

HIGHLIGHTS OF NUMBERS

Sermon Series Notes

“More Than A Number” (Numbers 1 & 2)

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Leviticus dealt with worship and spiritual position; Numbers deals with walk and spiritual progression.

Exodus covered a year; Leviticus only a month - but Numbers encompasses more than 38 years.

In Hebrew, it is not called *Numbers* but *In the Wilderness*.

Read the text.

Why did God number the people? So that no one would simply be a number.

1. Personal Identification

2. Protection

- Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

- Eccl.4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

3. Provision

- See Exodus 18:13-26

4. Progress Toward The Promised Land

- The opening ten chapters cover a mere fifty days & describe how Moses organized Israel for the march from Sinai to the Promised Land. Israel is one nation of people identified by different tribes, clans, & families. Unity would only be maintained through order & submission.
- Matt.12:25 “...Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”
- Psalm 133; Prov.17:1
- Gen.9: 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.”

Essentials for Unity/Progression Corporately

1. A people willing to be numbered
 - It means that a leader knows your name. It means that you are **more than a number**. It means personal accountability.
2. Leaders called and willing to help count each individual
3. People willing to accept God’s assignment
 - a. Camp Assignment
 - The tribes of Israel camped around four banners, which were said to be a lion, a man, a calf, and an eagle. We find the same four creatures surrounding the throne of God in Revelation.
 - Camp maps; Life groups map
 - Each tribe would arrange themselves to the east, south, west, and north in relation to the tabernacle. Order was maintained by keeping God at the center.
 - b. Marching/Moving Assignment
 - Judah always went first, and Dan always went last.
 - See Num.9:15-23
 - c. Serving Assignment
 - Eph.2:10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - All men 20 years old or more were to serve in the army. God has a draft!

- The priests and Levites were full time ministers; Kohath, Merari, and Gershon's responsibilities (See Numbers 4:4, 7:1-9; 16:1-3, 8-10).
- The women had responsibilities primarily with the children and the home.

4. An understanding that unity does not mean uniformity

- Each group had their own "standard."
- I Cor.1:10-13; Romans 14; Rom.12; I Cor.12

5. A commitment to one another as a result of their commitment to the Lord.

- Phil.4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with one another ***in the Lord.***

CONCLUSION

* Can you imagine for a moment what it would be like if everyone here was "counted?" A leader knows your name, you belong to a particular "tribe," you have an assignment, and a particular responsibility to serve. Your life has the kind of order and submission that keeps you in fellowship, protected, provided for, and progressing in your walk with the Lord.