

Stand and be counted

Intro:

2 Tim 3:16-17

Why preach numbers? Because it is given to make us complete equipped for every good work...but lets be more specific

Luke 24:25-27

Numbers is not only for our instruction but not in some tangential way

For Numbers is ultimately about Christ...

Ex 40:16-17

Exodus is the story of God bringing His people, His nation out of Egypt out of slavery - it ends with them building a tabernacle in the wilderness that will be the place for God to dwell among them...this ultimately points to presence of Christ among us in the NT

What happened next?

Transition:

Lev 1:1-2

Leviticus takes place during the month or month-and-a-half between the completion of the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:17) and the Israelites' departure from Sinai (Numbers 1:1)

It is all about how to use the tabernacle - especially the altar and how the priests would function through the sacrificial system to help the Israelites remain in good relations with their God who dwelt among them

In the NT this is largely seen in our understanding of Christ's finished work and current work as our ultimate high priest

So what is Numbers about?

And how specifically might it relate to us today?

Main Idea:

Welcome to the wilderness

Welcome to the will of God

Welcome to the war

Implication:

At the end of Numbers after almost 40 years of wandering in the wilderness God took another census and the tribes actually shrank - they wasted their years wandering instead of making war - what are we to do with all of this?

this all happens to them as an example for OUR instruction...to teach us not to crave evil things like they did, trying the Lord like they did...but it is also to see their provision in the wilderness - Christ the Rock who sustained them and today sustains you today - but what is the example we have at the very beginning? They did not hide from this reality they stood to be counted - they embraced the circumstances...at least at first - if you want to apply this right now you must do the same

Application:

this sermon is a call to report for duty a call to stand (not literally) and be counted

...and as you do these are my words to you:

welcome to the wilderness Christian - you are not in heaven yet

welcome to the will of God Christian - you specifically have been chosen not only for salvation but for this time and place

welcome to the war Christian - becoming like Christ, depending on Him, worshipping Him even is not an easy passive task - it is a conflict that will not end until you get to glory - stop being disappointed in the fact you battle and start trying to actually win...

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Numbers.html>

Stand and be counted

Text:

Welcome to the wilderness

Num. 1:1 **The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt,** saying,

Num. 1:2 **"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.

Num. 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel **who are able to go to war**, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.

Num. 1:4 And there shall be with you a man from each tribe, each man being the head of the house of his fathers.

Luke 3:21-22, 38; 4:1-2 (the Hebrew name for this book is "in the wilderness - numbers is about a census in the wilderness...this is the story about what happens with the people with the tabernacle, with the priesthood, in the wilderness before they arrive in the promised land...but how does it apply to us?)

1 pet 1:1-2:12 (Israel had a tabernacle - we are the tabernacle - Israel had a priesthood - we are a priesthood - Israel had God dwelling with them in their midst - we have God dwelling in us together...and yet like them we have not reached glory yet...we are still in the wilderness waiting like them father do not take them out of the world - but set them apart - take the world out of them as they are in the world but not of the world...this is our wilderness and our battle...and we are called to take our place like them...)

Welcome to the will of God

Num. 1:5 **And these are the names of the men who shall assist you.** From Reuben, Elizur the son of Shedeur;

Num. 1:6 from Simeon, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai;

Num. 1:7 from Judah, Nahshon the son of Amminadab;

Num. 1:8 from Issachar, Nethanel the son of Zuar;

Num. 1:9 from Zebulun, Eliab the son of Helon;

Num. 1:10 from the sons of Joseph, from Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud, and from Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur;

Num. 1:11 from Benjamin, Abidan the son of Gideoni;

Num. 1:12 from Dan, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai;

Num. 1:13 from Asher, Pagiel the son of Ochran;

Num. 1:14 from Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel;

Num. 1:15 from Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan."

Num. 1:16 These were the ones chosen from the congregation, the chiefs of their ancestral tribes, the heads of the clans of Israel.

Isaiah 43:1-7 (God knew them by name...he had a plan for them promised to Abraham that was beyond their imagining only 70 people entered Egypt and this census will total 603k almost 2-3 million people — this is a list of His faithfulness - He had a plan for them...and He has a plan for you...)

ps 147:1-6 (God knows every star by name...)

ps 139:13-18 (and He knows you more intimately than you could ever imagine)

eph 1:1-14 (He chose you for an imperishable inheritance before you were born...welcome to the will of God...what would it look like to ask one of them are you in the Lord's army ad have them say " I hope so - I will find out when I die, or I try to be - no this is a call to stand and be counted - how much more for us)

eph 2:8-10 (But He didn't just choose you to set His love upon you...He chose you to do something)

Welcome to the war

Num. 1:17 ¶ Moses and Aaron took these men who had been named,

Num. 1:18 and on the first day of the second month, they assembled the whole congregation together, who registered themselves by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head,

Num. 1:19 as the LORD commanded Moses. So he listed them in the wilderness of Sinai.

Num. 1:20 ¶ **The people of Reuben**, Israel's firstborn, their generations, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:21 those listed of the tribe of Reuben were 46,500.

Num. 1:22 ¶ **Of the people of Simeon**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, those of them who were listed, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:23 those listed of the tribe of Simeon were 59,300.

Num. 1:24 ¶ **Of the people of Gad**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all who were **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:25 those listed of the tribe of Gad were 45,650.

Num. 1:26 ¶ **Of the people of Judah**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:27 those listed of the tribe of Judah were 74,600.

Num. 1:28 ¶ **Of the people of Issachar**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:29 those listed of the tribe of Issachar were 54,400.

Num. 1:30 ¶ **Of the people of Zebulun**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:31 those listed of the tribe of Zebulun were 57,400.

Num. 1:32 ¶ **Of the people of Joseph**, namely, of the people of Ephraim, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:33 those listed of the tribe of Ephraim were 40,500.

Num. 1:34 ¶ **Of the people of Manasseh**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:35 those listed of the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200.

Num. 1:36 ¶ **Of the people of Benjamin**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:37 those listed of the tribe of Benjamin were 35,400.

Num. 1:38 ¶ **Of the people of Dan**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:39 those listed of the tribe of Dan were 62,700.

Num. 1:40 ¶ **Of the people of Asher**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:41 those listed of the tribe of Asher were 41,500.

Num. 1:42 ¶ **Of the people of Naphtali**, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man **able to go to war**:

Num. 1:43 those listed of the tribe of Naphtali were 53,400.

Num. 1:44 ¶ **These are those who were listed**, whom Moses and Aaron listed with the help of the chiefs of Israel, twelve men, each representing his fathers' house.

Num. 1:45 So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and upward, **every man able to go to war in Israel**—

Num. 1:46 all those listed were 603,550.

eph 6:10-17 (every man able to go to war - we are not called merely to stand but to stand for battle- we are called to stand...in the strength of His might - we are at war like them in the wilderness waiting for the promised land - but unlike them we wear His armor and we have a sword...)

Heb 12:3-4 (this is our sword and this is our warfare...- He brought them out of Egypt and now He wants to bring Egypt out of them...this is our warfare - this moment is our wilderness - we are not in glory yet...this is our sword...and it is meant to help us win!)

heb 4:11-13 (but to do that we must feel its edge -letting it do its surgical cutting work - the Bible can cut and it can hurt but it is meant to be your weapon against the satanic ideologies that keep us constantly actively participating in a culture of death - but am I here to really tell you that Numbers is the book to do this - I mean surely Romans can do that - but numbers?)

1 cor 10:1-13 (implication - application)