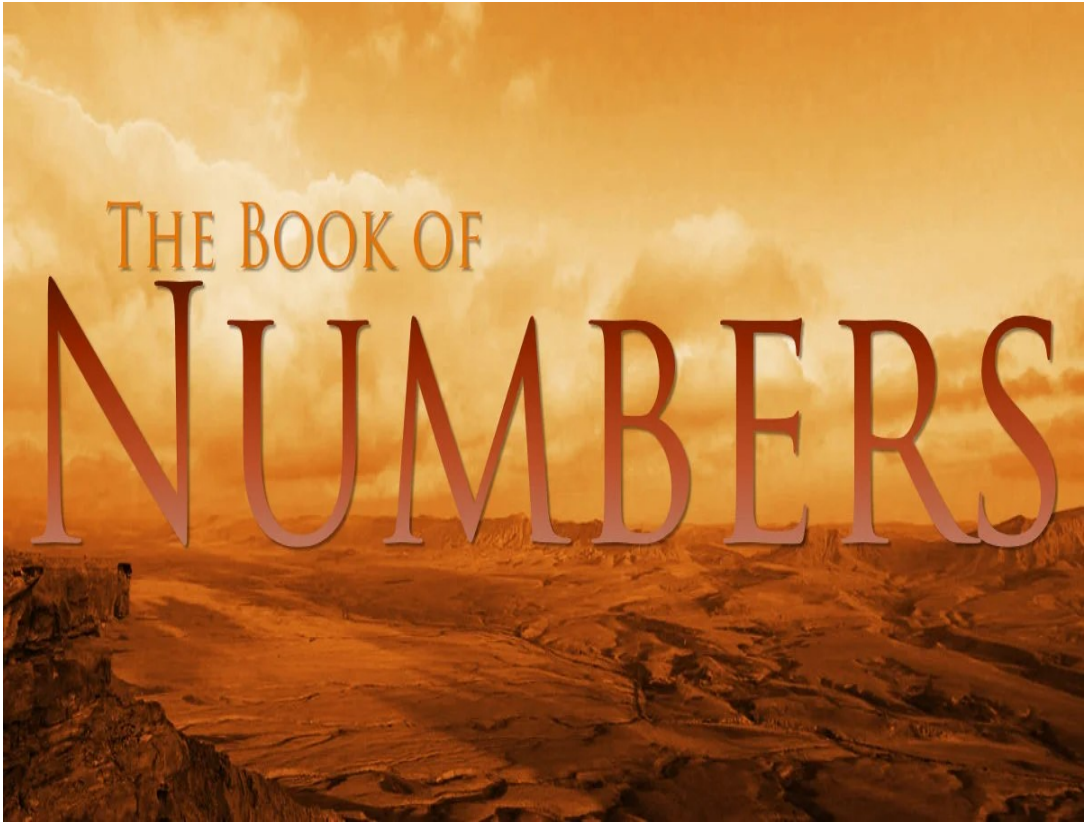


Let's Worship God

12th-17th June 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 1:1-16 - God Keeps His Promises

We are now going to study the book of Numbers using commentary by Matthew Henry that has been edited for brevity and clarity. This book is called Numbers because of the numbers of the children of Israel, so often mentioned in this book, and because it is the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham that his seed will be as the stars of the sky. It also relates to two numberings of Israel, one at mount Sinai (ch. 1), the other in the plains of Moab, thirty-nine years later (ch. 26).

Why does God order Moses to number the people? For several reasons. First, to prove the accomplishment of the promise made to Abraham, that God will multiply his seed exceedingly, which promise is renewed to Jacob (Gen. 28:14), that his seed will be as the dust of the earth. Now it can be seen that not one part of that promise failed, which is an encouragement to them to hope that the other promise of the land of Canaan for an inheritance will also be fulfilled in its season. Secondly, it shows the particular care which God Himself takes of His Israel, and which Moses and the rulers are expected to take of them. God is called the Shepherd of Israel. Now the shepherds always keep count of their flocks, and deliver them by number to their under-shepherds, that they might know if any are missing; and so God numbers his flock, that of all which He takes into His fold He might lose none. Thirdly, it is to put a difference between the true born Israelites and the mixed multitude that are among them; none are numbered but Israelites. The Lord knows those that are His, knows them by name. Finally, it is in order to organise them into several districts, for the easier administration of justice and their more orderly march through the wilderness.

Question

1. What promise did God make to Abraham?
2. What did this numbering of the Israelites show?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God keeps His promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Numbers 1:17-43 - Jacob's Blessings Fulfilled

We have here the speedy execution of the orders given for the numbering of the people. It is begun the same day that the orders are given. When any work is to be done for God, it is good to get started on it quickly.

They are numbered by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers. In this way every man might know who are his relations or next of kin, on which some laws depend. Notice that Judah is the most numerous of them all, more than double Benjamin and Manasseh, and almost 12,000 more than any other tribe. It is Judah from whom the Messiah will come, and God does, in many ways, honour this tribe. Judah is to lead the nation through the wilderness, and therefore has greater strength than any other tribe. Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, are numbered as distinct tribes, and both together make up almost as many as Judah; this goes along with Jacob's adoption of them, by which they are equalled with their uncles Reuben and Simeon (Gen. 48:5). It is also the effect of the blessing of Joseph, who is to be a fruitful bough (Gen. 49:22). And Ephraim the younger is put first, and is more numerous than Manasseh, for Jacob had crossed hands, and foreseen ten thousands of Ephraim and thousands of Manasseh. When they came down into Egypt Dan had but one son (Gen. 46:23), and so his tribe is just one family. Benjamin had then ten sons (Gen. 46:21), yet now the tribe of Dan is almost double in number to that of Benjamin.

It is said of each of the tribes that those are numbered who are able to go forth to war, to remind them that they have wars before them, though at the minute things are peaceful.

Questions

1. Who is the biggest tribe?
2. How was Jacob's blessing upon his sons fulfilled?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would remember that you are fighting in a spiritual war.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 98 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 1:44-46 - The Total Number

We have here the sum total; they are in all 603,550 fighting men. Some think that when this is their number some months before (Exod. 38:26) the Levites are included with them, but now that tribe is separated for the service of God, yet so many more have by this time reached the age of twenty that it is still the same number, to show that whatever we part with for the honour and service of God it shall certainly be made up to us one way or another.

This is a large group of people. Think about how much goes to feed all these people (plus the women, children, the sick, the old, and the non-Israelites with them) for forty years in the wilderness; and yet God feeds them every single day with manna from heaven. It shows the greatness and goodness of God that He never fails in providing what His people need, no matter how many of them there are.

Notice also the effects of sin. Within forty years many of them will die naturally anyway; for, when sin entered into the world, death came with it. But, for the particular sin of unbelief and complaining, all those that are now numbered, except two, will die in the wilderness.

What a great multitude God's spiritual Israel will amount to at last; though at one time, and in one place, they seem to be just a little flock, yet when they all come together they will be a great multitude, innumerable. Though the Church's beginning is small, it shall end with a great number.

Question

1. What was the final count of the fighting men?
2. What would happen to all but two of these people?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's care for His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 99 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 1:47-54 - The Tribe of Levi

The rest of the tribes are set apart from the tribe of Levi. The Levites are honoured by being made guardians of the holy things; to them is committed the care of the tabernacle and its treasures, both when they camp and when they march. When they move the Levites are to take down the tabernacle, to carry it and all that belongs to it, and then to set it up again in the next place. It is to honour the holy things that none are permitted to see them, or touch them, but those only who are called of God to the service. In the same way, we all are unfit and unworthy to have fellowship with God until we are first called by his grace into the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and so, being the spiritual seed of that great high priest, are made priests to our God. When they rest the Levites are to encamp round about the tabernacle (v. 50, 53), that they might be near their work, always ready to attend, and that they might be a guard for the tabernacle, to preserve it from being either plundered or misused. They must pitch round about the tabernacle, so that no wrath will come upon the congregation, as there would be if the tabernacle and the charge of it are neglected, or those crowded upon it that are not allowed to come near. Great care must be taken to prevent sin, because the preventing of sin is the preventing of wrath.

As Israel, being a holy people, is not counted among the nations, so they, being a holy tribe, are not counted among other Israelites, but numbered afterwards by themselves. The service which the Levites are to do about the sanctuary is a kind of warfare. And, being engaged in that kind of warfare, they are not numbered with those that are to go out to war.

Questions

1. What is the job of the Levites?
2. Why are they to camp around the tabernacle?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for your minister as he engages in a type of warfare.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 100 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 2:1-2 - An Army With Banners

The Israelites dwell in tents, and when they march carry all their tents along with them. This represents to us our state in this world. It is a movable state (we are here to-day and gone to-morrow); and it is a military state: is not our life a warfare? We just pitch our tents in this world, and have in it no continuing city. Let us, therefore, while we are pitching in this world, be pressing through it. Those of a tribe are to pitch together, every man by his own standard. Every one must know his place and keep in it; they are not allowed to camp where they please, nor to leave when they please, but God orders their arrangements. It is God that appoints to us where we will live and work for Him.

Every tribe has its standard or flag, and every family has some particular banner. These standards make this mighty army seem more beautiful to its friends and more formidable to its enemies. The church of Christ is said to be as terrible as an army with banners (Song of Solomon 6:10). They encamp round the tabernacle that it might be a comfort and joy to them all, as it is a token of God's gracious presence with them. It is probable that the doors of all their tents look towards the tabernacle, for every Israelite should have his eyes always towards the Lord. The tabernacle is in the midst of the camp that they might be a guard for the tabernacle and the Levites on every side. No invader can come near God's tabernacle without first penetrating their squadrons. Yet they are to pitch far off, that they might not crowd the tabernacle. They are also taught to keep their distance, lest too much familiarity should breed contempt. We are not ordered, as they were, to pitch afar off from our God; no, we are invited to draw near, and come boldly. God by his grace keeps us close to Him!

Question

1. How are we like these Israelites today?
2. How are we different?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God invites us to draw near to Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Saturday - Numbers 2:3-34 - Every Tribe in Its Place

God Himself appoints the place of each tribe, to prevent quarrelling and envy among them. If God in His providence advances others above us, and humbles us, we ought to be as satisfied in His doing it in that way as if He did it by a voice out of the tabernacle. Every tribe has a captain, a prince, or commander-in-chief, whom God Himself nominates. Notice how much God is in the thoughts of those that have given them their names, for most of them have El (which means God), at one end or other of their names. Nethanel, the gift of God; Eliab, my God a Father; Elizur, my God a rock; Shelumiel, God my peace; Eliasaph, God has added; Elishama, my God has heard; Gamaliel, God my reward; Pagiel, God has met me. By this we see that the Israelites in Egypt did not forget the name of their God, but remembered it in the names of their children.

Those tribes are placed together under the same standard that are nearest of kin to each other. The tribe of Judah is in the first post of honour, encamped towards the rising sun, and in their marches lead the company, not only because it is the most numerous tribe, but chiefly because from that tribe Christ is to come, who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and will descend from him who is now nominated chief captain of that tribe. The tribe of Levi pitches closely about the tabernacle. The camp of Dan is ordered in their march to bring up the rear. They are the most numerous, next to Judah, and therefore are ordered into a post which, next to the front, requires the most strength. The children of Israel put themselves in the posts assigned them, without murmuring or arguing, and, as it is their safety, so it is their beauty. In the same way, if everyone knows and keeps his or her place in the church, it will not only be safe but beautiful.

Question

1. Who puts the tribes in their place?
2. Why does Judah go first?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 90:1

Praise: Psalm 102 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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