

## Life-Study of Numbers Summaries - Messages 1—31

### Being Formed into an Army

The **general sketch** of the book of Numbers is the redeemed and sanctified Israelites were into a holy army of God, which was to proceed by following God's leading and was to fight for Him. The **central thought** is that Christ is the meaning of life, the testimony, the centre of God's people, and the Leader, the way, and the goal of their journey.

The formation of the children of Israel into a body to fight for God and to serve God typifies the **New Testament believers being built up into the organic Body of Christ to fight for God for they carrying out, in its service to God, of God's eternal economy**. The church today is fighting for the protection of the incarnated God; the army of God is protecting God's testimony.

After being numbered according to their families, leaders, and according to age, the children of Israel encamped in array facing the tent of meeting. This typifies **God's redeemed people being consummated in the New Jerusalem with the testimony of God as their unique centre and goal**.

To be formed into an army, we must have both a **corporate and individual dealing with defilement**. Since we are God's dwelling place and habitation, His warriors fighting for Him, and also priests to serve God, we must deal with the evil issues of the natural man, and spiritual deadness.

We must also be the **Nazarites of today**. A Nazarite is a type of Christ, signifying the Lord Jesus in His living for God in His humanity. To become a Nazarite, we must separate ourselves from the worldly people, and sanctify ourselves to God. As Nazarites, we should be those who **abstain from the earthly pleasures and enjoyments, not rejecting the headship of the Lord**. Further, we must **not touch death**, the most hateful thing in the eyes of God. Then we would be **blessed by God with His dispensing Himself into us in His divinity and in His divine trinity**.

### Journeying

God's people have a **guide**, this guide is God Himself. We know that God is with us by the **sense of being watered**. We also have the **Word of God**, giving us guidance from the earth. In our Christian life, we have the guidance of God and the leading of Christ.

Despite having such a perfect leader and guide, we may still fail. The children of Israel failed in the matter of **murmuring evil, lusting after meat to eat, slandering the deputy authority of God, and even in not believing God**. Day by day, we must be careful not to murmur evil things. We must also be careful not to lust after the things of the world due to our being bored of eating Christ as manna. We should also learn not to touch the authority of God due to our jealousy and to exercise our faith in believing the Lord in every situation. If we do not learn from the failures of the children of Israel, we may become those who are abhorrent to the sight of God.

In our natural man, there is nothing but **unsubdued rebellion**. In such a situation filled with rebellion coming from the world and from our natural man, there is God's judgment. But praise the Lord in such a situation, we also see the **budding rod of Aaron**. The budding rod of Aaron typifies not a dead Christ but the resurrected Christ, the budding Christ who imparts life to others. May we not be filled with the deadness of rebellion, but rather, the budding Christ who is our life.

God's intention is to bring all His people to the good land as the goal. Today Christ is our good land, our land of rest. For us today, this goal is not a result—it is a beginning. We begin at the goal and then go forward in our Christian walk. In the New Testament we, are already in the goal, we are enjoying the goal, and our enjoyment of the goal becomes our supply as we walk along the way. There is no need to wait for the future to reach the goal, to enter into the result. We simply need to come and dine and enter into the enjoyment of Christ.

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