

Beloved sisters and brethren

This volume is about Israel, God's chosen race rescued from slavery by divine power but that with deep significance in the means of eternal salvation through the Lamb of God.

In the first chapter of Numbers a census of the nation was taken but only the males of twenty years and above that were able to go to war. No upper age limit was given so that would depend on the individual at the time. Leaders/heads of each tribe were chosen by Yahweh Himself and each one described as renowned, or well known, for some reason or other in the eyes of man. Thus they would be well respected; moreover that they had earned their position as a leader.

V3 Commences with the order in which the tribes marched and settled and the number of fighting men to each tribe.

The Levites were not numbered as their tasks related to the Tabernacle and the service to God for all the people and the priests were over them in that work.

In coming to the second chapter are instructions on how to arrange their tents and here most strikingly is shown that the TABERNACLE is at the center of the camp. Nothing like this has happened in all the world as far as we know. But the situation here was unique-they were sojourners and pilgrims in the earth, and God was to be in their presence to bring them safely to The Promised Land. This was to be a moving caravan from slavery to the Promised Land of the race/family of people that God had chosen and The Tabernacle of God was to be in the center. **In the order in which they settled so they marched**, thus there was to no disturbance –rising marching and settling was to be with minimum upset

Num 2:2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the

tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch. Thus each and everyone recognised the authority of the father of their tribe and in worship and in battle, each was alongside his brother. This surely would reinforce their determination to win in the battle.

In being far off from the Tabernacle the holiness of God was always recognised and The Levites had sole charge of the Tabernacle in setting it up, taking it down and preparing and carrying it according to their families.

We do not know of the space roundabout the Tabernacle but there is this later when they crossed Jordan:

Jos 3:4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. This was over 100 yards. In that space on the east where Moses, Aaron and his sons, north Merarites, west Gershonites and south Kohathites.

Judah Issachar and Zebulun were to lead and their position was to the East but Judah was to set off first, The east, the sun's rising see *Rev 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

In total the number eligible for war was 603,550 and as they marched the Tabernacle was in the midst. Thus God was with them in all their journey to the Promised Land

Num 2:34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.

And so we see God's intention that Israel should be His Family in unity and peace

The wonder of this organization was remarked upon when they came to the land of the Moabites and Balak calls upon Balaam to curse the Israelites and Balak king of Moab said [Num 22:11](#) *Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, **which covereth the face of the earth**:* And he sought Balaam to curse them but was forbidden by God and instead [Num 23:7-9](#) *And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations and much more but then:*

[Num 24:5-9](#) *How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.*

But those chapters are for later as we wait for The Lord.

How wonderful to be able to study the word of God

Love to all in our most holy fellowship

Brother Ken