

in this world.” And the questions for each of are, Will I trust God to bring about all that he has promised and to take care of me while I wait to inherit it? Will I spend my life learning all that God wants to teach me about his provision, his holiness, and his ways here in the wilderness of this world, knowing that he is preparing me for life in his presence? Or will I spend these years called “my lifetime” simply seeking satisfaction for my cravings, grumbling, and complaining when I do not get everything he has promised here and now?”ⁱⁱⁱ

Outline of Numbers^{iv}

- I. **Preparation to Battle for the Promised Land** (1:1–10:36)
 - A. Israel numbered and ordered (first census) (1:1–2:34)
 - B. Priests numbered and ordered (3:1–4:49)
 - C. Consecration of Israel’s camp (5:1–6:27)
 - D. Consecration of the tabernacle and priesthood (7:1–8:26)
 - E. Setting out for the land, led by the Lord’s presence (9:1–10:36)
- II. **Journeying to the Promised Land** (11:1–25:18)
 - A. Complaining (11:1–12:16)
 - B. Israel rejects the Promised Land (13:1–14:45)
 - C. Laws for the land: offerings and forgiveness (15:1–41)
 - D. Korah’s rebellion, Aaron’s priesthood confirmed (16:1–17:13)
 - E. The priests’ duties (18:1–19:22)
 - F. Journeying towards Canaan again (20:1–21:35)
 - G. Balaam’s oracles (22:1–24:25)
 - H. Israel seduced by Moab (25:1–18)
- III. **Focused on the Inheritance** (26:1–36:13)
 - A. Israel numbered (second census); dividing the land (26:1–27:23)
 - B. Offerings and vows (28:1–30:16)
 - C. Vengeance on Midian and Transjordan inheritance (31:1–32:42)
 - D. Summary of the journey (33:1–49)
 - E. Commandments for the inheritance (33:50–36:13)

ⁱ Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). *New Bible commentary* (4th ed., p. 170). Inter-Varsity Press.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 168).

ⁱⁱⁱ Guthrie, Nancy (2012-08-31). The Lamb of God (A 10-week Bible Study): Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (pp. 222-223). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

^{iv} My outline relies heavily on the outline I found in the *New Bible commentary*. Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). Inter-Varsity Press.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

Getting Ready to Fight for the Promised Land: Part 1, God With Us –

Numbers 1:1–10:36

Sermon Outline – April 12, 2015

Children’s Sermon/Introduction

Genesis 28:15 (Promise to Jacob)

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

❖ Does Jacob Trust this Promise?

Genesis 28:14a

Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south...

❖ Should Israel Trust this Promise and Obey God?

Genesis 28:14b

...and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

❖ Should we Trust and Obey God?

Follow-up...

Leviticus shows us the way to be **clean** and **holy** so that we can draw near to God.

Numbers teaches us to **trust** and **obey** the God who has rescued us as we journey to the Promised Land.

God With Us...on Our Wilderness Journey

BIG PICTURE: BETWEEN THE PROMISES

ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB: **PROMISES** – CREATE, RESCUE, BLESS ... BE A BLESSING

EXODUS-LEVITICUS: **ALREADY** – CREATE, RESCUE ...

IN THE WILDERNESS: **NOT YET** – THE PROMISED LAND ... JESUS (*We are facing the same tension*)

JOHN 5:46

IF YOU BELIEVED MOSES, YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME, FOR HE WROTE OF ME.

Three Broad Sections in Numbers

(See More Detailed outline on page 4)

Numbers 1:1–3

[And] the Lord spoke to Moses *in the wilderness* of Sinai...

- 1st Generation: Getting Ready to Fight (1:1–10:36)
2. Rebel, Wander, Die & Mercy (11:1–25:18)
3. 2nd Generation: Trust & Obey...? (26:1–36:13)

Getting Ready to Fight for the Promised Land

(Numbered & Ordered; 1–4)

Numbered (1st Census) What is a Census for? (War, Taxes...Belonging)

Key Idea:

God has been faithful... God will be faithful in the war ahead!

God has been faithful...

Numbers 2:32b–33

...**All those listed in the camps** by their companies were 603,550.³³ But the Levites were not listed among the people of Israel...

God will be faithful in the coming war!

Numbers 1:2–3

“**Take a census** of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, *every male, head by head*.³ *From twenty years old and upward*, all in Israel who are **able to go to war**...

Numbered for War

“Entry into Canaan was the privilege; but as each man was counted and crossed the line, he knew that he was becoming a soldier (Ex. 23:20–33).”ⁱ

1. God Has Created & Rescued Israel
2. God Can be Trusted to Lead them into Battle...
3. Everyone Had to Stand Up and be Counted

“Similarly, the responsibility to be spiritual soldiers is laid upon the NT church (Eph. 6:10–17; 1 Tim. 6:12; Heb. 4:11). No member is exempt from this duty. The way to the kingdom is narrow and difficult (Mt. 7:14).”ⁱ

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, **we are not waging war according to the flesh**.⁴ For **the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh** but **have divine power to destroy strongholds**.⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ... (**Our Fight is with the World, Flesh & Devil**)

(**The Devil** – Cf. Ephesians 6:12)

1 John 2:16–17

...**all that is in the world**—*the desires of the flesh* and *the desires of the eyes* and *pride of life*—is **not from the Father** but **is from the world**.¹⁷

And the world is passing away along with its desires, *but whoever does the will of God abides forever*.

1 Peter 1:13–19 (Trust & Obey Intertwined)

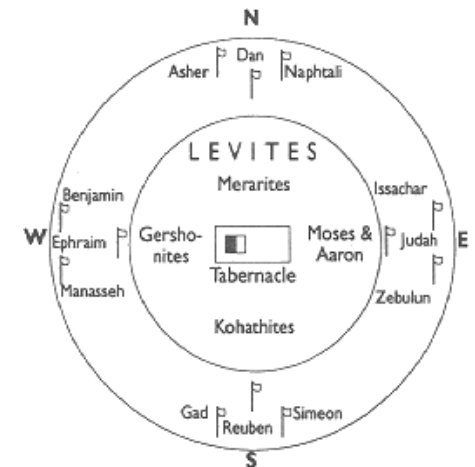
Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you** at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ...**conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile**,¹⁸ knowing that **you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers**...

Ordered: God Centered

Key Idea:

God is with Us.

“...the preparation moves towards its climax. As Israel left Sinai for Canaan, Moses summed up the situation: ‘**Rise up, O Lord!** May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you.... **Return, O Lord,** to the countless thousands of Israel.’ (10:35–36)”ⁱⁱ [Bold mine]



On the March (Numbers 10:33–36)



This is for Us... (Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11)

Key Point:

Jesus *has* redeemed us and Jesus *is* with us for our fight

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. (1 Pet. 1:3–4) This promise ought to be the most important thing in life to us. God has brought us out of slavery to sin and promised us abundance and rest in his promised land. But here we are, in this in-between time, wandering through the wilderness we call “life