

Old Testament Survey

Numbers

Author: Moses. (Numb. 33:2. More than 80 claims that the “Lord spoke to Moses”)

Date: Written ~ 1405 BC. Period of time covered. 1444-1405 BC (Wilderness Wanderings)

Theme: *“To prepare and purge God’s people for possession of the promised land”*

Note the people had committed themselves to be obedient to the Lord’s commands (Ex. 19:8; 24:3,7). Numbers demonstrates that God’s attributes are in perfect balance and harmony, for His perfect love also demands perfect justice.

Outline:

- I. Preparing the First Generation at Mt. Sinai. 1-10:10
- II. Purging the First Generation in the Wilderness 10:11-21
- III. Prophecies and peril of Balaam. 22-25
- IV. Preparing the Second Generation for Possession of the Land. 26-36

Key People

Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua, Balaam, Korah

Key Chapters & Verses (Bold is required for Elders)

- 6 Nazarite vows described
- 11 Complaining, appointment of the 70 elders, the quail and the plague.
- 12 Murmuring of Miriam and Aaron - Miriam gets leprosy and is then cleansed
- 13,14 The spies go into Canaan and come back & report
- 16 Korah’s rebellion
- 16:31-35 God executes judgement against Korah & his followers with an earthquake and fire.
- 21:4-9 The fiery serpents & healing by looking at the Bronze serpent - a type of Christ being lifted up on the cross (John 3:14)
- 22-25 Prophecy of Balaam and sin of Peor
- 23:19 - God is not a man that He should lie...
- 24:15-24 - Oracle of Balaam - “Star out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise from Israel”

The book of Numbers takes its name from the two numberings of the Israelites. First at Mount Sinai in preparation for the first generation to go to the promised land. Second on the plains of Moab in preparation for the second generation to go to the promised land after the first generation had been purged in the wilderness wanderings. The Hebrew name is “And He Said,” though most Jewish writings refer to it as “In the Wilderness.”

Numbers demonstrates the consequences of disbelief and disobedience to God. Though the book begins with great promise as Israel is organized and sanctified, the grumbling that began soon after leaving Egypt continues and escalates into disbelief and continued rebellion. The people continued to complain about their circumstances and food resulting in the provision of quail, but also a plague (Ch. 11). Miriam & Aaron rebel resulting in short term leprosy (Ch. 12) as does Korah and his clan resulting in their deaths (Ch. 16). The greatest rebellion was that of the people against going into the promised land resulting in God condemning all 20 years and older to die in the wilderness wanderings except Joshua & Caleb that brought back a good report (Ch. 13,14). More complaining brought the fiery serpents later referenced by Jesus as a type for Himself (Ch. 21 cf. John 3:14). Balaam’s prophecy was only blessings, but the people committed sin with the daughters of Moab resulting in a final severe plague (Ch. 22-25). The book ends with a census of the second generation and their victories over Midian in preparation for entering the promised land.

NUMBERS

“To prepare and purge God’s people for possession of the promised land”

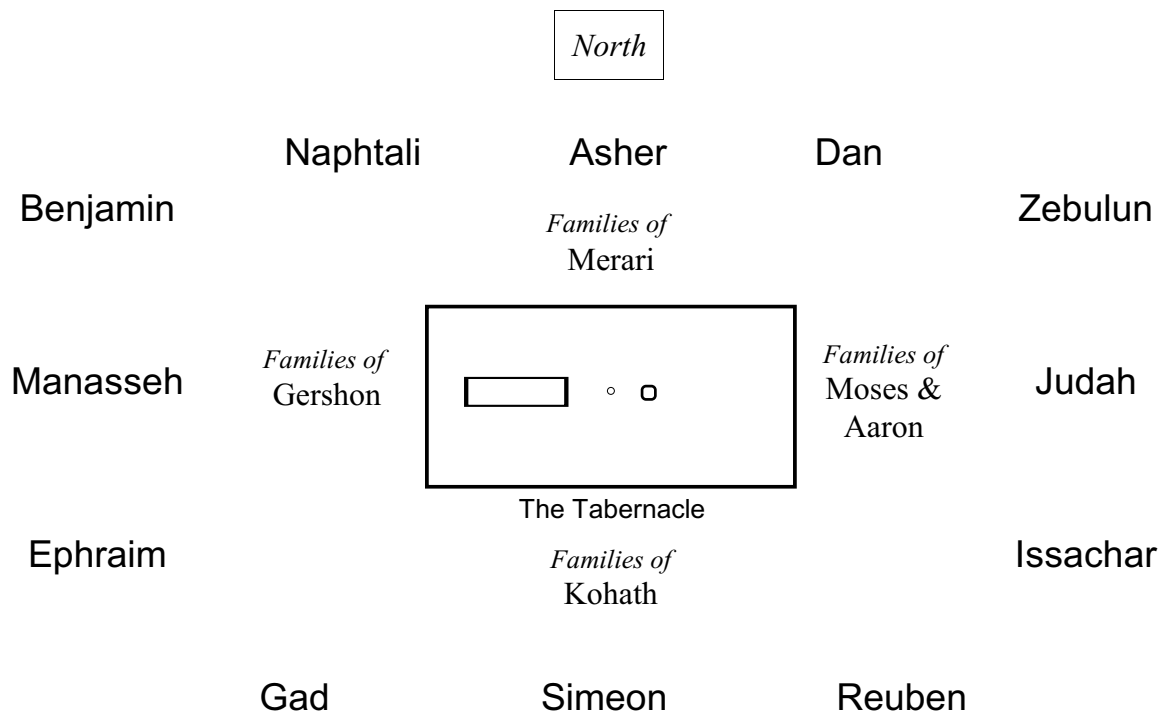
I. Preparation for the journey from Sinai, 1:1-10:10

A. Organization of the People (1-2)

1. The First Census (1)

2. Arrangements of the Camp (2) Total Israeli Army: 603,550 (not counting Levites)

Judah - East - 74,600	Issachar - ENE - 54,400	Zebulun - ESE - 57,400
Reuben - South - 46,500	Simeon - SSE - 59,300	Gad - SSW - 46,650
Ephraim - West - 40,500	Manasseh - WSW - 32,200	Benjamin - WNW - 35,400
Dan - North - 62,700	Asher - NNW - 41,500	Naphtali - NNE - 53,400



B. Organization & Ministry of the Levites (3-4) Total Levite men 30-50 yrs old: 8,580

1. Aaron and descendants: Duties - Priests (3:1-10) Camped West
2. Levites are substitute for 1st born (3:11-13); Ransom for 1st born (3:40-51) (22,273 1st born)
3. Gershonites: 7,500 total. 2,630 men 30+ to serve. Duties - tabernacle, tent, coverings. Camped west (3:21-26; 4:21-28, 38-41)
4. Kohathites: 8,600 total. 2,750 men 30+ to serve. Duties - Ark, table, lampstand, altars, utensils. Camped South (3:27-32; 4:1-20; 34-37)
5. Meraites: 6,200. 3,200 men 30+ to serve. Duties - Tabernacle equipment: Frames, pillars, sockets, etc. Camped East (3:33-38; 4:29-33, 42-45)

C. Sanctification of Israel (5-10:10)

1. Rules of Separation (5)

a.. Defilement / unclean (5:1-10)

b. Adultery (5:11-31)

2. Rules Nazrite Vows (6)

No grape product (1-4); No haircuts (5); Not near the dead (6-8); Restoration (9-21)

Aaron's benediction - 6:22-27)

3. Tabernacle Worship Begins (7-9:14)

a. Each tribe to give on successive days: Sacrifices / gifts of 130 shekel Silver dish; 70 shekel silver bowl - both with flour offering. 10 shekel gold pan full of incense; 1 bull, 1 ram, 1 male yr old lamb - burnt offering. 1 male goat - sin offering. peace offering of 2 oxen, 5 rams, 5 male goats, 5 male yr old lambs (Ch. 7)

b. Seven lamps (8:1-4)

c. Consecration of Levites (8:5-26)

d. Passover (9:1-14)

4. God's Guidance (9:15-10:10)

a. Lead by the Cloud / Fire over the tabernacle (9:15-23)

b. Lead by silver trumpets (10:1-10)

II. From Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, 10:11-14:45

A. Departure from Sinai (10:11-36)

B. Complaints (11)

1. Circumstances (1-3)

2. Food (4-9)

3. Moses (10-15)

4. The Lord's Response / Elders prophesying (16-30)

5. The Quail & the Plague (31-35)

C. Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (12)

Judah
Issachar
Zebulan
Gershon & Merari with tabernacle
Ruben
Simeon
Gad
Kohathites with Holy Objects
Ephraim
Manasseh
Benjaminein
Dan
Asher
Naphtali

III. From Kadesh-barnea to the plains of Moab, 15:1-21:35

A. National Rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea

1. Spies sent out (13:1-24)

2. Spies Report (13:25-33)

3. Rebellion of the People (14:1-10)

4. Moses' Intercession (14:11-19)

5. God's Judgment (14:20-38)

6. Continued Rebellion Resulting in Defeat by Amalekites (14:39-45)

B. Laws for Offerings (15)

1. Offerings when entering Canaan (1-13)

2. Offerings of Aliens (14-22)

3. Offerings for Unintentional Sins (22-29)

4. Punishment for Intentional Sins / Execution of Sabbath Breakers (30-36)

5. Tassels on Garments (37-41)

C. Korah's Rebellion (16:1-40)

1. The Cause (1-3)

2. The Test (4-30)

3. The Consequences (31-40)

D. Rebellion of People (16:41-50)

1. Cause (41)

2. Consequences (42-50)

E. The Priesthood (17 - 19)

1. Confirmation of the Aaronic Priesthood (17)

2. Duties of Levites (18:1-7)

3. The Priests' Portion (18:8-32)

F. Laws on Cleansing

1. Ordinance of the Red Heifer (19:1-10)
2. Purification from uncleanness from touching the dead (19:11-22)

G. Journey to Mt. Hor

1. Death of Miriam (20:1)
2. Sin at the Waters of Merbah (20:2-13)
 - a. Complaining (2-5)
 - b. Moses failure (6-13)

3. Edom Refuses Passage (20:14-21)

4. Death of Aaron (20:22-29)

H. Journey to Plains of Moab (21)

1. Destruction of Arad (21:1-3)
2. Complaining in the Wilderness (21:4-9)
 - a. Complaint (4-5) no food, no water, we loath manna
 - b. Consequence (6-9) (Fiery serpents / Bronze serpent / - Jesus used as illustration of faith in Him cf. John 3:14)
3. Traveling to Moab (10-20)
4. Victory over the Amorites (21-32)
5. Victory over Bashan (33-35)

IV. Balaam. 22 - 24

A. Balak Sends for Balaam (22:1-20) - some sort of prophet / priest

B. God Rebukes Balaam (22:21-41) (Balaam & his donkey)

C. Prophecies of Balaam (23,24)

1. First Prophecy (23:1-12) (from high places of Baal)
2. Second Prophecy (23:13-30) (from Pisgah)
3. Third Prophecy (24) (from Peor - Includes prophecy concerning the star of from Jacob - Mt. 2)

V. The Sin of Peor (25)

VI. Preparations for entering Canaan, 26:1-26:13

A. Census of Second Generation (26)

Tribe (males 20+)	1 st Generation (Ch. 1)	2 nd Generation (Ch. 26)	Difference
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-2,770
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-37,100
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,150
Judah	74,600	76,500	1,900
Issachar	54,400	64,300	9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	20,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-8,000
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	10,200
Dan	62,700	64,400	1,700
Asher	41,500	53,400	1,1900
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000
Total:	603,550	601,730	-1,380
Levi (1 mo +)	22,000	23,000	1,000

B. Laws of Inheritance (27:1-14)

C. Moses' Successor - Joshua - (27:15-23)

D. Laws of Sacrifices (28-30)

1. Daily Offerings (28:1-8)
2. Weekly Offerings (28:9-10)
3. Monthly Offerings (28:11-15)
4. Yearly Offerings (28:16-29:40)
 - a. Passover (28:17-25)
 - b. Firstfruits (28:26-31)
 - c. Trumpets (29:1-6)
 - d. Atonement (29:7-11)
 - e. Tabernacle (29:12-40)

E. Laws of Vows (30)

F. Conquest & Division of Lands East of the Jordan (31-36)

1. Conquest of Midian (31) (Balaam also killed cf. Dt. 23:4, 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14)
 - a. Victory in war (1-12)

- b. Only virgin girls spared (13-18)
 - c. Purification of warriors and spoil (19-24)
 - d. Division of the Spoils (25-54)
- 2. Division of the Lands of Jazer and Gilead to Reuben, Gad & Manasseh (32)
- 3. Review of the Journey from Egypt to plains of Moab (33:1-49)
- 4. Instructions for Conquering Canaan (33:50-56)
- 5. Division of the Lands of Canaan (34) (See a Map)
- 6. Special Cities (35)
 - Levitical Cities (1-8)
 - Cities of Refuge (9-34)
- 7. Special Inheritance Laws (36)