

10/31/93

**God's Preparation Of His People**  
**Numbers, Misc. Scriptures**

The commentary on the book of Numbers and the Old Testament was that it was written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope, that they are types to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they did and that all these things happened to them as types, written for our admonition. Rom. 15:4, 1Cor. 10:6, 11

This morning we want to look at three things that are in type form in the book of Numbers related to God's preparation of Israel's journeying and see how God has done the same for us the Church.

- I. The preparation for warring.
- I. The preparation for walking.
- III. The preparation for working.

**I. The preparation for warring.**

- A. The census was for the purpose of military defense and conquest. 1:3, 20, 45
  - 1. The age was from twenty years of age and above.
  - 2. The condition being the ability to go to war.
  - 3. The number was 603,550. 2:32, Ex. 38:26
- B. The census exempted the Levites
  - 1. The command came from God. 1:47-49
  - 2. The Levites were to be appointed over the Tabernacle service. 1:50, 3:8
    - a. The sacrifices.

- b. The service of the Tabernacle.
- c. The service of the camp.
- 3. The Levites alone were to brake down and set up the Tabernacle lest God strike the person dead. 1:51
- 4. The Levites would camp immediately around the Tabernacle as the go between and intercessors to keep God's wrath from being poured out. 1:52-53
- 5. The trumpet alarm would be sounded by the Levites as Israel went out to war and they would be remembered by the Lord to give them victory over their enemies. 10:8-9

**Illustration**

Just as a young man enlists in the military service, he knows that his wisdom is to learn well the preparation for war if he is going to expect to survive.

**Application**

- 1. The census of God for the New Testament saint acknowledges every believer able to go to war on the basis of two things.
  - a. Every one born-again into the Kingdom of God by faith is born into spiritual warfare and has an enemy. 1Pet. 5:8
  - b. Every believer is prepared and equipped for warfare and therefore commanded to put on the whole armor of God because we wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness. Eph. 6:10-18
- 2. Every believer is a prepared soldier of the Lord and called so because there are no more priests on earth to intercede for us but the New Testament teaches the priesthood of every believer. 2Tim. 2:3-4, 1Pet. 2:9-10
- 3. The spiritual warfare is certain and failure to obey and appropriate the preparation of the Lord for warring will result

in constant defeat, deception and destruction in our lives by the enemy Satan, our flesh and the world.

4. The believers though they walk in a flesh body do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. The weapons provided for us are the ones used by Jesus as He defeated Satan in His temptation in the wilderness, prayer, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the word. 2Cor. 10:3-5, Lk. 3:21-22, 4:4

## II. The Preparation for walking.

A. Each tribe had a specific location in the camp.

1. Judah on the east side of the camp. 2:7
2. Ruben on the south side of the camp. 2:10
3. Ephraim on the west side of the camp. 2:18
4. Dan on the north side of the camp. 2:25

B. Each tribe was not alone.

1. Judah had Issachar and Zebulun. 2:5, 7
2. Ruben had Simeon and Gad. 2:12, 14
3. Ephraim had Mannasah and Benjamin. 2:20, 22
4. Dan had Asher and Naphtali. 2:27, 29

C. Each had a leader.

1. Judah had Nashon. 2:3c
2. Ruben had Elizur. 2:10b
3. Ephraim had Elishama. 2:18b
4. Dan had Ahiezer. 2:25b

E. Each tribe had an order to brake camp.

1. Judah broke camp first from the east was first. 2:9, 10:14

2. The Tabernacle was then taken down by the Gershonites and Merarites. 10:17
3. Ruben broke camp second from the south side. 2:16, 10:18
4. The sacred ark and the furnishings would be carried by the Koathites. 10:21
5. Ephraim broke camp third from the west. 2:24, 10:22
6. Dan broke camp forth from the north. 2:31, 10:25
  - a. The camps as well as the assembling of the congregation at various times and purposes were initiated by the trumpet blast according to their distinct sound. 10:1-8
  - b. The need for orderly function was for efficiency for it is estimated that the population was about 2-3,000,000.
  - c. The number of men able to go to war was 603,550, allowing one woman per man & two children per couple, would add up to 2,414,200, without the mixed multitude. \* This is a conservative estimate, considering that there are always more women than men and sour to seven children would not be far fetched for those days!
7. The order in which they broke camp is most interesting, particularly in view of the traditionally excepted emblems of their banners signifying the very order of our Lord's mission to this world.
  - a. The banner of Judah is traditionally excepted to be the lion symbolic of the first coming of Christ as King of the Jews and Messiah. Gen. 49:10, Rev. 5:5
  - b. The banner of Ruben is traditionally excepted to be the face of a man symbolic of

- the incarnation of Jesus. Jn. 1:1, 14, Phil. 2:5-11
- c. The banner for Ephraim is traditionally excepted to be the ox symbolic of the servant Jesus doing the work of the Father. Jn. 10:32
  - d. The banner of Dan is traditionally excepted to be the eagle symbolic of the Son of God. Jn. 10:33, Mk. 14:61-62
8. These four faces are also found in the book of Ezekiel and Revelation and are believed to represent the distinctness of the four gospels. Ezk. 1:10, 10:14, Rev. 4:7
- \* Mathew as lion, the King.
  - \* Mark as ox, the servant.
  - \* Luke as man, the incarnation.
  - \* John as eagle, the Son of God.
- a. Ezekiel identifies them as Cherubim having four wings. 1:6, 10:20-21
  - b. John tells us the creatures before the throne of God had six wings and cried out as Isaiah's vision of Seraphim, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Host. Rev. 4:8, Is. 6:2-3
- F. Each tribe was to see the Tabernacle as the center and life source of Israel's existence.
1. In the encampment the Tabernacle was to be in the center and the focus of their life, a nation dependent and encamped around their God. 1:53
  2. In the journeying the Tabernacle was also to be at the center during the march, the Tabernacle was between six tribes, three in front and three behind followed by the sacred ark and the furnishings between six tribes in front and six behind. 10:14-28

3. In their journey the Lord led them by a cloud as a signal to brake camp or to make camp, whatever duration the Lord might desire. 9:15-23

### **Illustration**

That young man who enlisted in the military must first learn to walk in formation and under the commands of those in authority over him to understand the benefit of unity and oneness.

### **Application**

1. God in His wisdom has prepared and appointed each of us to a specific location in the church in two ways.
  - a. To a specific local church as a member of that body and not just going to a different church each Sunday and saying that the Holy Spirit leads me that way. Heb. 10:24-25
  - b. To a specific part in the body of the church be it an eye , hand, foot or ear. 1Cor. 12:12
2. God has placed each member of the body as it has pleased Him for two reasons.
  - a. For coordinating unity. 1Cor. 12:13-20
  - b. For competent efficiency of the whole body. Eph. 4:16
3. God places each member in relationship to the other members by the principle of authority and submission without any thought of inferiority or lording over one another but for the purpose of serving one another. 1Cor. 12:20-27
  - a. We are inter-dependent, *we need one another!*
  - b. We are inter-related, *we affect one another!*
4. God is to be seen as the center, source and life of the church as each member looks to Him as the head of the church and the author and finisher of his faith. Eph. 5:24, Heb. 12:2

### **III. The preparation For Working.**

- A. The work of the Levites was divided among three families.
1. The family of Gershon. 3:18
  2. The family of Kohath. 3:19
  3. The family of Meari. 3:20-21
- B. The work of the Levites was three-fold.
1. To serve Aaron the high Priest and his sons the priests. 3:3, 5-6,9-10
  2. To serve the needs of the whole congregation before the Tabernacle. 3:7a
  3. To do the work of the Tabernacle. 3:7b
- C. The work of the Levites was imperative and evident by their location immediately around the Tabernacle.
1. The tribe of Gershon on the west behind the Tabernacle. 3:23
    - a. The leader was Eliasaph the son of Lael. 3:24
    - b. Their duties included the Tabernacle of meeting and the covering etc. 3:25-27
    - c. The manner of the work a specified. 4:24-26
    - d. The supervisor was Ithamar. 4:28
  2. The tribe of Kohath on the south side. 3:29
    - a. The leader was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. 3:30
    - b. Their duties included the furnishings. 3:21
    - c. The manner of the work is specified. 4:4-15  
\* Aaron and his sons first covered everything, lest they die. 4:15c-d, 20
  3. The tribe of Merari on the north side. 3:35
    - a. The leader was Zurriel the son of Abihail. 3:35a
    - b. Their duties include the boards of the Tabernacle, pillars etc. 3:36-37

- c. The manner of the work was specified. 4:31-32
- d. The supervisor was Ithamar. 4:33c
- 4 The man Moses and Aaron with his sons on the east side, before the Tabernacle gate. 3:38
  - a. To keep the charge of the Sanctuary.
  - b. To meet the need of the children of Israel.
5. The age of service was specific.
  - a. At age 25 to 30 one was an apprentice. 8:24
  - b. At age 30 one entered the full service. 4:3
  - c. At age 50 one would retire from service. 8:25

### **Illustration**

Once that young man understands the importance of walking in unity and co-operation he can be efficient in the work he will be part of to enhance the entire battalion or squad.

### **Application**

1. God has prepared the church for the work of ministry by providing certain men as a gift to the church to prepare and equip the saints like the Levites to Israel. Eph. 4:11
  - a. He gave some to be apostles.
  - b. He gave some to be prophets.
  - c. He gave some to be evangelists.
  - d. He gave some to be pastor-teachers.
2. God has prepared the work of the church with purpose in mind. Eph. 4:12-16
  - a. For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. vs. 12
  - b. For the maturity of each believer to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. vs.13
  - c. For the protection of the young believer not to be tossed to and fro with very wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, which lie in wait to deceive, but rather speaking the truth in love for their growth in Christ. vs. 14-15

**d.** For the full efficiency of every member complimenting each other and supplementing the efficiency of the entire body, causing growth and edification in love. vs. 16

**3.** God has prepared each individual for the work not only by designating a place in the body but by distributing gifts to every individual, no one is without one gift for the benefit of the body through grace and in accord to the measure of faith and gift given by God. Rom. 12:3-8, 1Pet. 4:10

**a.** There are diversity of gifts, differences of ministries and diversities of activities but it is the same Spirit, same Lord and same God that works in and through all. Rom. 12:4-7

**b.** The distribution is by God's sovereign will. Rom. 12:8-11

### **Conclusion.**

God has prepare each of us in these three way for His purpose and glory, won't you obey Him and see what He can do?

**I** The preparation for warring.

\* Failure to prepare for the warring will hinder my walk!

**I.** The preparation for walking.

\* Failure to prepare for walking will hinder my work for God.

**III.** The preparation for working.

\* Failure to prepare for working will hinder my efficiency for the church!