



COMING UP ... MAR 31 Numbers part 2 APR 7 Numbers part 3 APR 14 Numbers part 4 APR 21 NO CLASS (Easter)

GOD'S WILL AND GOD'S MISSION

Genesis/Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy	Joshua
Inheritance Promised		Testing of Faith		Inheritance Possessed
Egypt "perceived security"		Wilderness "unbelief and disobedience"		Canaan "experiencing God's best"

MY MISSION STATEMENT: Press into my inheritance!

NUMBERS SUMMARIZED in a word or phrase: "Obedience"

THE BASICS

Who: written by Moses **When:** around 1406 B.C. **Where:** on the plains of Moab
Why: to exhort Israel's *second* generation not to repeat the grave error of the faithlessness of their fathers, but instead to walk by faith in God's Word and intentionally press into their promised inheritance of Canaan

AN IMPLIED QUESTION IN NUMBERS

From God's point of view ...
 There's obviously more to being rescued from Egypt than just being counted among the number of the redeemed ...
 There's *fulfilling His expectation* of being one of those on whom He can count to pursue His will and His mission in the world
 "Israel: Are you one on whom I can count to press into My mission for your generation?"

LESSON THEME: My Mission Statement: Press into my inheritance!

Their Hearts Were Devoted To Him

(see "Post-Exodus Timeline of Events" chart, p. 4)

God's deliverance and presence prompts their wholehearted devotion (7:1—9:14)

- (7) Joyfully and generously give God their best
- (8) Walk in the light as His lights
- (8) See themselves as His servants
- (9) Passover: the blessing of freed men/women

Who you worship determines how you walk

His Word Ordered Their Lives

God's Word orders and guides their daily walk (1:1-4:49)

God's mission and expectations (1:1-4)
 There is territory to gain and an enemy to fight
 You will take your place and serve
 If you're Mine, I'll be able to count on you for battle

The men are counted (1:5-46)
 There's no neutrality in this battle
 There's no negotiating God's will—ignore it or obey it

The Levites are exempted (1:47-54)
 "clergy" and "laity" ministering together to protect and uphold God's worship and God's mission
 The quality of Israel's relationship with God (worship) will determine their success in battle (warfare)

God's position (2:1-2)

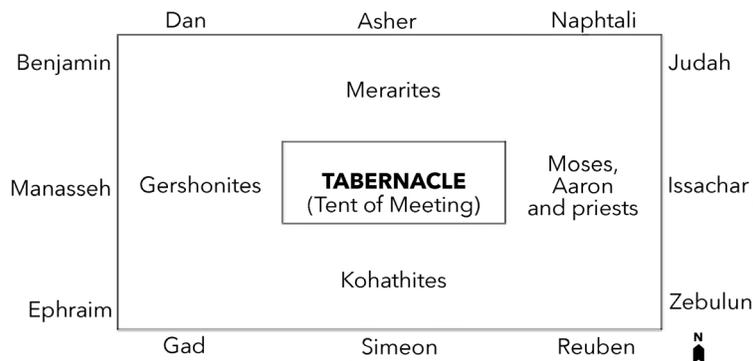
The tabernacle and God's presence were the most important things in the camp

He is to be at the "heart" of their lives and world

Their positions and places (2:3-34)

God appointed each tribe to its place

God instructed them how to walk in a manner that pleased Him



Adapted from "Arrangement of the Tribal Camps" in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, p. 218

The Priests (3:1-4)

The Levites (3:5-4:49)

The Gershonites – the "software"

The Kohathites – the holy things

The Merarites – the "hardware"

The census is completed

Every male over 20 is *expected* to be "on mission" with a role and a contribution toward the whole

They Needed To Walk In Purity

God's deliverance and presence prompts their wholehearted devotion (7:1-9:14)

God's Word orders and guides their daily walk (1:1-4:49)

God's presence and mission demand holy and separated lives (5:1-6:27)

There can be no hidden sin on this mission, but only holiness and a consecrated physical lifestyle

A Holistic Life On Mission

Their hearts were devoted to God

Because He had loved them first and redeemed them from Egypt, they loved Him most and put Him first in their lives

A walk guided and ordered by His Word

God's Word and nothing else was to guide and order their walk of faith to the Promised Land

Ready to lead holy and pure lives

There was to be no hidden sin on this mission, but rather holiness and a consecrated lifestyle

Numbers Is ...

A story of the struggle of real people

Redeemed people with divided hearts who still look back, resisting God as they hunger for and nurture tender thoughts of Egypt

Who look around and complain

Who look within and make satisfying their own desires one of their primary aims

Who don't cry out in confession until they've first cried out in pain

A story of a journey

That should have led them from bondage to freedom, fulfillment and fruitfulness

That *eventually* did lead them from living to follow self to living to follow God

Where giants were to be confronted and walled cities were to be overthrown ... but personal weaknesses seemed larger than even God

A story of choices

Walking by sight that leads to fear, disobedience, discipline and maybe even disaster

Walking by faith that leads to obedience, blessing and progress

Can God really be trusted in this situation?

A story of waste and wandering

Potential conquerors become wanderers

Remained "in-between," in "no-man's land"

Fell short of all God had purposed for them in their lives and in their generation

A story of learning from past failures

A story of God's gracious second chances

A reminder that neither great intentions nor great beginnings guarantee great endings

A warning to God's people

Unbelief and disobedience can cause us any of us or all of us to fall short of all God has for us in our generation

What Does God Expect From Us?

From His point of view ...

There's obviously more to being rescued from "Egypt/sin" than just being counted among the number of the redeemed ...

There's *fulfilling His expectation* of being one of those on whom He can count to pursue His purposes and His mission today

Christian: Can God count on you to press into His mission for your generation?

Application: My Mission Statement: Press into my inheritance!

Our "Promised Land"

Is Jesus Christ (Heb 3:1-6)

Is Jesus' character (Gal 5:22-23)

Is Jesus' inheritance for us ... already laid up for us in heaven (Eph 1:3)

Is God's role of service for each of us ... already planned out in advance for us to "walk" in (Eph 2:8-10; 1 Cor 12)

Is to become and possess through obedience and faith what He's already promised and given to each one of us

Essentials For The Journey

A heart devoted to God and His worship

What's competing for the allegiance of your heart? Distractions?

A walk guided and ordered by His Word

Do you have other counselors? Who? How often are you in His Word?

A holy and pure physical lifestyle

Is there hidden sin in your life?

Are you leading a consecrated lifestyle?

God's Expectation For Us

From God's point of view ...

There's more to being rescued from "Egypt/sin" than just being counted among the number of the redeemed ...

There's *fulfilling His expectation* of being one of those on whom He can count to pursue His purposes and His mission today

God's will, God's mission for your life, is to possess the "land" He's promised you ...and *press into* your inheritance!

MY MISSION STATEMENT: Press into my inheritance!

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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AUDIO & HANDOUTS ON CCBC WEBSITE: www.ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey
AUDIO PODCASTS ON ITUNES (no handouts): search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

NUMBERS

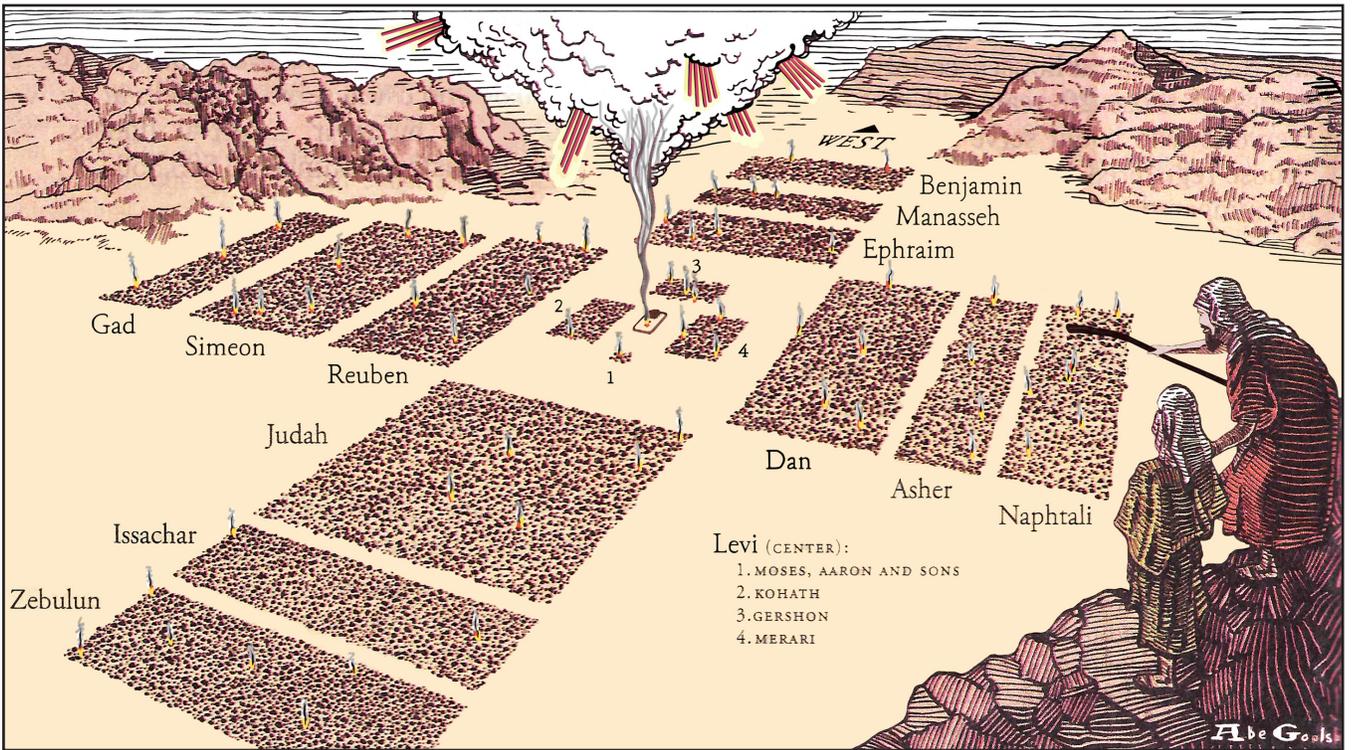
First Generation Ordered by Covenant		First Generation Wanders in Desert		Second Generation Prepares to Settle in Canaan																			
constitution		journey		settlement																			
The first census	1:1 2:34	Structure of the priestly hierarchy	3:1 4:49	Purity in the camp	5:1 6:27	Events after the temple is erected	7:1 9:14	The journey commences	9:15 10:36	Setbacks on the journey	11:1 22:1	Successes on the journey	22:2 25:18	The second census	26:1 26:65	Laws about the land, pledges & vows	27:1 30:16	Renewed commitment	31:1 32:42	Review of Israel's wilderness journey	33:1 33:49	Laws about the land	33:50 36:13

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Post-Exodus Timeline of Events

EVENT	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	REFERENCE
The first Passover is observed in Egypt	1	1	14	Ex 12:2, 6
Exodus of Israel from Egypt	1	1	15	Ex 12:2, 5; Num 33:3; 1 Ki 6:1
	(966 BC + 480 years = 1446 BC)			
Arrival of Israel at Mt. Sinai	1	3	1	Ex 19:1
Yahweh reveals Himself to Israel at Mt. Sinai	1	3	3	Ex 19:16
Tabernacle is completed	2	1	1	Ex 40:1, 16
Laws for sacrifices begin	2	1	1	Lev 1:1
Offerings for the altar begin	2	1	1	Num 7:1-3
Ordination of priests begins	2	1	1	Lev 8:1
Ordination of the priests is concluded	2	1	8	Lev 9:1
Offerings for altar are completed	2	1	12	Num 7:84
Levites are appointed	2	1	13	Num 8:5-6
The second Passover is celebrated at Mt. Sinai	2	1	14	Num 9:1-3
Command to number Israel	2	2	1	Num 1:1
Passover for the unclean	2	2	14	Num 9:11
Israel departs Mt. Sinai for the Promised Land	2	2	20	Num 10:11
The second generation arrives at Kadesh-Barnea	40	1	?	Num 20:1
Death of Miriam	40	1	?	Num 20:1
Death of Aaron	40	5	1	Num 20:29
Israel leaves for Moab	40	6	1	Num 20:22; 21:4
Moses addresses Israel on the plains of Moab (Deut.)	40	11	1	Deut 1:2-3
Death of Moses	40	?	?	Deut 34:8
Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan	41	1	10	Josh 1:19

Adapted from "Timetable After the Exodus," *A Survey of the Old Testament*, Hill and Walton, 1991, p. 133 and Dr. Constable's Notes on Numbers, 2005, p. 26.



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