

BOOK OF NUMBERS

Lesson 2: Setting Up Camp

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Introduction to the Journey

Purpose and goal of the journey

- For God to put His glory on display for His people – for them to know Him in His glory
- For God to be glorified through His people by our praise and worship
- For God to lift us up as His glorious people and bring us into the glorious Land

The intent of the journey is the experience of glory.

It is a journey of **sanctification**, moving us forward into **glorification**. **Glorification** is the end goal.

Keeping perspective on the journey:

- What does a glorious God look like
- How does He reckon His own glory
- How do we give glory to God
- How do we take glory from God
- What does our own glorification look like
- What is God's definition of glorious life

The purpose of this class is to learn from the example of the children of Israel what are the pitfalls and obstacles along the journey that get us off track and keep us from fully realizing God's glory in our lives.

The Relationship Model, Numbers 1-10

- The main purpose of the Law is to teach a relationship with God through Christ
- The Law sets up physical relationships between people, places, and things to teach aspects of the spiritual relationship
- These physical relationships need a physical environment to work in.
 - God creates an environment
 - He places Himself in the environment
 - He places His people into that environment
 - The people move in that environment relative to where He is. Their physical place reflects a spiritual relationship that is either closer to Him or farther away from Him.
 - He gives them different roles, authority levels, and boundaries which create additional relationships between each other.

The environment for this journey is going to be an **army encampment**. (Numbers 1-10)

To define the environment, look for the “who” “what” “when” and “where” info in these chapters:

When – where we are in the time line, what time of year, what seasonal events have happened, what anniversaries of events

Who the different people groups and characters are within the camp

Where they are placed in camp, where their boundaries are

What rules govern the relationships in the camp

Where We Are in the Timeline

Read Numbers 1:1 and 10:11-12

The **1st day** of the **2nd month**, the **2nd year** out of Egypt
The **20th day** of the **2nd month**, the **2nd year** out of Egypt.

- One year of separation from Egypt
- One year of early lessons as a child of God
- One year learning the Law
- Celebrated one anniversary of the Passover

Second Passover

Celebrated on the 14th of this month for those who missed it in the first month (Numbers 9).

- Numbers 9 is the only place in the Bible where the second Passover is mentioned – significant to the spiritual journey
- Every person entering into this part of the physical journey must begin with celebrating the Passover (foreshadowing Christ's death)
- Everyone who begins this spiritual journey must have first identified themselves with Christ's death
- Everyone entering this journey enters as a believer. Salvation has already been accomplished before this journey begins. Salvation is not an issue on this journey.
- This leg of the journey is about sanctification.

Five basic steps to organizing an army:

1. **Roll Call** (Chapters 1-3, 8) Identify your people, commission them, establish their roles and leadership levels
2. **Assign places** (Chapters 2 & 3) including their boundaries
3. **Assign housekeeping duties** (Chapters 3 & 4)
Each time they move, the Levites will be in charge of taking down and putting up the Tabernacle headquarters
4. **Camp rules** (Chapters 5 & 6) – a series of laws that govern relationships
5. **Camp communications** (Chapters 9 & 10): The cloud and the fire; the trumpet sound
 - So long as we are camped, the cloud will rest over the Tabernacle.
 - When the cloud lifts up from the Tabernacle and take its position the air, we will wait for a trumpet sound.
 - If one trumpet sounds, that is for calling the leaders to the Tabernacle. If two trumpets sound, that is for us.
 - When we hear the second trumpet sound, that is our signal to rise and go.
 - God teaches us to listen for the final trumpet sound
 - A shadow of the **Rapture**

Roll Call: “Who” we are

A new identity

- This identity is going to be anchored to God’s identity. During this journey, the only thing permanent in our lives – the only thing that will never change – is God.
- This identity will not be based on our physical works or physical roles.
- This identity will not be rooted in a physical place but a relational place
- Gives us a new sense of personal value
- Gives us a new sense of personal purpose
- Gives us the ability to make personal choices.

How does God establish identity? Numbers 1:2-4, 17-19

- Strong focus on identifying people by name. Names are important in Numbers:
 - Chapters 1-2: Names of the leaders of the tribes
 - Chapter 3: Names of the leaders of the Levites
 - Chapter 7: Offerings of the leaders by name – every individual who glorifies God gets personally acknowledged in return.
 - Chapter 13: Names of the spies
- (v2) Calls us by families and fathers’ houses
- (v2) Calls us individually
- (v3) Calls us His army (identity tied to a purpose)
- (v4) Establishes a circle of leadership in relationship to Moses and Aaron (“with you shall be...”)

“Lift the heads” of the children of Israel

Benefits of being a free man:

- You can go where you want, do what you want.
- You have the ability to make independent choices
- You are no longer an anonymous part of “the herd.”
 - Able to withstand peer pressure
 - Able to avoid destructive group behaviors –the madness of mobs.
- Individuals have power to intercede on behalf of others.

Pitfalls of being a free man:

- Become self-centered - Inflated ego, ambitious
- You begin to demand glory for yourself, to take glory for yourself and forget to give glory to the Lord.
- One individual can be the undoing of the entire group
- A nation of “individuals” all exercising their own choices can be a handful to lead.

What is needed to keep our balance?

- Healthy respect for God as our King
- Responsibility and accountability
- Self-control
- Focused on others
- Understanding our place, respecting boundaries

Census #1 = 625,550
Men of war
 (20 years old and up)

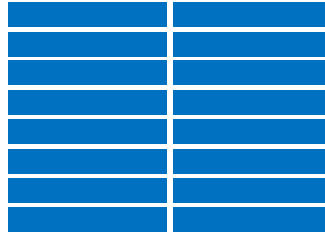
Armies of the North

157,600

Dan
62,700

Naphtali
53,400

Asher
41,500



Benjamin
35,400

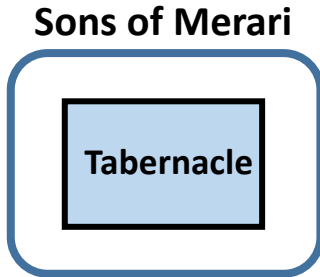
Judah
74,600

Armies of the West
108,100

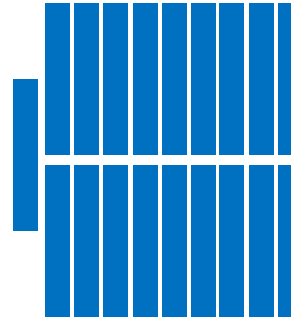
Manasseh
32,200



Sons of Gershon



Sons of Aaron



Armies of the East
186,400

Issachar
54,400

Ephraim
40,500

Zebulun
57,400

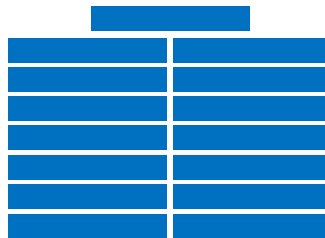
Gad
45,650

Simeon
59,300

Reuben
46,500

Armies of the South

151,450

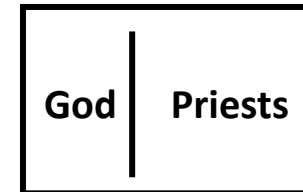


Boundaries

Veil between God and Priesthood

- Within the Tabernacle, there is a curtain that hangs between God and the priesthood – curtain has a gap in it
- The veil bridges that gap – it is a type of something that stands in the gap
- The veil is a physical barrier, but it will have a human counterpart.

Later on in this journey, the Lord is going to present us with a picture of a man who stands in the gap, and that man is going to be associated with this veil – the High Priest



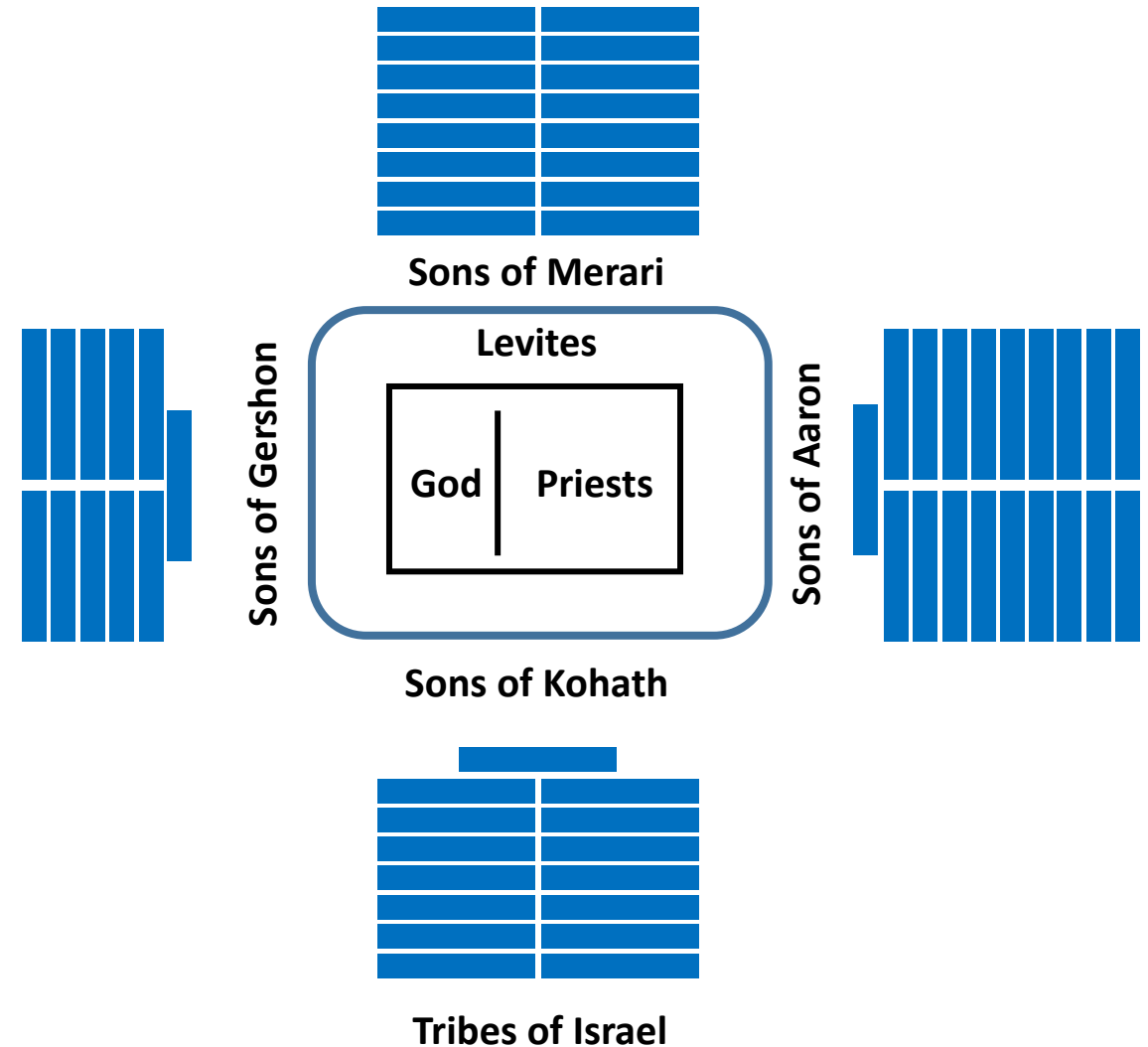
Boundaries

Tent walls between Priesthood and Levites

- The sons of Aaron could go into the Tabernacle, but the Levites served outside the Tabernacle.
- When the camp prepares to move, the priests are responsible for veiling the holy things for the journey
- These are a physical boundary while we are camped, but that disappears during our walk.
- The physical boundary is replaced by a people boundary – it is the responsibility of the priests and Kohathites to keep the holy things of the Tabernacle from being approached by outsiders

Courtyard fence between Israel & Tabernacle

- Separates the Tabernacle from the armies of Israel
- Domain of the Levites
- Physical fence and a people fence



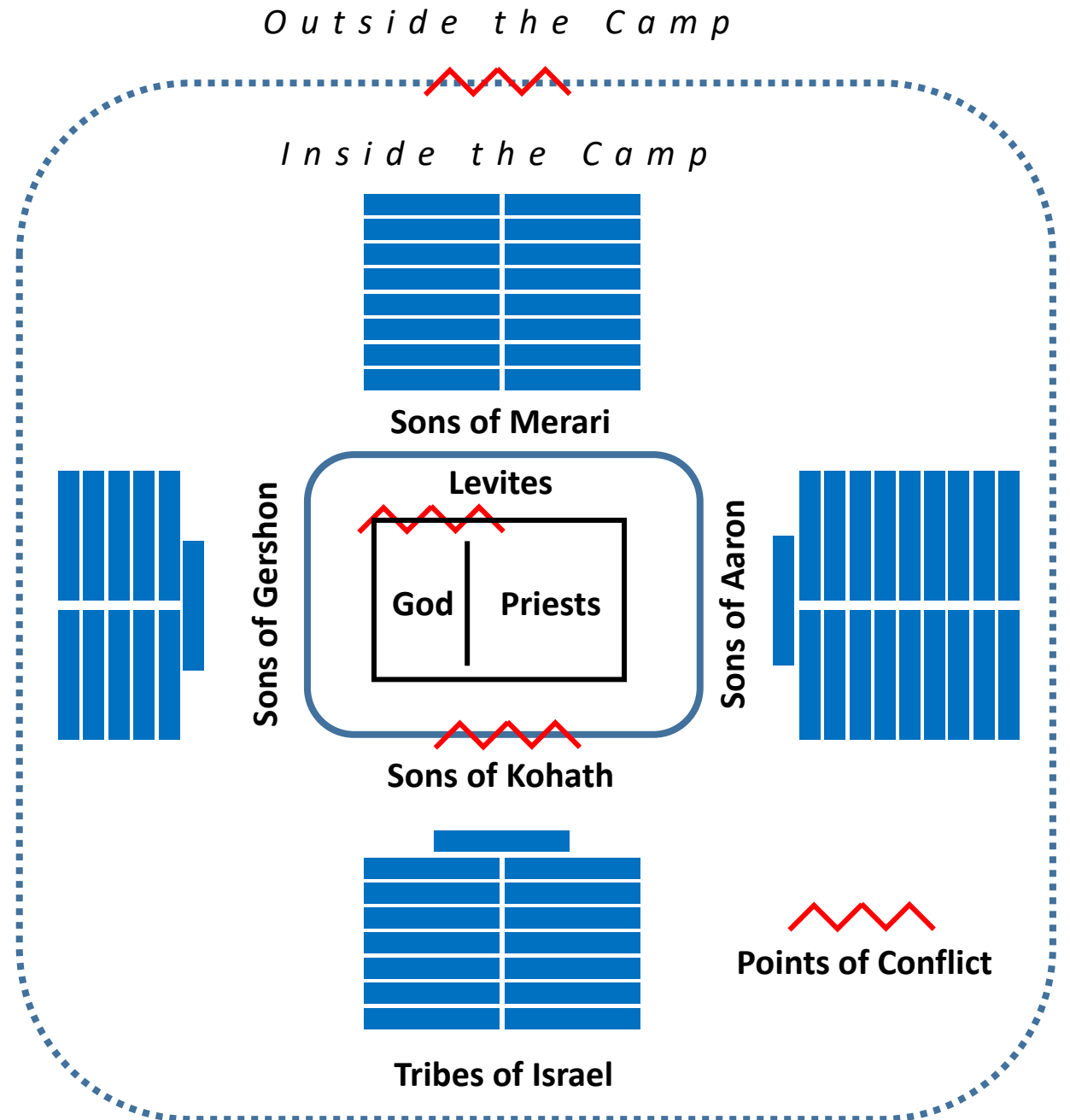
Boundaries

Inside/outside the camp. Read Numbers 5:1-4

- Separates Israel from “outsiders”
 - Unclean people – Lepers (living dead), those defiled by a corpse, and those with a discharge
 - Strangers (the “mixed multitude”) and Gentiles – if you are not married into a tribe, you have no assigned place in camp
- No physical boundary - only a people boundary. This a very fluid boundary and it has to be kept purely by restraint of individual relationships.

Wherever you have boundaries, you have changes of status and relationship.

Wherever you have boundaries, you have points of conflict.



Camp Rules, Chapters 5-6

Camp Rule #1: What gets you put out of camp Numbers 5:1-4

Camp Rule #2: Accountability 1-2-3

- Level 1: Accountability between one another
Numbers 5:5-10:
- Level 2: Accountability between husbands and wives
(Law for Unfaithful Wives) **Numbers 5:11-31**
- Level 3: Accountability between the individual and God
(Law of the Nazirite Vow) **Numbers 6:1-21**

Camp Rule #3: The Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Camp Rule #1: What gets you put out of camp Numbers 5:1-4

Uncleanness & death

- Lepers (living dead)
- Those defiled by a corpse
- Those with a discharge

Consequences:

- Out of the congregation
- Out of worship and fellowship
- Away from God

Principles:

- At some point everyone ends up outside the camp in this journey.
- Everyone falls under the defilement of death.
- You cannot make yourself clean by your own effort.
- You need another's intervention to be restored.
- A priest must come outside the camp to you because you cannot go in.

Death and defilement by the dead is going to happen as a result of unfaithfulness to God

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Camp Rule #3: The Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Camp Rule #2-1

Accountability between one another **Numbers 5:5-7**

What is the sin? (v6)

Unfaithfulness to the Lord

How do we make things right again? (v7)

Confession and restitution.

Who do we make restitution to? (v7)

The one who has been wronged.

Who has been wronged? (v8)

A brother

Principles:

- There is a direct connection between our relationship with others and with God.
- Sin against others = unfaithfulness to God. You cannot love God apart from loving your neighbor.
(1 John 4:20)
- Unfaithfulness always costs something

Camp Rules, Chapters 5-6

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Camp Rule #3: The Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Camp Rule #2-2 Accountability between husband and wife (Law for Unfaithful Wives) **Numbers 5:11-31**

God identifies Himself with a jealous husband
(Exodus 20:4-5, Exodus 34:14)

Principles:

- Jealousy is only attributed to the man because this is a picture of God to His people/Christ to the Church. God is never unfaithful. The failing is only on the bride's part
- Only the Spirit and the water bear witness of the wife's faithfulness or unfaithfulness (1 John 5:7-8)
- A guilty wife is not put away or put to death. The punishment for unfaithfulness is unfruitfulness
- If faithfulness is in question it will be tested by a trial by ordeal.

Camp Rules, Chapters 5-6

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Camp Rule #3: The Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Camp Rule #2-3 Accountability between individual and God (Law of the Nazirite Vow) **Numbers 6:1-21**

Purpose: separate yourself to the Lord (v2)

Conditions of this vow:

- Separate himself from wine and grape products (v3-4).
- Not shave his head (v5)
- Not be defiled by death (v6-12)

Death is a form of separation from God, but it is a separation caused by sin. A Nazirite's separation has to be apart from sin – he is to be holy and undefiled. If defilement by death occurs, he has to start over.

Principles:

- An exercise in self-control
- An exercise in separating ourselves from material things
- A way of rooting ourselves in our identity with God
- Abstinence is a choice.

Camp Rules, Chapters 5-6

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Camp Rule #3: The Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Camp Rule #3 Priestly Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

- Given by the priesthood when the people are assembled
- Phrases expressed in the singular form – understood as an individual blessing, not a group blessing
- Phrase 1: “God bless you” – reminder of first blessing in Genesis to be fruitful
- Phrase 2: God’s light and His grace
- Phrase 3: God’s peace – shalom – harmony and oneness between God, ourselves and our community

Why is this blessing necessary?

- God’s way of rooting us in our identity with Him
“...you shall put My name on them...”
- It is a way of lifting us up and reaffirming who He is to us, His love for us, His ongoing commitment to us.
- A call for the priesthood to love the people

Next Week: Chapters 10:33 – Chapter 11

Departure from Sinai

Taberah

Kibroth Hatta'avah