

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

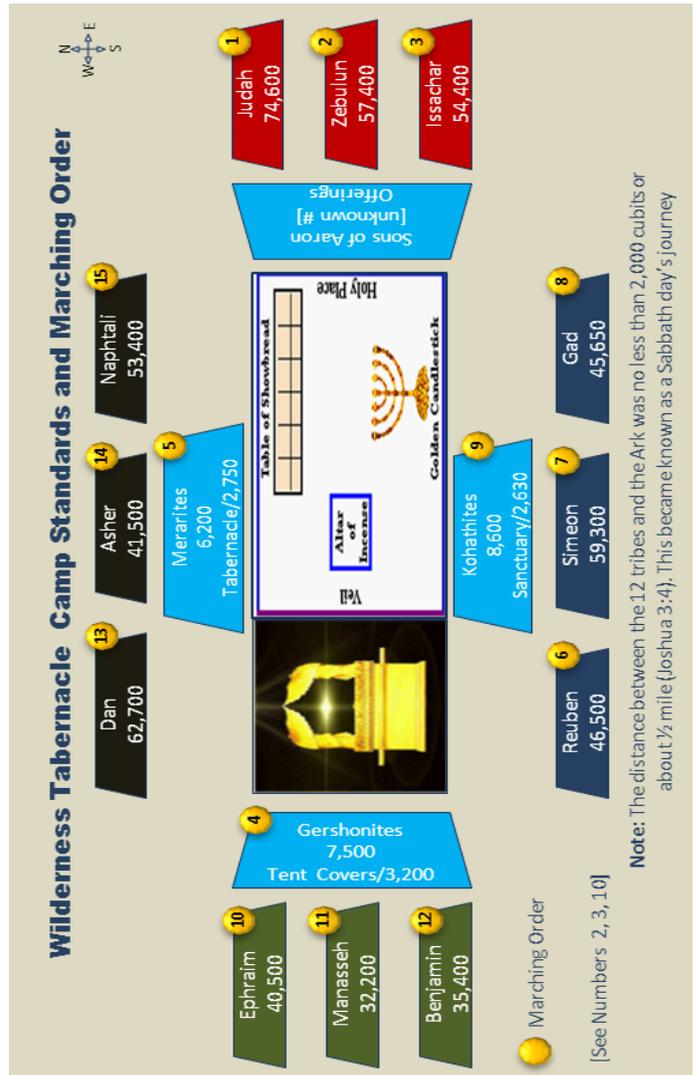
- 1) 04 Dec ..... Num 1:1-8:26..... Stay True to Your Commitments
- 2) 11 Dec ..... Num 9:1-10:10..... Stay on Track with God's GPS
- 3) 18 Dec ..... Num 10:11-15:41..... Stay Fearless in Your Obedience
- 4) 25 Dec ..... Num 24:15-19; Mat 1:1-2:23..... The Messiah has Come
- 5) 01 Jan 2012 ..... Num 16:1-25:18..... Stay Grateful for God's Care
- 6) 08 Jan ..... Num 26:1-36:13..... Stay Focused on the Goal
- 7) 15 Jan ..... Deut 5;19;24; Mat 5..... Be Resolute about Life's value
- 8) 22 Jan ..... Deut 1:1-4:43..... Be Exclusive
- 9) 29 Jan ..... Deut 4:44-11:32..... Be Passionate
- 10) 05 Feb ..... Deut 12:1-16:17..... Be Different
- 11) 12 Feb ..... Deut 16:18-26:19..... Be Honest and Fair
- 12) 19 Feb ..... Deut 27:1-30:20..... Be Repentant
- 13) 26 Feb ..... Deut 31:1-34:12..... Be Positive

**INTRODUCTION**

- **Author.** Though not specifically identified, Moses is deduced to be the author of Numbers
- **Date of Writing.** The Exodus occurred 1446-1440BC
- **Purpose.** The Book of Numbers answers the question of how Israel got from Egypt to the Promised Land and why it took so long
- In these first 8 chapters we get a glimpse of how God had Moses organized the Israelites into military brigades and the Levites into guardians of temple artifacts; we also see special instructions to resolve unusual situations; and another glimpse into priestly service and temple consecration

Passage	Comments
	<p><b>v39. Discrepancy with Levitical Count</b>  <math>6200 + 7500 + 8600 = 22,300</math>, not 22,000 listed in v39</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is possibly due to a copyist error with the Gershonites (might be 7200 instead of 7500)</li> <li>2. Or, the additional 300 might be the 1<sup>st</sup> born of the Levites, whom would not be tallied to redeem the 1<sup>st</sup> born of the 12 tribes (Talmud tradition)</li> </ol>
4:1-49	<p><b>Levites Had an Early Retirement Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv3, 23, 30. Levites worked in their fields of service from 30-50 years of age (25-50 for the priests, 8:24)</li> <li>• <b>Note.</b> Due to the diminished number of Levites during Hezekiah's reign and following the Babylonian captivity, the minimum age for Levitical and priestly service was dropped to 20 ..... 2Chron 31:17; Ezra 3:8</li> </ul>
High pressure job led to early retirement after only 20 years of service	<p><b>Levites Had To Be Committed to and Meticulous In Their Duties Or They DIED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If they didn't wear the right underwear ..... Ex 28:42,43</li> <li>• If they failed to wash their hands and feet ..... Ex 30:21</li> <li>• If they looked at the holy artifacts .... Lev 4:20, <b>Num 18:3</b></li> <li>• If they sacrificed wrong ..... Lev 10:1-2</li> <li>• If they had a wardrobe malfunction ..... Lev 10:6</li> <li>• If they left the tabernacle too early ..... Lev 8:35; 10:7</li> <li>• If they drank alcohol while on duty ..... Lev 10:9</li> <li>• If they wrongfully entered the holy of holies ..... Lev 16:2</li> <li>• If they failed to put the incense on the fire ..... Lev 16:13</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Numbers 1:1-54	<p><b>Take a Census and Get Organized</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv2-3. All tribes, except Levi, were registered for the military draft, men 20 years old and up. Some take this to be the age of accountability. Num 14:29; 32:11</li> <li>• Levi was to transport the tabernacle &amp; camp around it to protect the other tribes from God's wrath .. WHY?</li> </ul>
2:1-34	<p><b>Moses Organized the 12 Tribes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-2. God commanded Moses to organize and distribute the tribes around the tabernacle in a specific order and at an unspecified distance ...WHY?</li> <li>• According to <b>Joshua 3:4</b>, there was a ½ mile distance (2000 cubits) between the other 12 tribes and the tabernacle ..... WHY SO FAR AWAY?</li> </ul>
3:1-51	<p><b>Next, Moses Organized the Levites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. Initially, the 1<sup>st</sup> born son was to be 'sacrificed' (i.e., dedicated) to the service of the Lord, but God substituted the tribe of Levi instead.....Exodus 13:2             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Thereafter, each 1<sup>st</sup> born son is ransomed by an offering of 5 shekels of silver (~\$35) Num 18:15-16 (1 shekel = ½ oz of Silver @ \$14/oz = \$35)</li> <li>◆ Eventually, Jesus Christ will become the ultimate ransom price for everyone</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv14-15. Every male Levite from a month old and upward was registered (37,300 total)</li> <li>• v17. Four (4) Levite family groups would have special duties – Gershon, Kohath, Merari, and Amram (who was the father of Aaron and Moses, Exodus 6:20)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Gershonites (7,500) ..... Tabernacle artifacts</li> <li>◆ Kohathites (8,600) ..... Sanctuary artifacts</li> <li>◆ Merarites (6,200) ..... Tent coverings</li> <li>◆ Amramites (sons of Moses &amp; Aaron).....Priestly duties</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv40-51. A count is made between the Levites and the 1<sup>st</sup> born of the other 12 tribes – 1 month old &amp; up             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <math>22,273 - 22,000 = 273</math> had to pay 5 shekels each (~ \$10,000 was given to sons of Moses &amp; Aaron)</li> <li>◆ God sought just compensation for the Levites</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
5:1-10	<p><b>Special Instructions for Tough Situations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-4. Unclean and sickly individuals were to be segregated from the healthy – Was this the smart 'Christian' thing to do? What would be the short term and long term society effects by moving someone with a potentially contagious disease away from everyone else?</li> <li>• vv5-7. Those who stole or damaged someone else's property were to repay it back with 20% penalty. Is this good/fair/equitable justice? What would our society look like if we implemented such a system?</li> </ul>
5:11-31	<p><b>The Spirit of Jealousy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv11-31. Drink a special cocktail mix of "holy water" and "tabernacle dirt". Could we use a truth serum like this today? Do we have anything that comes close? Yes, the polygraph!</li> <li>• This Jealousy law would make the women of Israel watch against giving cause for suspicion. On the other hand, it would also hinder the cruel treatment of a husband such suspicions might occasion. It would also hinder the guilty from escaping, and the innocent from coming under just suspicion (source. <i>Matthew Henry Concise Commentary</i>)</li> </ul>
6:1-27	<p><b>The Vow of the Nazarite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This needs a lesson all to itself to look at the Nazarite aspects, the reasons, the purpose and benefits</li> <li>• In brief, it was a vow of separation from the world and devotedness to the services of religion, for a limited time</li> <li>• God takes vows seriously, so we should think through and chose our words and commitments carefully whether we commit to serve in the church, to commit to a loan, or commit to a marriage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ecc 5:2. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few</li> <li>◆ Ecc 5:4-5. When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay</li> <li>◆ Ps 15:4. But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt &amp; changes not; (in other words, a godly man will keep his commitment even if it is costly to him)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:1-89	<p><b>Anointing and Consecration of the Tabernacle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A unique 12-day ceremony was initiated to consecrate the Tabernacle</li> <li>• Each tribe brought the same 4 offerings – 1 silver dish and 1 silver bowl both filled with fine flour mixed with oil (<b>grain offering</b>); 1 gold pan full of incense, 1 bull, 1 ram, 1 male lamb (<b>burnt offering</b>); 1 male goat (<b>sin offering</b>), 2 oxen, 5 rams, 5 male goats, 5 male lambs (<b>peace offering</b>)</li> <li>• The combination of the grain, burnt, sin and peace offerings conveyed that the Israelites fully recommitting themselves to God's service, fully repented of their sinful ways, fully relying on God for all their needs, and fully restoring their fellowship with God</li> </ul>
8:1-26	<p><b>Commissioning of the Levites Special Service as Redeemers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv6-7. The Levites were shaven head to toe to fully cleans themselves (this reflects how sin should be fully removed from our lives so we can commit ourselves to something more worthy)</li> <li>• v11. The Levites become a <b>wave offering</b> – the best of the best offerings reserved for God's special service – they were washed, they were cleansed, they were pure, and they were committed to do their best</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- God is meticulous with detail, though many times we don't fully understand why
- Good laws allow for righteousness, justice, and mercy to prevail, and they help protect the weak while creating a healthy society
- Also good moral laws only make sense in a logical world – else, chaos, tyranny, and injustice reign

**NEXT WEEK: Numbers 9-10.** The Passover – a feast for all, plus it was time to pack up everything and begin the move process of more than 2M people



The Birth of Logic

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