

Session 24

Numbers I

Named for the census in Greek and Latin. Hebrew word is Wilderness (Bemidar)

The census: second month of the second year since leaving Egypt. Count every male over 20 and who can go to war. Moses and Aaron and 1 man from each tribe count.

Importance of genealogy, relative number of each tribe.

Families and tribes; Promise to Abraham is seen.

Tribes are counted; Joseph divided between Mannaseh and Ephraim. Levi is not counted.
603,550.

Levi – camp around the Tent. Put tent up, take it down, carry the furniture and vessels. They had not participated in the Golden Calf; except for Aaron. No one else could do it.

Ch 2: each tribe camps under its banner – Jehovah Nissi- banners based on Jacob's blessing.

Each tribe camps in a specific place; Levite and the Tent in the middle. Judah breaks camp first, then Gad second, Naphtali last.

They did as the LORD commanded.

Ch 3: Aaron and sons are priests- God gives that at Mt. Sinai. First two sons killed by God for offering profane fire. Next two minister with Aaron.

Levites serve the priests, the tabernacle and all its functions and furnishings. Hebrew word means that they are a sacrifice; cannot have other occupations.

V12-13 The Levites shall be Mine. Take the place of the first born mentioned at the Passover. I AM the LORD! Sovereignly does this. They are like all the first born. First born of Egypt had been killed.

The Moses told to number the Levites; males from age 1 month and up. Do not have anything to do with armies or war.

Subdivisions of the Levites had different functions at the Sanctuary.

By far the smallest tribe.

The Moses commanded to count the first born of all the tribes above age 1 month and compare that number to the Levites. 273 more; families had to pay a tax.

Money was used for the Sanctuary. Given to Aaron.

Census of mature Levites 30-50 years old. By tradition began a 5 year apprenticeship at age 25. Full service at age 30. John the Baptist and Jesus.

When Cloud moves, the camp moves. Aaron and his sons cover the Ark. Then lesser priests can come in and pack up everything else as directed by the LORD. After the Cloud has lifted. They can't go in and watch the holy things being covered or they die.

8580 just to pack and carry everything. Individually numbered by Moses as commanded.

Ch 6 : Nazirites : set apart. Could be for time of 1 year to lifetime. Can eat or drink nothing that comes from a grape, cannot cut his hair or shave, cannot come near a dead body (including close family members). Wine inflamed passions, hair reminded him of his vow of holiness, dead body made him unclean.

If someone near him dies suddenly; starts over after shaving his head and doing a sin offering.

The Aaronic Blessing: a benediction to end services.

²²And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

²⁴ “The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;

²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.””

²⁷“So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.””

Ch 7 is out of order historically.

Moses hears God's voice from the Mercy Seat.

Ch 8: Levites are consecrated before the whole community. Bodies are shaved, sprinkled with water, sacrifices. Set apart from the rest of the community.

Israelites lay hands on them. Then they lay hands on animal sacrifice. Wave offering.

They are separated from the community and belong to the LORD. They take the place of the first born mentioned in Exodus.

To make atonement for the people of Israel. Serve Aaron and the priests.

They have to make atonement for **their** sins before the people's sin. Mentioned in Hebrews.