

Introduction to Numbers (“In the Wilderness”)



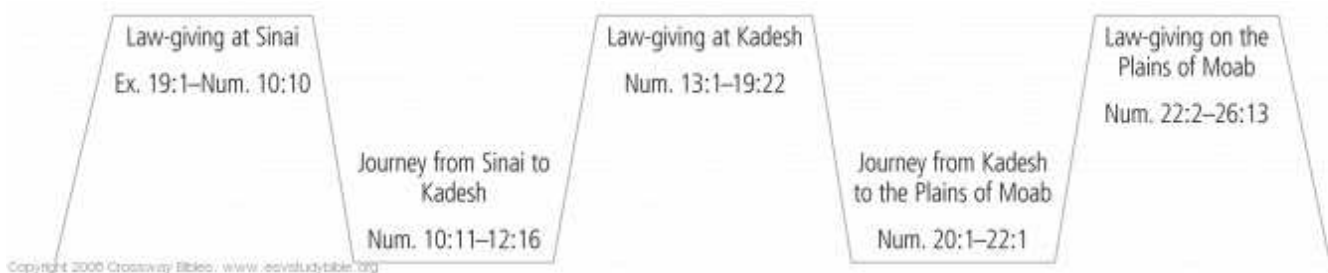
THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

Source: *ESV Holy Bible, Reference Edition*

Outline

(Source: *ESV Study Bible; Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*)

Numbers consists of three major blocks of material describing the events and laws associated with three centers where Israel encamped for a significant time. These centers are Sinai (chs. 1–10), Kadesh (chs. 13–19), and the plains of Moab (chs. 22–36). They are linked by two short travelogues recording what occurred as Israel journeyed from one camp to the next.



I. The Preparation of the First – Generation Army (1:1 – 9:14)

Through the leadership of Moses and Aaron, God prepared the first generation of the exodus with everything it needed to be holy army ready to possess the promised land.

A. The Count and Arrangement of the Army (1:1 – 4:49)

1. The Count of the Men of War (1:1 – 54)
2. Positions for the Tribe (2:1 – 34)
3. The Numbers and Duties of the Levites (3:1 – 4:49)

B. The Central Tabernacle (5:1 – 9:14)

1. The Importance of the Tabernacle (5:1 – 6:27)
2. Offerings for the Tabernacle (7:1 – 8:4)
3. Other Important Aspects of the Tabernacle (8:5 – 9:14)

II. The Failed March of the First – Generation Army (9:15 – 25:18)

The first generation of the exodus began the march toward the promised land with great hope, but complaints and rebellion led to the demise of nearly the entire generation. Yet, in his mercy, God began to prepare a second generation to move forward.

A. Introduction to the March (9:15 – 10:10)

1. The Leading Cloud (9:15 – 23)
2. The Silver Trumpets (10:1 – 10)

B. The Early Travels (10:11 – 12:16)

1. The March Ensues (10:11 – 36)
2. Complaints About Hardships (11:1 – 3)
3. Complaints About Meat (11:4 – 35)
4. Complaints About Moses' Authority (12:1 – 16)

C. The Period of Wandering (13:1 – 19:22)

1. The Rebellion at Kadesh Barnea (13:1 – 14:45)
2. Remembering the Offerings (15:1 – 41)
3. The Great Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron 16:1 – 50)
4. Reaffirmation of Aaronic Priesthood (17:1 – 19:22)

D. The Later Travels (20:1 – 25:18)

1. Changing Generations (20:1 – 21:35)
2. Israel and the Moabites (22:1 – 25:18)

Time Periods in Numbers:

Numbers 1:1 – 10:10: 19 days

Chapters 10 – 14: 10 days

Chapters 15 – 19: 37 years

Chapters 20 – 36: 10 months

III. The Preparation of the Second Generation

God prepared the second generation of the exodus to move forward as his holy army. God demonstrated his love for Israel by restoring their numbers and reaffirming holy leadership for the nation. He also gave instructions that would guide the people as they conquered the land.

A. The Count and Continuity of the Generations (26:1 – 36:13)

1. The New Count of the Mend of War (26:1 – 51)
2. Distribution of the Land (26:52 – 56)
3. The Levites (26:57 – 65)
4. A Problem with Land Inheritance (27:1 – 11)
5. The New Leader of the Army (27:12 – 23)

B. The Centrality of the Tabernacle Reaffirmed (28:1 – 31:54)

1. Daily Observances (28:1 – 8)
2. Weekly Observances (28:9 – 10)
3. Monthly Observances (28:11 – 15)
4. Annual Observances (28:16 – 29:40)
5. Rules about Vows (30:1 – 16)
6. Tributes of Holy War (31:1 – 54)

C. Looking Ahead to the Conquest (32:1 – 36:13)

1. The Transjordan Controversy (32:1 – 42)
2. Israel's Travels and Call to Conquest (33:1 – 56)
3. The Boundaries of the Land (34:1 – 15)
4. The Distributors of the Land (34:16 – 29)
5. Levite Towns and Cities of Refuge (35:1 – 34)
6. An Additional Thought Concerning Inheritances (36:1 – 13)