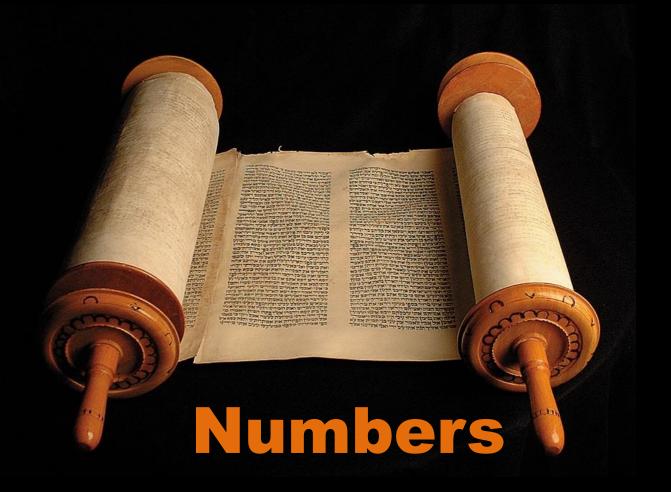
Encountering the Old Testament



Encountering the Old Testament

Why okay to number the people here (2 times commanded) yet David is punished for doing so??

Numbers

David's Sin. Why?

Taking a census is not sinful—but the REASON FOR DOING IT could be.

- "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (I Chron 21:1). See I Chron. 21:1-17.
- "And David said to Joab, "Go, number Israel and bring the number to them to me, that I may know it."
- Joab answered, "The Lord make His people a hundred times so many more as they be: but, my Lord the King, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then doth my lord require (and *delight*) in this thing? Why will you be the cause of trespass to Israel" (2 Sam 24:1-17)?

What should David have trusted in?

Ps 44:5-8

"Through You we will push back our adversaries;

Through **Your name** we will trample down those who rise up against us.

For I will not trust in my bow,

Nor will my sword save me.

But You have saved us from our adversaries,

And You have put to shame those who hate us.

8 In God we have boasted all day long,

And we will give thanks to Your name forever."
NASU

What should David have trusted in?

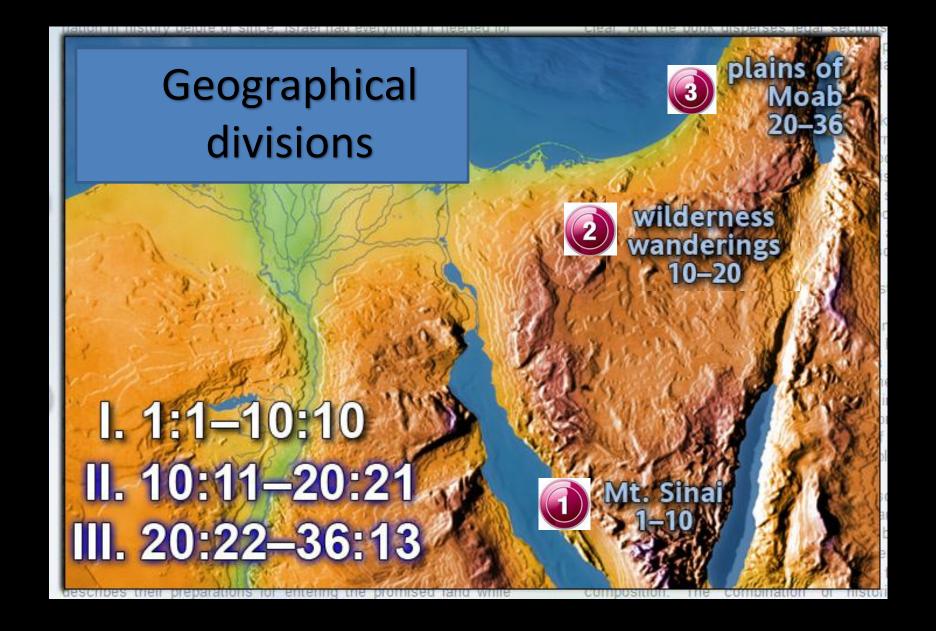
Ps 92: 4-5

"For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

"Oh Lord, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep."

What Lessons learned for today?

- The quality of a deed is determined by the motive (Matt 5).
- All blessings come from God, but it is easy to forget the source of our strength and success and to be filled with pride (Prov. 16:18-19).
- We must depend upon Him and glory in His power, praise Him for the work of His hands, and not our own (Ps 92: 3-5).
- All Israel needed to learn the lesson and was punished. Why?

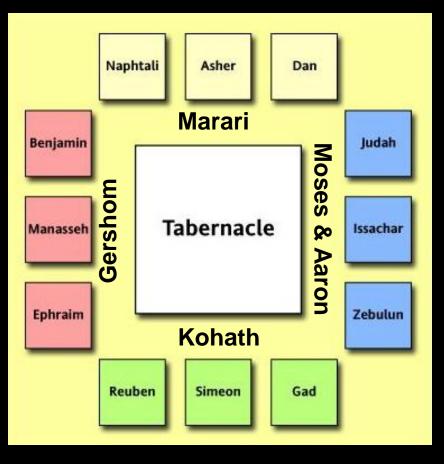


Numbers (1-10)

Contents of Numbers:

Camping & Marching







- I. Preparation at Sinai (1:1-10:10).
 - [11months Ex.19:1-Num.10:11]
 - A. A tabernacle-oriented military readiness (1-2).
 - B. A tabernacle-oriented spiritual readiness (3-4).
 - The first 4 chapters organized the entire nation, both laity and clergy, around the <u>tabernacle</u>. Israel was not simply packing and moving. They were not simply marching and conquering.
 - They were about to bring the presence of God to Canaan. They were taking the God and His "image bearers" to the end of the earth (Gen.1:26-28). God is preparing the first true "Theocracy."
 - What lessons are in this for us today?

Outline:

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Numbers 5

- Ejection of the unclean. Vs 1-4
 - Initial symptoms 21 days isolated
 - Lev 13-14 Path to return...
 - Why?
- Restitution/offering theft vs 5-10
 - Vs 6-7 What do first?
 - How much restitution?

What if no one to pay?

- Why still necessary?
 - Offense is against God (Ps 51:4)!
- To whom would it go? 5:8
 - "Priest was the visible representative of the invisible majesty."
- Three steps: Confession, restitution, and atonement (How?)
 - Ram is sacrificed
- Any modern day application??

"Trial by Ordeal" of Jealousy Num. 5:11-31

- UNIQUE only law like this! Why?
 - Adultery so disruptive to the home
- Even suspicion can shake the marriage foundation.
- Procedure when suspected but could not be proved.
 - Death penalty Lev 20:10.
- If innocent, no harm come.. If guilty God would intervene and expose!

Summary: Effort to uncover sin

- Husband meal offering of barley
- Woman "set before the Lord" added dust from floor to water = bitter.
- Hair was let down as she swore her innocence.
- Priest does rituals = woman drinks
- If guilty swells, hip rots away
- If innocent no effect, bears child!

The Ordeal of Jealousy Num. 5:11-31

- Some form of "dropsy" of the ovary?
- Josephus "Occurred within a brief period of time once suspected. If she bears a child, she is exonerated."
- Talmud "The law of jealousy ended 40 years before destruction of Jerusalem."

The Vow of the Nazirite Numbers 6:1-21

- Don't confuse with Nazarene!
- Nazirite = "separation"
- Three famous lifelong vows?
 - Samuel
 - Samson
 - John the Baptist
 - Also Qumran community...

Vow of the Nazirite

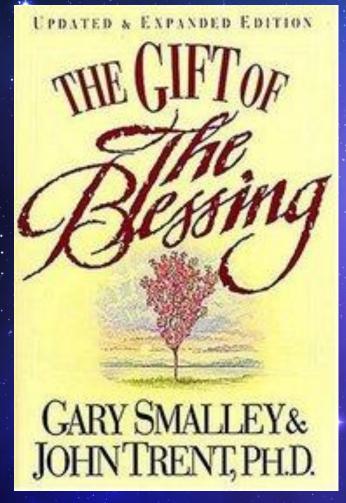
- No wine or products of the vine
- Hair not cut
- Not contact a dead body, even next of kin.
- Eat no unclean thing (Judges 13:7).

What to do when finished Num 6: 13-20

- Hair of head shaved and burned
- Take Ram's left "sodden shoulder" for himself (Lev 7:32) celebrate with a meal!

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing

Dutch Hymn: 1597





We shouldn't look down and lose hope if we grew up without the blessing ... We should look up instead to the incredible provision of a blessing that can leave our lives overflowing!

-Bary Smalley + John Trent



May your home always be too small to hold all of your friends. May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face The rain fall soft upon your fields God hold you in the Palm of His Hand.

The ELLISTIC Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27
The Lord's Prayer of the OT

- THESIS:
 - -Historical Background.
 - -The Priestly Blessing Defined.
 - -The Priestly Blessing Today.



The Raising of the Hands...

Lev 9:22 "And Aaron <u>lifted up his hands</u> toward the people, and blessed them and he <u>came down</u> from offering the sin-offering...and the <u>glory of Jehovah</u> appeared unto all the people.



Large crowds congregate on Passover at the Western Wall to receive the priestly blessing.



The Priestly Blessing When given?

- Recited daily/temple and every sabbath.
- Mishnah recited at bedtime to keep "night terrors" away.
- Jewish parents would bless their children on Friday night before the Sabbath.
- Used at a Bar mitzvah & Bat mitzvah.
- Often put on gravestones instead of R.I.P.



The Priestly Blessing

When given?

- Prior to a long journey.
- Prior to studying (Torah.)
 - Feast days, especially Yom Kippur.



The Priestly Blessing Often put on an amulet.



This is the oldest known Biblical text that has been found; <u>amulets with these verses</u> written on them have been found in graves at <u>Ketef Hinnom</u>, dating from the <u>First Temple</u>Period, and are now in the <u>Israel Museum</u>, <u>Jerusalem</u>.

"The Lord Bless you and Keep you."

- -<mark>Bless</mark> =
- 1. "Confer well-being and prosperity."
- 2."To speak well of."
- God made the actual blessings conditional (Deut 28:1-19).



"The Lord Bless you and Keep you."

- 1."To provide and care for."
- 2."To guard and protect."
 - Ps 121:1-8



The Blessing Defined "The Lord Make His Face Shine Upon You, and Be Gracious To You."

- -"Make His Face Shine"
- 1."Indicates God's smile of favor."
- 2. "God is pleased. "Lights up."
- Ps 31:16, 80:3, Dan 9:17



"The Lord Make His Face Shine Upon You, and Be Gracious To You."

- -"Be gracious to you"
- 1. "Bestow favor ...
- 2. "Bestow unmerited favor."



"The Lord Lift up His Countenance upon you and give you peace."

- Lift up His Countenance."
- 1. "Similar to smile, show affection."
- 2. "Bestow approval & recognition."
- 3. Bask in His Glory!



"The Lord Lift up His Countenance upon you and give you peace."

- -"Give you peace."
- 1. "A positive sense of fullness."
- 2. "Serene well-being."
- Lev 26:6, Isa 26:3.



"The Lord Bless you and Keep you."

- All blessing come through Jesus (Eph 1:3).
- Blessings are conferred upon those who have the right attitudes (Matt 5:3-12).



"The Lord Bless you and Keep you."

- God desires to care for us (Matt 6: 25-32).
- The blessings are conditional (Matt 6:33).



"The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you."

- God's grace is manifested through Jesus (Jn 1:17).
- Must take care that it not be "received in vain" (2 Cor 6:1-3).



"The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

- Peace with God is now possible (Rom 5:1).
- Prayer with thanksgiving provides peace (Phil 4:6-7).



Num 6:24-26 24 The Lord bless you, and keep you; Courage 25 The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; **Grace and Mercy** 26 The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace. NASU Glory!



Closing Blessing:

- May His Spirit warm your souls.
- May His Peace touch your hearts.
- May His love fill each of your homes...
- AMEN.



Priestly Benediction Num 6: 22-27

- Special formula of blessing!
- Mishnah = Dailv in temple. and every sabbath in synagogue.
- Three parts each begin.. The Lord
 - Bless thee & keep thee
 - Make his face to shine & be gracious
 - Life up his countenance & give you peace

The Lord Bless Thee & Keep Thee

- Tied to Deut 28:2-14 & Lev 26
 - "Plenteous harvests and success"
- "Keep or Guard" -- opposite
 - "Keep from drought & invasion"

His face shine upon you

- Shining face of the Lord...
 - Ps 31:17, 80: 4, 8, 20
 - "Inward pleasure, favorable dispostion."
 - Ex 34: 29ff -- "Radient glory of the Divine Presence."
 - Opposite: Hiding face = displeasure.

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 - D. Final preparations for an indwelt people (9-10).

Next week:

