

Study in the Book of Numbers

Part 3

1. God Always Keeps His Promise

Numbers 1:1-54

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

2 **Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel**, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls;

3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

4 And with you there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers.

5 And these are the names of the men that shall stand with you: of the tribe of **Reuben**; Elizur the son of Shedeur.

6 Of **Simeon**; Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

7 Of **Judah**; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

8 Of **Issachar**; Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

9 Of **Zebulun**; Eliab the son of Helon.

10 Of the children of **Joseph**: of **Ephraim**; Elishama the son of Ammihud: of **Manasseh**; Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

11 Of **Benjamin**; Abidan the son of Gideoni.

12 Of **Dan**; Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

13 Of **Asher**; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

14 Of **Gad**; Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

15 Of **Naphtali**; Ahira the son of Enan.

16 These were the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel.

17 And Moses and Aaron took these men which are expressed by their names:

18 And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their **pedigrees** after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls.

19 As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

20 And the children of **Reuben**, Israel's eldest son, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

21 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Reuben, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

(20-21) The tribe of Reuben: 46,500 available soldiers.

(22-23) The tribe of Simeon: 59,300 available soldiers.

(24-25) The tribe of Gad: 45,650 available soldiers.

(26-27) The tribe of Judah: 74,600 available soldiers.

(28-29) The tribe of Issachar: 54,400 available soldiers.

(30-31) The tribe of Zebulun: 57,400 available soldiers.

(32-33) The tribe of Ephraim: 40,500 available soldiers.

(34-35) The tribe of Manasseh: 32,200 available soldiers.

(36-37) The tribe of Benjamin: 35,400 available soldiers.

(38-39) The tribe of Dan: 62,700 available soldiers.

(40-41) The tribe of Asher: 41,500 available soldiers.

(42-43) The tribe of Naphtali: 53,400 available soldiers.

(44-46) Summary of the tribes: 603,550 available soldiers in Israel.

God Always Fulfills His Promise

Genesis 12:1-2 Now the LORD had said unto **Abram**, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And **I will make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 15:1-6 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but **he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir**.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 21:1-3 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, **Isaac**.

Genesis 35:22-26 Now the sons of **Jacob were twelve**: 23 The sons of **Leah**; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:

24 The sons of **Rachel**; Joseph, and Benjamin: 25 And the sons of **Bilhah**, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: 26 And the sons of **Zilpah**, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.

Exodus 1:1-7 Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob. 2 **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah**,

3 **Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin**, 4 **Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher**. 5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were **seventy souls**: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

6 And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. 7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

2 Peter 3:3-4 But first you must realize that in the last days some people won't think about anything except their own selfish desires. They will make fun of you

4 and say, "**Didn't your Lord promise to come back**? Yet the first leaders have already died, and the world hasn't changed a bit."

2 Peter 3:8-10 Dear friends, don't forget that for the Lord one day is the same as a thousand years, and a thousand years is the same as one day.

9 The **Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises**, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.

10 The day of the Lord's return will surprise us like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a loud noise, and the heat will melt the whole universe. Then the earth and everything on it will be seen for what they are.

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for** new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

(47-54) The special case of the tribe of Levi.

47 But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.

48 For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,

49 Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

50 But thou shalt **appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony**, and over all the **vessels** thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall **bear the tabernacle**, and all the vessels thereof; and **they shall minister** unto it, and shall **encamp round about the tabernacle**.

51 And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.

53 But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

54 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

Arrangement of the Camp

Numbers 2:1-34

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

2 Each by his standard, with ensigns of the house of their fathers, do the sons of Israel encamp; **over-against round about the tent of meeting they encamp.'**

3 And on **the east side** toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of **Judah** pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.

4 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

5 And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of **Issachar**: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar.

6 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

7 Then the tribe of **Zebulun**: and Eliab the son of Helon shall be captain of the children of Zebulun.

8 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

9 All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

10 On **the south side** shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur.

11 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

12 And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of **Simeon**: and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

13 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

14 Then the tribe of **Gad**: and the captain of the sons of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel.

15 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and five thousand and six hundred and fifty.

16 All that were numbered in the camp of **Reuben** were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

17 Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.

18 On **the west side** shall be the standard of the camp of **Ephraim** according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud.

19 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty thousand and five hundred.

20 And by him shall be the tribe of **Manasseh**: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

21 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

22 Then the tribe of **Benjamin**: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni.

23 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

24 All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank.

25 The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on **the north side** by their armies: and the captain of the children of **Dan** shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

27 And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of **Asher**: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran.

28 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and one thousand and five hundred.

29 Then the tribe of **Naphtali**: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan.

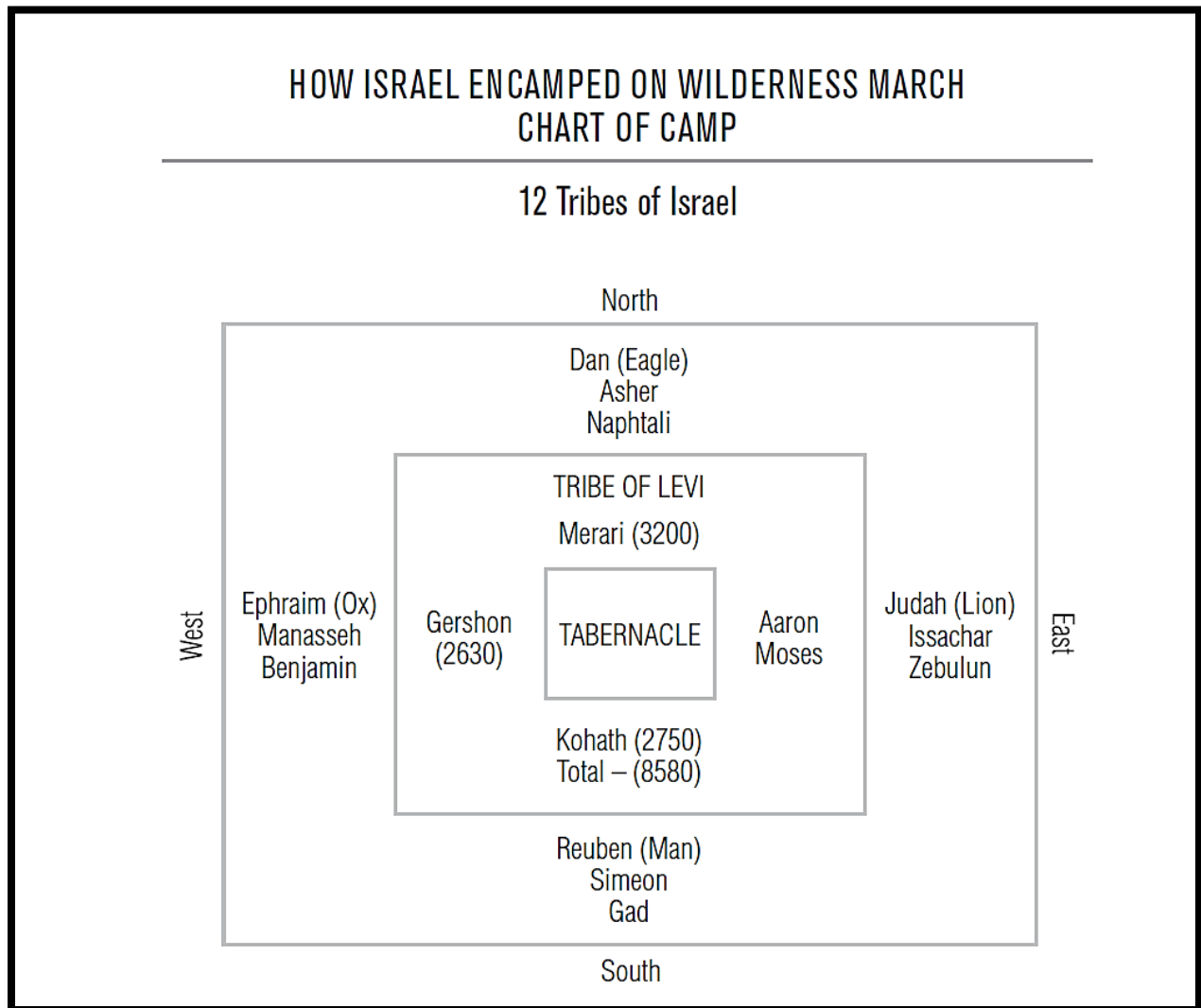
30 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

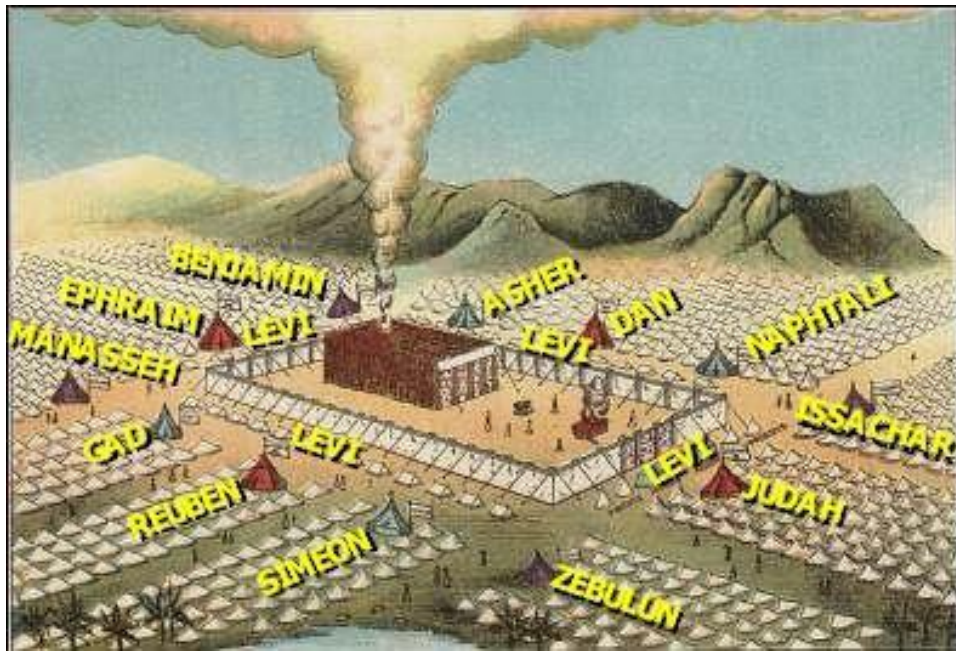
31 All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards.

32 These are those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.





THE ORDER BY WHICH THEY MARCHED IS GIVEN IN NUMBERS 10:11-36

	SECTION 7	SECTION 6	SECTION 5	SECTION 4	SECTION 3	SECTION 2	SECTION 1
	Dan	Ephraim	Kohathites	Reuben	Gershon Merari	Judah "Praise"	Moses Aaron, Ark
MIXED MULTITUDE	<i>bearing standard</i> (v. 25)	<i>bearing standard</i> (v. 22)	<i>bearing sanctuary</i> (v. 21)	<i>bearing standard</i> (v. 18)	<i>bearing tabernacle</i> (v. 17)	<i>bearing standard</i> (v. 14)	(v. 33)
	FORWARD MARCH →						
	Asher Naphtali	Manasseh Benjamin	Sons of Levi	Simeon Gad	Sons of Levi	Issachar Zebulun	

2. God in the Centre

Numbers 2:2 ESV The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every

3. He is a God of order

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done **decently** and in **order**.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest **set in order the things** that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Romans 13:13 Let's walk properly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and lustful acts, and not in strife and jealousy.

Romans 13:13 With right behaviour as in the day; not in pleasure-making and drinking, not in bad company and unclean behaviour, not in fighting and envy.

4. God is Holy Numbers 3 & 4

1 These also are the generations of Aaron and Moses in the day that the LORD spake with Moses in mount Sinai.

2 And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests which were anointed, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office.

4 And **Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD**, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.

1. Tribe of Levi given to Aaron, vv. 5-13
2. Three families of Levi, vv. 14-20
3. **Gershon**—in charge of curtains, coverings, and cords, vv. 21-26
4. **Kohath**—in charge of articles of furniture, vv. 27-32
5. **Merari**—in charge of boards, bars, pillars, sockets, and vessels, vv. 33-37
6. Total of Levites (22,000), vv. 38, 39
7. Census of firstborn of all Israel (22,273), vv. 40-51