

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^ ^^ ^^

~ In our previous report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through Numbers, we were being prepared for the wilderness march ahead of us with the children of Israel. The first thing we were instructed on was order in the camp. Israel was more systematic and regimented than any army that has ever moved through the dessert. Moses has now been commanded to take a census and prepare to go to war with nations along the way. Israel is going to have to learn to stand against their enemies because they are living in a world where there is much conflict; and the children of Israel have many enemies that wouldn't hesitate to destroy them if given the chance. There are tremendous principles for our learning in this section of Scripture....

I

18 And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls.

~ Pedigrees are extremely important in the Word of God; and ALL important to the Lord as far as the Old Testament is concerned. They have an immediate and direct value. They are interesting to those who are concerned with the Bible, and they are beneficial to understanding the rest of the history of the nation Israel as we move along. Many people take deep personal pride in their ancestors. When I look back at my family tree, I find nothing but a bunch of horse thieves! Now, I am concerned with the Bible, but I have a hard time finding this part of it interesting. So, here, you have my paradoxical paragraph. I think I'm willing to move forward and forget those things that are behind me. Most of us would do well to do that, too.

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 1 of 14

The reason some genealogies are recorded, and others are omitted from the Word of God, is because some lead to the Lord Jesus Christ and some don't. We learned in Genesis that the rejected line was given first - and then it was dropped and forgotten. Then, the lineage that leads to the Lord Jesus Christ is given, expounded on, and followed through the remainder of that particular portion of Scripture. An Israelite was required to declare their pedigree because God had forbidden intermarriage. Only the true Israelite was a beneficiary of the covenant made to Abraham. In the days of Nehemiah, we will learn about some that could not declare their pedigree in the priesthood and, friends, they were simply put out. A genealogy was critical in order to declare citizenship.

Nehemiah 7:64 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood ~

It's also important to note that the New Testament opens with a genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ that the entire Word of God stands or falls by. This would have been on display in the temple or at the gates and it could easily have been checked. I think the enemy studied it many times looking for fault or an error. Can you declare your pedigree as a Christian? Some people aren't sure about their Christian pedigree; others say they TRY to be a Christian. Well, all I have to say is you better get able to declare your pedigree - or you will be swept aside faster than high tide goes out at a Florida beach....

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God ~

Can you make the statement that you are a redeemed child of God, friends? We become sons by faith and there is no other way. To as many as received Him gave He them the right to be called the sons of God; even unto them that do no more or less than believe in His Name.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise ~

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ ~

We can only know our Christian pedigree by studying the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. When we are born again of water and of spirit by the blood of Christ, then we are brought into the family of God. On our wilderness journey today, we MUST know who we are and whether we are truly a child of God or not. If you're not sure, you need to make sure, by taking God at His Word and trusting Christ! We can believe God today, and we can rest in His Word forevermore. What we think and what the world says are of no consequence whatsoever to the man or woman who is truly following Christ.

Without knowing your Scriptural heritage, you won't be fighting, standing, serving in the temple - or anything else for the Lord - because He won't use you. If you aren't sure about God, then He is sure you aren't His child! There is a blank shield on the wall at WestPoint, and it is the shield of Benedict Arnold; it is the shield of a man without a country. Many - many Christians are exactly like that today. They profusely profess to be Christians, but they have nothing in the world but a blank shield with no inscription on it! How tragic it really is. Can you say you are a son of God through faith in Christ? We must know we are of the House of God - or we aren't.

Spiritual amnesia is at epidemic proportions today. He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life! These things

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 - 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 3 of 14

were written unto us that believe in the Name of the Son of God so that we may know that we have eternal life and that you may believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is first John chapter five verse twelve, and it is a very, very important piece of Scriptural information. Paul said he knew Whom he had believed, and Paul said he was persuaded that Christ was able to keep what Paul had committed unto Him against that day. Now, if you want to take this section up sincerely, you'll need an adding machine. There are certain Scriptures that the Spiritual Safari flies over - and this one of those sections. What you have here, of course, are the twelve tribes of Israel and the number from each tribe....

19 As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

20 And the children of Reuben, Israel's eldest son, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

21 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Reuben, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

22 Of the children of Simeon, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, those that were numbered of them, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

23 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Simeon, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

24 Of the children of Gad, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

25 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Gad, were forty and five thousand six hundred and fifty.

26 Of the children of Judah, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

27 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Judah, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

28 Of the children of Issachar, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

29 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Issachar, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

30 Of the children of Zebulun, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

31 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Zebulun, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

32 Of the children of Joseph, namely, of the children of Ephraim, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

33 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Ephraim, were forty thousand and five hundred.

34 Of the children of Manasseh, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 5 of 14

35 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Manasseh, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

36 Of the children of Benjamin, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

37 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Benjamin, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

38 Of the children of Dan, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

39 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Dan, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

40 Of the children of Asher, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

41 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Asher, were forty and one thousand and five hundred.

42 Of the children of Naphtali, throughout their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

43 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Naphtali, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

44 These are those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers.

45 So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel;

46 Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

~ Okay, you can take my word for the fact that all those numbers add up to exactly what Moses recorded. The Levite's, however, were not numbered. Later, we'll discover the number of the Levite's was, in fact, taken - but they were kept separately. That numbering of the tribe of Levi had an altogether different function, too, by the way. Of course, the Levites have full charge over the tabernacle; from set up to movement to disassembly and then repeating the marching process....

47 But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.

48 For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,

49 Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

50 But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

51 And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 7 of 14

52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.

~ Well, let's talk about these standards for a moment. In chapter one, we had the census. The children of Israel had to know who they were; but they also had to know where they belonged in the camp. Israel was already a huge nation. Spiritually speaking, we must first know we are a child of God, and then we must know what our place and function is within the camp. Neither the Mosaic Law nor the Old Testament generally gives us any intimation as to the form or character of the standards. According to rabbinical traditions the standard of Judah bore the figure of a lion. Reuben was the likeness of a man's head. Ephraim is the figure of an ox and Dan is as the figure of an eagle. These four living creatures unite into cherubic forms described by Ezekiel; and are represented upon these four standards.

The last portion of that last paragraph is a statement from the past that is worth considering, but don't overthink it. Some people even take this as far as to symbolize and spiritualize the arrangement of the tribes at their respective places around the camp. They want to compare all of this to the way the stars are arranged in Heaven. That drags it down to the low realm of the zodiac – and I don't buy it. There are also those people who say they find the Gospels written in the stars! These are the ones that think their future is also written in the sky. Well, even Shakespeare had Brutus say, "... it is not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings." That just happens to be a good secular statement. The problem is with us, friends - not with the arrangement of the planets or how they line up on any particular day.

We can't be sure about any of this, really; as I said, don't make too much of it. I think tradition keeps it pretty well intact, but we are only looking for one thing in the Spiritual Safari – the Lord Jesus Christ. So, let's resume our search for Him now. We're going to find Jesus in the same place we find the Gospels - and it's not in the stars; both are only found in one place - and that is in the Word of God. It's not necessary that we know what this really

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 8 of 14

means, and if we didn't have the Word of God, we would never have suspected any of it to begin with! His eternal power and Godhead are revealed in creation, but they DO NOT tell us ANYTHING beyond that

53 But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

54 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

II

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.

~ The placement and location of the tribes is always in reference to the position of the tabernacle. The Levites would carry the tabernacle to the place designated by God and then the children of Israel would come and set the camp around it. That is when those standards were placed in position – whatever they were! Verse three tells us that Judah led the way, and under the tribe of Judah's standard, others followed. Every individual and every family of every tribe knew precisely where they belonged; and that eliminated a lot of problems.

Here in chapter two, we have established that the children of Israel must know who they are, and they must know where they belong at any particular time within the camp. Christian warfare is not carried on in the realm of doubt and fear, my friends; but it is carried out in the clear and certain lives that live in the light of a sure salvation. Our enemy today is the world, the flesh and the devil - and they'll each overtake you if you're not

sure who you are, where you belong - or if you're just not sure of your salvation!

Every man was to rally around his own family and their banner. Every individual had his God-appointed place in the nation Israel. In the church today, all service is to be Spirit directed and Spirit appointed. By one Spirit we are all baptized into the body of believers. As a body, we have members, and each has a separate function. Every believer has a gift, and the exercise of that gift equals your proper Christian service and standard. There are twenty plus bones in our foot alone - so the gifts in the church are endless. Many members in one body with the Spirit ruling over us all!

This means that if speaking in tongues were a gift, then we aren't all to do it. The whole body isn't tongue, is it? Well, I suppose there are a few exceptions to that with some people who look like they're all tongue. I believe the only thing we will be judged on is the use of our gifts and the exercising of them to determine the rewards we will receive in Heaven. I think we should pray and ask for and even covet the best gifts, but we don't need to seek them, unless that seeking is done in Bible study! There was a certain man - who is no longer alive - and my prayer is that I can teach and preach better than him; and I also ask to know the Bible better than any man on earth! Yes, I am just that arrogant - as if you didn't already know that! That's what I asked God for with one caveat: His will be done! I think what I am asking for is in His will. We have too many people occupying offices that they are not qualified to fill - I'm just going to leave it at that....

3 And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.

4 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

5 And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar.

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 - 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 10 of 14

6 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

7 Then the tribe of Zebulun: and Eliab the son of Helon shall be captain of the children of Zebulun.

8 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

9 All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

10 On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur.

11 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

12 And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon: and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

13 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

14 Then the tribe of Gad: and the captain of the sons of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel.

15 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and five thousand and six hundred and fifty.

16 All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

17 Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.

18 On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud.

19 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty thousand and five hundred.

20 And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

21 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

22 Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni.

23 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

24 All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank.

25 The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

27 And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran.

28 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and one thousand and five hundred.

29 Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan.

30 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

31 All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards.

32 These are those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers ~

**** * * * ****

BY HIS OWN STANDARD

NUMBERS 1:18 – 2:34

^^^^^^

Page 14 of 14