

“The Pentateuch”
Numbers 2-4
Wednesday Aug 4, 2010

Numbers – “Wanderings”; “The Book of the Journeys”; “The Book of Murmurings”; and “The fourth Book of Moses”

The name “Numbers” comes from the 2 censuses God orders Moses to take: Numbers 1-4 and 26-27

Numbers 1-4 The Census of Israel's Warriors:

1. Numbers 2:1-34 The Order of The Tribes

2. Numbers 3-4 The Order of Ministry

1. Numbers 2:1-34 The Order of The Tribes:

Numbers 2:1-2

Numbers 1:51 “But the layman who comes near shall be put to death.”

(Organization is a means to an end and not an end in itself)

Numbers 2:3-9 On The East – Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; all descendants of Leah, camped to the East:

Numbers 2:3

The East side was the only entrance into the tabernacle

John 14:6

Numbers 2:10-16 On the South – Reuben, Simeon, and Gad; camped South of the Tabernacle:

How important it is that God always be the center.

Rev 3:20

Numbers 2:17

1 Cor. 14:40

1 Cor. 14:33

Numbers 2:18-24 On The West – Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph along with Benjamin:

Numbers 2:25-31 On The North – Dan, Asher and Naphtali:

Notice that each tribe's location is given in reference to the tabernacle!
Not the tribes

2 Cor 10:12

Numbers 2:32-34

The Tabernacle is a depiction of the throne in heaven:
Around the throne of God in heaven are four living creatures Rev 4,
Ezekiel 1, 10 They have 4 faces – a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle

Some see the Gospels in these images:

Matthew – lion; presented as the King of the Jews

Mark – ox; presented as the suffering servant, Romans

Luke – man; presented as the perfect Son of Man, Greeks

John – eagle; majesty, presented as the Son of God, Believe

Numbers 24:5-6

Whether it was camping or marching, God was center in their lives. The tabernacle was not placed in the center by accident

2. Numbers 3-4 The Order of Ministry:

Numbers 3:1-4 The Priests:

Every Priest Was a Levite, but Not Every Levite Was a Priest – only Aaron's sons; Aaron had 4 sons

Num 3:4

Sin Destroys Service: Lev. 10

Priesthood Reduced in Half:

Numbers 3:5-13 The Duties of The Levites: Numbers 3:5-6

The Priests and the Levites were two different classes of Ministers: The Levites ministered to the Priests, (elements for the service), Priests offered the sacrifices and ministered to the Lord.

Num 3:7-9

Ex. 19:5-6

Num 3:10-13

Notice that God is the one who chose Levi.

Numbers 3:14–39 The Census of The Levites:

Moses first counted every male, one month old and older, to make sure there were enough Levites to substitute for all the firstborn in Israel.

Numbers 3:18-28 Gershonites:

Numbers 3:29-32 Kohathites:

Numbers 3:33-39 Merarites:

Num 3:39

Numbers 3:40-51 The Dedication of The Levites:

Lesson Service To Salvation – Sovereign appointment to service is based on sovereign deliverance from bondage.

Numbers 4:1-49 A census of The Levites able To Serve In The Tabernacle:

The 1st census was from 1 month old and above = 22,000. This is now the Levites from 30 to 50 only – (Active) in service; these were those that could serve.

Numbers 4:1-20 The Kohathites:

Numbers 4:21-28 The Gershonites:

Numbers 4:29-33 The Merarites:

Numbers 4:34-49 The Totals:

Vs 36 – Kohathites = 2750

Vs 40 – Gershonites = 2630

Vs 44 – Merarites = 3200

Vs 44 – Grand Total = 8580

Numbers 4:49

Application:

1. The ministry of the Levites reminds us that our God is concerned with details and wants His work to be done by the people He has chosen and in the way He has appointed.
2. Numbers reminds us that not everybody has the same burdens to bear.
3. God believes in organization, but the organization is a means to an end and not an end in itself.