

NUMBERS

Summary Of Numbers: Numbers (named for two numberings of the Israelites), describes Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. **Lesson:** *For Israel, a two year journey becomes a forty year agony. We may encounter wilderness experiences, but we don't have to live there.*

NUMBERS 1-7

PREPARATIONS FOR TRAVEL

Chapter 1 Israel Is Numbered

Summary: This 1st census shows 603,550 males, 20 years and older, excluding Levites. A 2nd census 38 years later shows 601,730 (26:51).

Chapter 2 Israel Is Ordered

Summary: The size and arrangement of the tribes and names of their leaders are given. The arrangements of the camp and order of march are given to insure efficiency of procedure.

Chapter 3 The Levites Are Numbered For Redemption

Summary: The Levites will serve in the tabernacle (1-10). They and their animals are substituted for Israel's spared firstborn children and animals (11-13). Levite males a month old or more total 22,000 (14-39). Israelite firstborn males a month old and above total 22,273 (40-45). Redemption money for Israel's extra persons is paid (46-51).

Chapter 4 The Levites Are Numbered For Ministry

Summary: When moving the tabernacle, the priests cover the furniture (1-14). Kohathites carry the furniture (15-20). Gershonites carry the coverings, curtains, etc. (21-28). Merarites carry the wood and metal parts (29-33). The census shows 8,580 Levites age 30-50 (34-49).

Chapter 5-6 Israel's Camp Is Cleansed And Consecrated

Summary: Chapter 5's cleansing treats the ceremonially unclean (1-4), confession and restitution for sin (5-10), and unfaithful wives (11-31). Chapter 6's consecration treats the law of the Nazirite vow.

Chapter 7 The Tabernacle Is Consecrated

Summary: The leaders bring gifts for the tabernacle--carts and oxen for the Levites to carry the tabernacle pieces, and gifts for the altars.

Lesson: *God is a God of preparation, order, detail, provision, purity.*