

Exactly one year after they fled from Egypt, the Israelites were gathered at Mount Sinai to receive instructions concerning the law and the Tabernacle. Numbers covers the winding 39 year journey from Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, through various places in the wilderness, and finally to the plains of Moab across the Jordan River from Jericho.¹

Day 57 - Numbers 1-2 • God commanded Moses to number the people (take a census). On their journey, each tribe was to march and encamp by itself in a fixed order and place. The total population of the nation was somewhere between 2 and 3 million.

List the number from each tribe that were qualified for the army. Then compute the total.

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Judah | _____ |
| Issachar | _____ |
| Zebulun | _____ |
| Reuben | _____ |
| Simeon | _____ |
| Gad | _____ |
| Ephraim | _____ |
| Manasseh | _____ |
| Benjamin | _____ |
| Dan | _____ |
| Asher | _____ |
| Naphtali | _____ |
| Total | _____ |

Day 58 - Numbers 3-4 • The tribe of Levi was used in the service of God in place of the firstborn (Ex. 13:2) from among all the tribes. A separate census was taken of the Levites.

There were 22,000 (men over age 20) in the non-military tribe of Levi. There were 22,273 firstborn males (one month old and upward, likely only those born since the Exodus) in the non-Levitical tribes of Israel.

How was the difference between the first-born Israelites and the Levites handled?

Day 59 - Numbers 5-6 • Chapters 5 and 6 involve the sanctification of the Israelite nation (by separation from defiling things) and the Nazirite vow. A Nazirite was a man or woman who was bound by a vow of consecration to God's service for a specific period of time (in some cases for life). Examples of Nazirites were Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist, and Paul.

What three outward signs served as a public testimony of the Nazirites dedication to God (Numbers 6:2-7)?

Day 60 - Numbers 7 • On twelve successive days in Numbers 7, a different prince (one from each of the twelve tribes) brought similar gifts and offerings for the dedication of the altar.

The almost monotonous repetition of their generosity suggests God's delight with their gifts.

What three gifts and what three offerings did each leader bring?

Day 61 – Numbers 8-10 • Chapters 8-10 detail the cleansing of the Levites (priests) in preparation for service, the observation of the first annual passover, directions for breaking camp and the marching order of the tribes.

What does the perpetual statute recorded in Numbers 10:8 involve?

Day 62 – Numbers 11-13 • Chapters 11-13 detail events that occurred while the Israelites were marching to Kadesh-Barnea: the murmuring of the people, the sin of Miriam and Aaron; the report of the spies. The children of Israel in the wilderness distinguished themselves by their repeated rebellions against God. Many were destroyed by fire and others by the plague.

What was the sin of Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12:1-10)?

Day 63 – Numbers 14-15 • The Israelites were at the edge of the Promised Land. The sons of Israel were given a bad report of the land spied out by the twelve.

Because it was such a good land, various groups fought to possess it, therefore it was reported to be a land that devours its inhabitants.

The Lord was angry with the whole congregation for having put Him to the test ten times since they were in Egypt (Num. 14:22-23).

Their punishment was to wander the wilderness for forty years until all (except two) who came out of Egypt had died.

Name the two spies who said that the Lord was with Israel and they had nothing to fear from the inhabitants of the land.

Day 64 – Numbers 16-18 • Korah, a Levite, in league with 250 others, led a rebellion against the authority of Moses and Aaron.

God revealed His displeasure by making the ground open up and swallow the leaders of the rebellion - Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

The 250 other rebels were then consumed by fire from the Lord. The congregation grumbled against Moses and Aaron, resulting in an additional 14,700 deaths due to the plague.

How did the Lord confirm the legitimacy of the Levitical/Aaronic priesthood in Numbers 17:1-10?

Day 65 – Numbers 19-21 • The purpose of the red heifer sacrifice of Numbers 19 was to cleanse those who were defiled because of contact with a corpse.

The sin of Moses and Aaron, recorded in Numbers 20, was taking glory to themselves rather than obeying God's command to speak to the rock.

Therefore, Moses and Aaron were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. Aaron died at Mount Hor, and his son Eleazar assumed his duties.

The people spoke against God and Moses in Numbers 21 causing the Lord to send venomous snakes among the people so that many died.

What remedy was Moses commanded to prepare in Numbers 21:8-9 that was a type of Christ?

Name _____

Day 66 – Numbers 22-24 • The sons of Israel camped in Moab beyond the Jordan opposite Jericho. The Moabites feared the Israelites. The king of Moab, Balak, offered to pay Balaam, a heathen prophet, to curse the Israelites that he might overcome them.

What experience did Balaam have with his donkey and the angel of the Lord?

Day 67 – Numbers 25-26 • In Numbers 25, the children of Israel sin by worshipping Baal. God sent a plague, killing 23,000 in one day (1 Cor. 10:8).

The plague was stayed by the zeal of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, in Numbers 25.

The Israelites were numbered in chapter 26. In the 38 years since the last census, the total number of adult males decreased by 1,820.

During the years of wandering 1.2 million people had died.

What blessing was bestowed on Phinehas because he was jealous for God (Numbers 25:6-13)?

Day 68 – Numbers 27-29 • In Numbers 27, Moses announced a new law of inheritance whereby a daughter could inherit. Chapters 28 and 29 contain regulations concerning sacrifices and festivals.

What petition did Moses present to the Lord at the end of Numbers 27, and how was his request answered?

Day 69 – Numbers 30-31 • Chapter 30 describes the law for vows. A man was unconditionally bound by any vow he made. A vow made by a woman could be invalidated by her father (if unmarried) or her husband.

What does Numbers chapter 31 describe?

Day 70 – Numbers 32-33 • In Numbers 32, some of the Israelites requested permission to settle in Jazer and Gilead (East of the Jordan River) because it was a good area for raising cattle. The journey from Egypt to Moab through the wilderness is reviewed in Numbers 33.

Which of the children of Israel had their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan?

Day 71 – Numbers 34-36 • Numbers 34 describes the division of the land of Canaan among nine and a half tribes.

Chapters 35 and 36 discuss the cities of the Levites, the cities of refuge, and the inheritance of women.

The cities of refuge were for those who kill a person unintentionally, to be used as a place of refuge until they could be tried.

More than one witness to a murder was required, and the punishment for murder was death (Numbers 35:30).

What is the difference between murder and manslaughter (Numbers 35:16-24)?

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995, pp. 206-272.