

Numbers 1-4 –15 October 2020

“Preparing For The Promised Victory”

Introduction

*2nd half of Exodus & Leviticus – God establishes Israel’s identity w/ the Law and Tabernacle

*All within the first year of leaving Egypt

*Book of Numbers covers the remaining 39 years until Israel finally arrive in the Promised Land

*Remember God’s promise to Abraham (Give you a nation, a Messiah and a land)

*Now that Israel’s identity is established, by the Law & Tabernacle, God shifts the focus to preparing them for victory in the land He promised them

*A land w/ cities they didn’t build & fields they didn’t plant (what grace of God!)

*As Israel, we need to move in and take the promises of God in our lives

*Are you living in defeat & shame before God?

Here are 4 things we need to believe that will prepare us for God's promised victory, as seen thru Israel's preparation

1st belief that prepares us for victory – We have the physical resources needed to go to war (Chap 1)

Read Chap 1:1-16

1. God commands a census of all Israel, why?
2. Vs 3 – For military means, to declare their physical posture
3. We should take inventory of the physical resources God has given us for this life's warfare
 - a. Whatever physical resources we've been blessed with, we should look to use for God.
 - i. Strength, intellect, charisma, money
4. There's a war to be fought – knowing our tools will enable us to be effective.

Chap 1:17-43 (Read Vs 17-21)

1. Some smaller (Manasseh – 32,200) & some larger (Judah – 74,600)
2. Keeps repeating “20 & older, able to go to war”
 - a. This emphasizes that they’re a job ahead.
 - b. God has promised, but they need to work out their own salvation w/ fear & trembling

Read Chap 1:44-46

1. Estimated 2-3 million people all together
2. Total without counting tribe of Levi is 603,550
 - a. These are those ready for war, 20 and older
 - b. Levi is not appointed to physical warfare

Read Chap 1:47-54

1. All these Levitical characteristics will be unpacked in the following 3 chapters.
 - a. Their ministering in the Tabernacle
 - b. Their encampment around the Tabernacle
 - c. Their marching in the middle of the people

Application

1. 1st city God will give them in the Promised Land is Jericho (Jos 6)
 - a. Read Jos 6:1-3 & 7 – “all ye men of war”
2. Know your capabilities, know your kid’s capabilities, utilize our resources

2nd belief that prepares us for victory – We’ve identified w/ victorious God of the cross (Chap 2)

Read Chap 2:1-9

1. This is the 3 tribes that camped east of the Tabernacle (Judah, Issachar, Zebulun)
2. They total 186,400
3. Vs 9 – “These shall first set forth” when travelling (Judah is first, meaning Praise)
 - a. Praise God for our relationship with Him

Chap 2:10-16

1. This is the 3 tribes that camped south of the Tabernacle (Reuben, Simeon, Gad)
2. They total 151,450

Read Chap 2:17

1. Marching; east then south tribes, then Tabernacle
2. Followed by west & north tribes

Chap 2:18-24

1. This is the 3 tribes that camped west of the Tabernacle (Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin)
2. They total 108,100

Chap 2:25-31

1. This is the 3 tribes that camped north of the Tabernacle (Dan, Asher, Naphtali)
2. They total 157,600

Read 2:32-34

1. So it was assigned where to pitch their camp

Application

1. What do all these numbers and positioning have to do w/ our victorious God of the cross?
2. When encamping around the Tabernacle, Israel was positioned in a cross!
3. Balaam was being paid to curse Israel (Turn to Num 24:2-5)
 - a. Can't help but declare how good it is!
4. Their ID had to be established for all to see
 - a. Their encampment is an outward sign to the world of the inward working of the Law
 - b. They belong to someone, they're not on their own
5. As Joshua was leading Israel to that 1st battle in Promised Land against Jericho, he saw the angel
 - a. Turn to Jos 5:13-15
 - b. It's only b/c they're in Christ that they can have any success
 - c. Only b/c they're on God's side, they can win

3rd belief that prepares us for victory – We're a people who live by substitution & redemption (Chap 3)

Read 3:1-13

1. Levites taken for tabernacle service in place of the firstborn from each family
2. There are always parts of our life that naturally belong to the Lord.
 - a. First of all money, tithes are referred to as “the Lord’s”
 - b. First of all people & animals are the Lord’s
3. The Lord now substitutes the tribe of Levi in the place of the firstborn of each family

Chap 3:14-20 (Read Vs 14-17)

1. So we break down the sons of Levi into the 3 families of Gershon, Kohath and Merari
2. This will be important as we now will break down their position encamping around the Tabernacle and their duties.

Read 3:21-26

1. This describes Gershon's # (7,500), position (west of Tabernacle) and duties (software)
2. Why Levites around Tabernacle (Read Num 1:53)

Chap 3:27-32

1. This describes Kohath's # (8,600), position (south of Tabernacle) and duties (furniture)

Chap 3:33-37

1. This describes Merari's # (6,200), position (north of Tabernacle) and duties (hardware)

Read Chap 3:38

1. Only the sons of Aaron, the priests, who were descendants of Levi and Gershon were on the east

Read Chap 3:39

1. 22,000 is the total Levites that weren't firstborn
 - a. Adding up the 3 son's numbers from vs 22, 28 & 34 equals 22,300

- b. The other 300 Levites are firstborn
2. Purpose: to replace the firstborn from all tribes

Read Chap 3:40-45

1. So all firstborn in Israel are 22,273
2. They're to be substituted with the Levites
 - a. But there are on 22,000 Levites

Read Chap 3:46-51

1. The remaining 273 firstborn of Israel were redeemed with money back to their family

Application

1. The principle of substitution & redemption is ALL THRU the Bible, it's a part of us.
2. Abraham was told to offer Isaac, but the substitute of a ram caught in the thicket came
3. We don't seek justice, but mercy & grace
4. In that story of the 1st conquest of the Promised Land, there is redemption of Rahab & her family
5. Be people looking to give grace & redemption

4th belief that prepares us for victory – We have the spiritual resources needed to go to war (Chap 4)

Read Chap 4:1-3

1. This chap gives us the duties and population of the Levities that are of service age (30-50 yrs old)
2. Many aspects of Israel were dedicated to just the spiritual work as with the Levities
 - a. One day per week
 - b. One tribe of 12
 - c. One year of seven
 - d. 7 Feasts per year
3. Vs 3 – “All that enter into the host”
 - a. The host is the same as the army
 - b. Chap 1:3 – “Number them by their armies”
4. Levities service/work IS THEIR WARFARE
 - a. “We wrestle not against flesh & blood...”

Chap 4:4-20 (Read Vs 4-7)

1. Kohathites has the furniture duty

Chap 4:21-28

1. Gershonites has the software duty

Chap 4:29-33

1. Merari has the hardware duty

Read Chap 4:34-37

1. There are 2,750 service age Kohathites

Chap 4:38-41

1. There are 2,630 service age Gershonites

Chap 4:42-45

1. There are 3,200 service age Merarites

Read Chap 4:46-49

1. Total service age Levites is 8,580

Application

1. God has given Israel and us the spiritual resources we need to gain the victory.
2. Jericho: Priests to blow the trumpets (by faith)

Conclusion

Since God has entered into relationship w/ Israel, He now shifts His focus to preparing them to victoriously take His promises.

But they can only take victory BY FAITH

- 1. Do you believe you have the physical resources to go to war?**
 - a. God has given us money, talent and physical skills to serve Him victoriously
- 2. Do you identify with the victorious God of the cross?**
 - a. We carry the Lord everywhere we go
 - b. Praise God for our relationship with Him
- 3. Do you believe we should live by substitution & redemption?**
 - a. Are you looking for Justice or mercy/grace
- 4. Do you believe you have the spiritual resources to go to war?**
 - a. Faith in God is the victory, not our strength