made new in Him, that we might walk in that newness of life.”