



BAMIDBAR - IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 1:1 to 4:20

Hosea 2:1-22

Hebrews 6:20-7:19

Luke 2:1-52

Revelation 7:1-17

A one-month period has taken place between the book of Exodus and the book of Numbers for God/*Elohim* to convey the necessary instructions contained in the book of Leviticus before the Children of Israel proceed. In the book of Numbers, we learn how God/*Elohim* guides Israel through their wilderness experience.

Mighty Men Of God/*Elohim*

In the last three books of Moses, we see God's/*Elohim* Kingdom principles that govern the earth through the testimonies of our forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their lives reflected the power and authority of the *Spirit of Yeshua in their walks*. This simple truth challenges thousands of years of Christian theology, as the Word clearly states that *Yeshua preached the Gospel to Abraham in his day* (1 Peter 1:11).

✠ **Galatians 3:8** “And *the Scripture* [*the Word that became flesh - Yeshua*], foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*Nations*] by faith, **preached the gospel to Abraham** beforehand, saying, ‘*In you all the nations shall be blessed*’ ” (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; John 1:1,14)

If Galatians 3:8 is true, and Abraham received the Gospel from *Yeshua*, then the question remains:

- What *Gospel* was preached to Abraham?
- What *Gospel* did John the Baptist preach *before* meeting *Yeshua* at the river?
- What *Gospel* did Yeshua preach while He walked on this earth?
- When the twelve disciples were sent out by *Yeshua* to preach the *Gospel*, what *Gospel* did *Yeshua* tell them to preach *if He was still alive and with them*?
- When *Yeshua* sent out the seventy to preach the good news of the *Gospel* what did they preach since *Yeshua had not died for their sins and risen from the dead yet*?
- What is the great commission then and when was it first given?

If indeed the *Gospel* was preached to our patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob way back in Genesis - where does this leave the Jewish people and the doctrine of Christian theology? Is Galatians 3:8 teaching opposite to that of mainstream religious denominations today? The answer is clearly, *yes*.

We see more evidence of the indwelling Spirit of Yeshua (the Gospel) through the prophet Isaiah when he spoke of the Israelites journey through the wilderness.

✠ **Isaiah 63:8-13** “For He said, ‘Surely they *are* My people, Children *who* will not lie.’ So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, *and* He fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses *and* his people, *saying*: ‘Where *is* He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where *is* He who put His Holy Spirit/Ruach HaKodesh within them, Who led *them* by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, Who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, *that* they might not stumble?’”

Note how many people were filled with the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* during the Exodus. Scripture tells us that over 600,000 were filled with the Spirit/*Ruach*.

Yeshua said this about Moses.

✠ **John 5:46-47** “For if you [*believers*] believed Moses, you [*believers*] would believe Me [*Yeshua*]; for he [*Moses*] wrote about Me [*Yeshua’s commandments*]. But if you [*believers*] do not believe his [*Moses*] writings [*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy*], how will you believe My words [*Yeshua - New Testament*]?”

Numbers – The Walk

The book of Numbers gives believers a broader picture of how to tabernacle with God/*Elohim* and gain a more comprehensive understanding of His Kingdom. At Mount Sinai, God/*Elohim* imparted His Kingdom protocol to the children of Israel through the pattern and design of the Tabernacle, as explained in the book *Exodus*. Deeper instruction for its care and how to walk in His Kingdom is described in the book *Leviticus*. The Tabernacle is a picture of how God’s/*Elohim* Kingdom functions. In short, it is known as *the Gospel*. His Word is His Gospel.

✠ **John 1:1,14** “In the beginning was the Word [*the Gospel*], and the Word [*the Gospel*] was with God/*Elohim*, and the Word [*the Gospel*] was God/*Elohim*. And the Word [*the Gospel*] became flesh [*Yeshua*] and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

✠ **Revelation 19:11-13** “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a

name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God/Elohim.”

When His people walk in His word, there is an *earthly* response to His *heavenly* directives and our heart transforms into His image.

🌿 **Ezekiel 37:1-10** “The hand of the LORD/*Yahweh* came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD/*Yahweh*, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God/*Elohim*, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD/*Yahweh*!’ Thus says the Lord God/*Elohim* to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. “I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*.”” So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them. Also He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God/*Elohim*: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

With the Gospel legalized at Mount Sinai on *Shavuot/Pentecost*, the Israelites were then fully equipped to enter in and possess the Promised Land. Today, His instructions from Mount Sinai still apply. His word is as active and as sharp as a two-edged sword.

🌿 **Hebrews 4:11-12** “Let us [*believers*] therefore be diligent to enter that rest [*the Sabbath*], lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word [*the Gospel*] of God/*Elohim* [*Genesis to Revelation*] is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

🌿 **Revelation 1:16** “He [*Yeshua*] had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword [*the Gospel*], and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.”

🌿 **Revelation 2:12,16** “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He [*Yeshua*] who has the sharp two-edged sword [*the Gospel*]:’”

Our response to His *whole* word (*The Gospel: Genesis to Revelation*) activates His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* to respond *in power and authority*. Through obedience to His word, Scripture teaches that every male over the age of twenty has the potential to walk *as a priest after His likeness*. *Yeshua*’s army today is made of those men and women who uphold His Word, and walk in *His Gospel*, which we have heard since the beginning of time (Exodus 19:5-6; 1Peter 2:9).

- ✚ **Isaiah 40:21** “Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?”
- ✚ **Isaiah 41:4** “Who has performed and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I *am* He
- ✚ **Revelation 2:8** “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life’” (Revelation 1:8; 1:17; 2:8; 22:13).
- ✚ **Revelation 22:13-16** “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last. Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus/*Yeshua*, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”
- ✚ **Isaiah 48:16-18** “Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I *was* there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me.” Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: “I *am* the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go. Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”

The Census

- ✚ **Numbers 1:2-3** “Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above - all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies.”
- ✚ **Joshua 1:6-8** “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law [*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

God/*Elohim* is not looking for perfection. He is looking for a response in believers. Edmund Burke, an eighteenth-century Irish philosopher, once said, “*For lawlessness and violence to prevail, all that good men have to do is nothing.*”

Paul exhorted believers to take hold of Yeshua and take up their positions.

🌿 **1 Corinthians 9:23-27** “Now this I [*Paul*] do for the Gospel’s sake [*Yeshua, the word made flesh*], that I may be partaker of it with you. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you [*believer*] may obtain it. [*Obtain what? Eternal life*] And everyone [*believer*] who competes for the prize [*eternity*] is temperate in all things. Now they [*the unwise*] do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we [*the wise*] for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection [*obedience – walk out His Kingdom principles in holiness*], lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

For a believer to have a powerful anointing in their walk today, they must first appropriate Yeshua’s heavenly principles. If not, they will be inept at overcoming the enemy or able to help others if they are not upholding His principles of redemption and holiness in their walk. The day I met Yeshua, my life changed. The first thing I wanted to know was *how to walk with Him and what do I do it?* In the church we attended, I was told: “*Go share the Gospel.*” They had a four-step tract to hand to the “sinful” so they too could begin their journey to peace. It said, “*God loves you and has a plan for you*” “*Man is sinful and separated from God.*” “*God sent His Son to die for your sins!*” “*Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?*” But, what was this Gospel? I searched for a response. Even though I was *saved*, I still did not fully understand what I was saved from, as the fuller explanation of *sin* was missing.

What our society deems culturally correct may not be what God/*Elohim* considers a moral standard of righteousness. Now in Yeshua, I wanted to learn *His* ways. However, no one could guide me as to what they were. In the three years, our family was with this church; sanctification and the ways of redemption were not taught. That started my quest through Scripture, and for another church. In the churches we visited, I began to see a pattern. Many believed that just because they were saved, holiness was a given. It was assumed. However, we noticed many discrepancies among believers and good people doing questionable things. When I asked about sanctification, I got blank stares. By reading the Scripture, it became apparent that there was a definite distinction between *salvation* and *eternal life*. The common missing link was the definition of sin. The church could not answer my questions because the *Old Testament* was no longer part of the *New Testament Church*. More specifically, *Leviticus*, the one book that contained all my answers was *the book* everyone skipped over. With Moses taken out of the Church doctrine, the *answer of holiness* went with him. Therefore, no one could help me. Without this vital building block about redemption and holiness, my salvation would never be complete, and my walk would turn stagnant.

🌿 **1 John 2:3-9, 24-25** “Now by this we [*believers*] know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments [*Exodus 20*]. He [*a believer*] who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God/*Elohim* is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning [*Exodus Chapter 20*]. The old commandment is the word,

which you heard from the beginning [*the Gospel given at Mount Sinai*]. Again, a [*re*] new [*ed*] commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He [*a believer*] who says he is in the light, and hates his brother [*Exodus 20, 23:1-9*], is in darkness until now. Therefore, let that [*truth*] abide in you, which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us - *eternal life*.

God/*Elohim* plans our walk and growth in Him very carefully. By progressive revelation, He put a plan together using the pattern of the Tabernacle that points out His proper protocol and function of His Kingdom *all based on holiness*. Without holiness, our walk cannot begin. Thus, the Book of Numbers (journeys) is placed *after* the book of Exodus (the pattern) and *after* Leviticus (holiness). Once the understanding of holiness is recognized, the journey of our walk (Numbers) can begin. In the book of Numbers, the Children of Israel (which includes us) are well equipped and adequately informed as to the walk of holiness. Holiness is the code of behavior in His Kingdom. The Israelites all possessed this understanding, which is described as the two-edged sword called *the Gospel*. The book of Numbers is how God's/*Elohim* people learn to use their two-edged sword. Equipped with the Gospel, they are then ready to begin their journey.

🔥 **Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God/*Elohim* is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

🔥 **Revelation 1:16** “He [*Yeshua*] had in his right hand seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.”

Today, redemption is being restored with the true Gospel being recognized in the hearts of *Yeshua*'s people. His sheep are no longer lost or confused but found. Thus, His army, moving under the care and guidance of His Holy Spirit/*Ruach*, is helping many grow to maturity.

Men Of God – Angus Buchan

Angus Buchan of the autobiographical movie *Faith like Potatoes* wrote in his book *Coming of Age*,

“2 Chronicles 7:14 is a verse in the Bible that's very, very close to my heart. It says: '*If My people...*' Who are God's people? They are the believers. They are not the churchgoers; they are not the casual enquirers, they are not the pew-fillers, they are not the bench-warmers; they are the *believers*. Pride is probably the biggest sin in the Bible. It says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. You'll find that wherever Jesus went, He spent time with the widows and orphans; He spent time with the down-and-outs, the nobodies, the prostitutes, the alcoholics. He didn't spend too much time with the hierarchy in the church or indeed in society. He was for the people. He was a people's Man.”

“The verse continues: '*...will humble themselves and pray...*' We have to pray the prayer of faith. It's no good just praying mechanically, going through the prayer book, or

praying a prayer that you've prayed many times before and you don't even believe is going to happen. God never answers that type of prayer. He only answers the prayer of faith. James 5:16 says, "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*"

"Returning to our Scripture in 2 Chronicles 7:14, we read: "...and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways..." That means to put the things of this world to one side; to really seek the face of God and to turn away from any known wickedness and sin; things like hatred, unforgiveness, theft, murder, homosexuality, abortion, and racism. The Lord says that if we turn away from these things, then He will hear from heaven, He will forgive our sins, and He will heal the land."

"We can be a spectator, or we can start by repenting and asking for forgiveness for arrogance, for pride, for fearfulness, for inadequacies and start to live our lives as an example to our sons and daughters" (End of quote).

Today, Yeshua is preparing His army to move camp. When believers obey the instructions given at Mount Sinai – *His Gospel* - and follow His Heavenly pattern, they too will experience resurrection life and revival in spirit (*mobility*). *The salvation of our spirit* is entering into a relationship with Yeshua's Eternal Covenant. That is not to be confused with the *salvation of our soul*. Both work together in the sanctifying process. However, now that we are born again (salvation of the spirit/saved/believer), how do we walk in Yeshua's holiness (salvation of the soul/sanctification), as He said, *be holy as I am holy?* (1 Peter 1:9-13).

📖 **1 Peter 1:9-16** "receiving the end of your faith [*believer*] - *the salvation of your souls*. *Of this salvation the prophets* have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you [*today*], searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ/Messiah who was *in them* [*the prophets*] was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ/Messiah and the glories that would follow. To them [*the prophets*] it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they [*the prophets*] were ministering the things which now have been reported to you [*believer*] through those who have preached *the Gospel* to you by the Holy Spirit/Ruach sent from heaven - things which angels desire to look into. Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ/Yeshua Ha Mashiach; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, '*Be holy, for I am holy.*'"

📖 **Hebrews 12:14** "[*Believer,*] Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Melchizedek – King And Priest

Today, Yeshua is preparing His mighty army of firstborn/*priests*, those who walk upright united in His Spirit, *in the order of Melchizedek*, the King of *Right-ness* and follow His Holy principles for life. This combination brings a heavenly response that blesses all Israel, not only for those who follow the Holy One of Israel in the land but also those scattered throughout the Nations (Exodus 19:5-6; Ezekiel 44; Zechariah 14:16-21; Ephesians 6:13-17; Revelation 1:6).

🌿 **Jeremiah 33:15-18** “In those days and at that time [*end days*] I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: ‘*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*’ For thus says Yahweh: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.’”

🌿 **Revelation 1:6** “and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God/*Elohim* and Father/*Abba*; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (NAS)

God/*Elohim* gave man authority to rule the earth (creation) and have dominion over the creatures. Man was not given authority to *control* or *rule over man* (Genesis 1:28). In God’s/*Elohim* Kingdom, only one who was both *king* and *priest* could govern man in His Kingdom. That is known as *the order of Melchizedek*. Adam failed in that appointed role (Genesis 3:13-19). Melchizedek, King of Salem, walked according to this model representing the Messiah (Genesis 14:18). King David also performed his duties in the order of Melchizedek (king and priest). Yeshua, our Messiah, came as *King* and *Priest*. Thereby, all power and authority was given to Him to renew the Covenant (*Gospel*). The description of a disciple is *one who walks in this same image - the order of Melchizedek – king and priest* representing God’s/*Elohim* power and authority on the earth. If they are not walking in the order of Melchizedek (a redeemed spirit and a redeemed soul), they may have the power (spirit) but will lack His authority on the earth. Thus, sound like a clanging cymbal (1Corinthians 13:1).

🌿 **Luke 9:1-2** “Then He [*Yeshua*] called His twelve disciples together and gave them *power and authority* over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God/*Elohim* [*the Gospel*] and to heal the sick.”

🌿 **Luke 10:17-19** “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’ And He [*Yeshua*] said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the *authority* to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the *power* of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Acts 28:3-6).

The Restoration

God/*Elohim* desires for the entire nation of Israel to become a kingdom of priests and act as a holy nation before Him. Unfortunately, the children of Israel failed to walk appropriately. At Mount Sinai, while legally betrothed, Israel chose to bow down to worship another god/bridegroom - *the golden calf*. Because the firstborn worshiped another, God/*Elohim* set them aside as priests *for a season*. He then appointed the tribe of Levi, those who had not prostrated themselves before this golden calf, to act as tutors and demonstrate the way of redemption for those returning, which ultimately pointed the way to the Messiah. When God/*Elohim* came to His creation in the flesh as Yeshua, His life, death, and resurrection restored Israel back to the original priestly pattern; that of the firstborn (Exodus 19:5-6; John 1:1,14; 1 Peter 2:9).

📖 **Numbers 3:12-13** “See I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that open [*pehter*] the womb among the children of Israel; Therefore the Levites shall be Mine *because all the firstborn are Mine*. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

The problem at the time of the golden calf had to do with the hearts that would not obey. A hard heart corrupts God's/*Elohim* Image, the holiness of the Word, which in turn profanes His name. Therefore, God/*Elohim* found fault with *their hearts* (Hebrews 8:8-10).

📖 **Ezekiel 11:17-20** “Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God/*Elohim*.’”

📖 **Ezekiel 18:30-31** “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.’”

📖 **Ezekiel 36:24-29** “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God/*Elohim*. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.”

In renewing the *Abrahamic* and *Mosaic* Covenants, through the *Re-newed* Covenant of the Messiah, Yeshua transformed those with stony hearts by the indwelling power of His Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. That gave His people the opportunity to observe His instructions. However, one thing was very clear - His law, given from the beginning, has never changed, as His Word is an *eternal* Covenant. Therefore, *the law did not change, only the personal position of the law changed*. No longer was His word written on stone tablets or *hearts of stone*, but now, through the Messiah, able to be written on *hearts of flesh*. That restored the order of Melchizedek, not only with the Levites but also with His firstborn (Numbers 8:16-19; Isaiah 12; Hebrews 7-8; Galatians 3:16:17).

📖 **2 Corinthians 3:1-3** “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of

Christ/*Messiah*, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God/*Elohim*, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.”

✠ **Hebrews 7:11-15** “Therefore, *if* perfection were through the Levitical priesthood, what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law [*where it is written*]. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord [*Yeshua*] arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless [*indestructible/holy/heavenly*] life.”

The physical representation of the Tabernacle, the Levitical priesthood, and the moral code that governs the earth in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, are for believers today. The instructions contained in these books are for the holiness and redemption of the redeemed - those who follow the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God/*Elohim* declared to believers that *if* they obeyed Him, through the pattern of His Heavenly Kingdom, they would become a *royal priesthood and a holy nation – the order of Melchizedek*.

✠ **Exodus 19:5-6** “Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and *you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation*. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

✠ **1 Peter 2:9** “But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation*, a people for God’s/*Elohim* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

When the Messiah came, the order of Melchizedek was restored. If believers are *in Him*, they are of that *restored royal priesthood and a holy nation - Israel*. Melchizedek is derived from two words: *Melech* meaning king and *zedek* meaning priest of righteousness. Melchizedek also represents the House of Judah (the kingly side) and the House of Israel (the priestly side). When the two houses unite, they become the two witnesses of the Messiah in the order of Melchizedek (Ezekiel 37:15-28; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10).

✠ **Hebrews 8:8-10** “Because finding fault with them, He says: ‘Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD/*Yahweh*, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD/*Yahweh*. For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD/*Yahweh*: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people.’”

📖 **Revelation 1:5-6** "...to him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood, who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, *cohanim* for God/*Elohim*, his Father - to him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. *Amen* (CJB)."

Just as Scripture foretold, there has been a mighty thirst in the land, a hunger for His Word. "*Behold, the days are coming,*" says the Lord/Adonai GOD/*Elohim*, "*That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD/Yahweh*" (Amos 8:11; Hosea 1:10; Isaiah 66:1-2; Psalms 107:2-3; Luke 13:29).

When believers are filled with Yeshua's Spirit Life *and* walking in His directives, heaven will meet with earth. Then believers will find themselves in the fulfilled prophecy the prophets longed to see - *a royal priesthood and holy nation*. This walk is not about salvation; it is all about redemption - obedience and holiness; *the commencing of eternal heavenly life on earth – the order of Melchizedek*.

📖 **Matthew 6:10** "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

"The Kingdom of God [*supreme Messianic term for the LORD/Yahweh in the flesh, Yeshua*] does not come visibly, nor will people say, 'here it is,' or 'there it is,' because the Kingdom of God/*Elohim* is within you" (Luke 17:20; Luke 10:24).

The Census

📖 **Numbers 1:2-4** "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their *fathers'* houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above - all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies. And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each one the head of his *father's* house."

Biblically, one's heritage is established through the father's bloodline, not the mother's.

On the day of *Rosh Chodesh*, the New Moon celebration, God/*Elohim* appointed leaders from the twelve tribes as heads of His army. From Reuben there was Elizur (*My God the Rock*), from Simeon Shelumiel (*God my Salvation*), from Gad Eiasaph (*My God that Gathers*), from Judah Nahshon (*The Diviner*), from Issachar Nethaneel (*God the Giver*), from Zebulon Eliab (*My God the Father*), from Ephraim Elishama (*My God the Hearer*), from Manasseh Gamaliel (*My God the Rewarder*), from Benjamin Abidan (*My Father is Judge*), from Dan Ahiezer (*My Brother is Help*), from Asher Pagiell (*My prayer-God*) and from Naphtali Ahira (*My Brother is Friend*). The total count of Israelites at this time: 603,550.

The Tribe Of Levi

Again, the tribe of Levi is a sign to help demonstrate God's/*Elohim* Kingdom on earth according to the Tabernacle pattern.

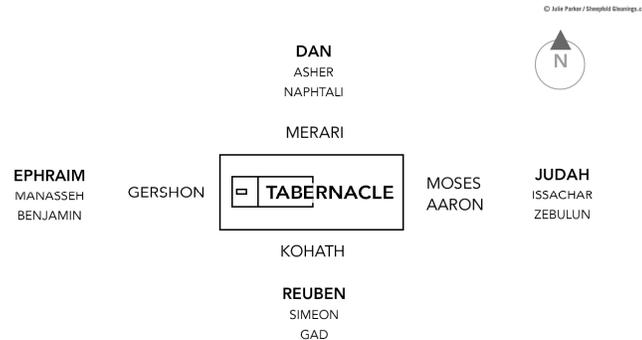
📖 **Hebrews 7:9-10** "Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. "

📖 **Numbers 1:47-51** “But the *Levites* were not numbered among them by their fathers’ tribe; for the LORD/*Yahweh* had spoken to Moses, saying: only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel; but you shall appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the Tabernacle. And when the Tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the Tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

Outsider here means one who was not appointed to serve *in* the Tabernacle. They were the outer people or “outer court” people.

Camp Arrangement of The Twelve Tribes Numbers 2:3-34

God/*Elohim* is the God of order. Earlier in the book of Exodus, we learned the care and assembly of the Tabernacle. Now we will learn about the holiness of camp order. Without a life of obedience and holiness (order), there is no camp, no army, and no taking possession of the land – *Israel’s inheritance and homeland*. God/*Elohim* placed each tribe in strategic positions, each under his own family banner. In this order, they not only camped but also traveled.



- East side:** The head tribe of *Judah*, along with the tribes of *Issachar* and *Zebulun* (186,400).
- South side:** The head tribe of *Rueben*, with tribes *Simeon* and *Gad* (151,450).
- West side:** The head tribe of *Ephraim*, with the tribes of *Manasseh* and *Benjamin* (108,100).
- North side:** The head tribe of *Dan*, with the tribes *Asher* and *Naphtali* with him (157,600).

The only family permitted to camp near the Tabernacle/*Mishkan* was the Levites.

- East side:** Moses and Aaron (Kohath)
- West side:** Gershon
- South side:** Kohath
- North side:** Merari

When God/*Elohim* summoned the camp to move, Judah and his companion tribes on the east side led Israel’s army. The Levitical tribes of Gershon and Merari followed transporting the Tabernacle framework and coverings on carts. Joining in procession behind them came Reuben and his companion tribes. The Kohath Levites were next. They physically carried the Tabernacle furnishings on their shoulders. Dan completed the rear guard with Naphtali the last tribe in the procession.

The Firstborn Numbers 3:11-16, 40-51

Because God's/*Elohim* people are a royal priesthood and a holy nation He now focuses our attention on the tribe of Levi, namely Aaron's family. With Aaron's first two sons no longer living, his younger sons Eleazar and Ithamar were elevated to serve. Eleazar, the elder of the two, became high priest/*kohan gadol* after his father, Aaron. Together these Levitical brothers oversaw both the care of the Tabernacle and the priesthood according to God's/*Elohim* holy order. God/*Elohim* will have two witnesses before Him at all times (Jeremiah 33:17-26).

📖 **Numbers 3:12-13** "See I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that open [פִּתְּחוּ *pitrah* Strong's H6363] the womb among the children of Israel; therefore the Levites shall be Mine *because all the firstborn are Mine*. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*."

The Hebrew word for open *pitrah* (or *peter*) refers to a *bursting open* or a *firstling*. It was Peter in Matthew 16:19, Yeshua first gave the keys of His heavenly Kingdom to that opened the revelation (womb) allowing the firstborn (in Torah/Yeshua) to return thereby regaining access to His Presence *in* the Tabernacle. No longer was one tribe or one man given access, now all (male and female) who honor the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, *and* walk in His righteous ways (Torah) are called *firstborn*. Acting as *priests*, they are given equal opportunity to have access to the Heavenly throne room during His special times.

The restoration of the firstborn was a huge revelation in Peter's day and still is today. The Jews at the time rejected the possibility of "strangers" (as known as Gentiles or people from the Nations) other than themselves as being part of the Commonwealth of Israel. All through the Scriptures, we see this struggle.

📖 **Acts 10:28** "Then he [*Peter*] said to them, 'You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God/*Elohim* has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.'

📖 **Luke 2:29-32** Simeon said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles [*Nations*], and the glory of Your people Israel."

📖 **Acts 9:15** "But the Lord said to him [*Ananias*], 'Go, for he [*Saul/Paul*] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles [*Nations*], kings, and the children of Israel.'"

Few understand the walk of living a holy lifestyle. Because of a lack of holiness, many are left outside their potential. Righteous behavior fashions righteous garments. That attitude generates *the order of Melchizedek* and paves the way to approach His Holy throne at His right times and in His anointed seasons.

🌿 **Ephesians 6:13-17** “Therefore take up the whole armor of God/*Elohim*, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God/*Elohim*.”

The above Scripture in Ephesians 6 is a picture of Yeshua’s army standing ready, clothed in a full suit of armor - *the order of Melchizedek (king and priest)*. Do believers realize that His army is composed of everyday believers like you and me? What is the difference that transforms a believer into God’s/*Elohim* warrior army? We witnessed this transformation in the story of David when he approached his brothers serving in King Saul’s army. David’s brothers were fitted with the finest coats of armor, but they still could not defeat the enemy. It was not until David appeared in *his armor* that the enemy was defeated. David’s armor was not visible. His was in the form of five smooth stones. The stones represented Yeshua’s life instructions from the five books of Moses: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy* called the Gospel. These stones are the true armor of Light God/*Elohim* instructs His people to walk (Ephesians 6). With God’s/*Elohim* wisdom, David was fully equipped to walk in *His power and authority*, thus, defeat the enemy no matter their size or strength.

Throughout Scripture, *the Gospel* (Word of God/*Elohim*) is the only armor that slays Israel’s enemy. That protocol also applies to those who walk in Yeshua’s commandments today. Yeshua’s army consists of individuals clothed in the full armor of His righteousness – His Gospel *in the order of Melchizedek*. Nothing of an earthly kingdom, whether it be a physical assault, a natural disaster or a personal misfortune, *nothing* will stand or defeat a believer if he or she is clothed correctly and standing in Yeshua’s right order. God’s/*Elohim* people, those who truly establish their lives in His righteous ways (His protocol), are a strong and courageous people, shielded and protected under the banner of the King of Righteousness - the Prince of Peace.

🌿 **Matthew 16:18-19** “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Redemption Of The Firstborn

In Numbers 3:12, the firstborn male Israelites who participated in the worship of the golden calf were defiled and unfit to act in God’s/*Elohim* priesthood. Therefore, God/*Elohim* chose the Levites who had not participated in this idolatry to stand for the firstborn males. In redeeming the firstborn, the Levites were counted (22,000), then the firstborn males, one-month-old and up, were counted (22,273). With more firstborn males than there were Levites, the firstborn paid a redemption price of five shekels each to Aaron. Today, observant Jews still pay the Levite’s redemption of their firstborn males thirty days after birth according to the sanctuary shekel price.

🌿 **Jeremiah 33:17-22** “For thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘David [*representing the firstborn sons in the Melchizedek order – king and priest*] shall never lack a man to sit on the

throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually. If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant *and* the Levites who minister to Me.’”

The Levites Numbers 3:17 - 4:20

God/*Elohim* now outlines the Levite’s camp position and details their duties. Holiness surrounds the Tabernacle.

The Names Of The Sons Of Levi

Gershon: with sons: Libni and Shimei

Kohath: with sons: Amram (Moses and Aaron’s family), Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel

Merari: with sons: Mahli and Mushi

The Levites *The Gershon Clan* Numbers 3:21-26

Levi’s first son *Gershon* and his sons *Libni* and *Shimi* numbered 7,500. They camped on the west side behind the Tabernacle and before the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. The Gershon were to care for all the coverings of the Tabernacle and related materials including: the Tabernacle inner and outer coverings, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the curtains surrounding the courtyard, the screen for the entrance of the courtyard surrounding the Tabernacle and additionally all the fixtures and ropes for these items, and their maintenance.

The Levites *The Merari Clan* Numbers 3:33-37

Merari was the third son of Levi. Together with his sons *Mahli* and *Mushi* their numbers were 6,200. The Merari family camped on the north side of the Tabernacle before Dan and the tribes of Asher and Naphtali. The Merari were in charge of the framework of the Tabernacle including the crossbars, posts, and bases, as well as the posts for the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes.

The Levites *The Kohath Clan* Numbers 3:27-32

The second son of Levi was *Kohath* with sons *Amram*, *Izhar*, *Hebron*, and *Uzziel* they numbered 8,600. The Kohath camped on the south side of the Tabernacle just before Rueben, Simeon, and

Gad. The Kohath's were responsible for the care of the ark, the table of showbread, the menorah, the altars, the articles used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use. Aaron's son Eleazar, the priest, was appointed the chief leader for all Levites. From the Kohath came the Levitical *priestly* line. The firstborn Kohan inherited the title *kohan gadol* or high priest. In this case, Eleazar would carry the title after his father, Aaron.

The Kohath Levites Moses and Aaron High Priest Numbers 3:38-39

The final camp assignment belonged to Moses and Aaron and those from the Amram clan. They were to camp before the entrance of the Tabernacle on the east side toward the rising sun. The tribes that camped behind them were Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

Consider The Plan

It is amazing to see the functioning of the Tabernacle detailing the priests, the Levites, and the tribes all working together. The principles of order and holiness are the foundation for all of God's/*Elohim* teaching and instruction. Holiness is about moral and honorable ways of reverence that stems out of obedience. All of Creation is obedient to God's/*Elohim* order of holiness, as He alone is holy. Man is the only being in all of Creation given a free choice: *to obey or not*. That is why God/*Elohim* teaches His people *how* to be obedient to His instructions. Obedience brings the blessing. Without obedience to His heavenly Tabernacle order, and the acting out of His principles here on earth, chaos and lawlessness would rule. Chaos here on earth is what man brings through his disobedience, neglect, and lack of acknowledgment to God's/*Elohim* Word. That is why we pray, study, and consider His Word for the wisdom it contains on *how* to walk in His redemption and holiness so freely offered us *today*.

The earthly Tabernacle and its functions are an exact replica of the Heavenly Tabernacle and an exact blueprint of Yeshua's ministry today, as God/*Elohim* does not change. His word is written on our hearts and is the pattern He asks believers to walk. There is no other pattern we are to follow. Even the positioning around the Tabernacle keeps this design - the Tabernacle being its center, the priesthood in the middle, with the twelve tribes marking the outer boundary. His model of holiness exists in everything to do with Him. It also speaks of our walk of holiness comprised of body, soul, and spirit all functioning as *one*. His Kingdom pattern gives clear guidance to Israel, as God's/*Elohim* people are a *royal priesthood and a holy nation - the army of God/Elohim* (Ezekiel 43:10-12; Ephesians 6; Hebrews 8:2).

The Duty Of The Kohath - Priests Numbers 4

Chapter four illustrates the work of the Kohath in greater detail, which continues into the next study. The Tabernacle furniture was transported in a specific way, by way of holiness. Thus only the Kohath were given this task. To begin, God/*Elohim* called a census of all Kohath between the ages of thirty and fifty who were fit to serve before Him as priests *in* the Tabernacle.

How To Move Camp

The Ark with the Mercy Seat Numbers 4:1-6

The partition-curtain between the holy place and the most holy place was taken down by the priests and placed over the ark. The second layer of *tachash* hide or animal fur was laid over this, and then a third layer consisting of blue wool became the final wrapping over the ark. These coverings were likened to the progressive revelation of our walk with the goal of eternity - the throne room. Two staves placed on the sides of the ark made it easier for the Kohath to carry the furnishings on their shoulders, as the ark was not touched even in transport. The priests also walked barefoot while moving the furnishings, as the sages believed the elements in the gold along with the fur, may have created an electric field that could have injured or even killed the priests if they were not grounded and walking in unison with one another.



The Table of Showbread Numbers 4:7-8

For transport, the priests first covered the showbread table with a blue wool covering. All its dishes and utensils, along with the twelve loaves of unleavened bread were carefully positioned on the blue cloth. A second layer consisted of scarlet wool and a third layer of animal/*tachash* hide. Two staves were placed on either side for carrying. It is interesting that the sky blue cloth, representing heaven, was put on the table before the instruments and the bread. Arranging the scarlet wool next to the bread - both represent Yeshua, the Bread of Life, Redemption (John 6:35).

🔥 **John 6:49-51** “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

The Menorah Numbers 4:9-10

The priests wrapped the menorah in a blue wool covering and carried it on a pole. All its utensils and the oil were then placed in an animal skin/*tachash* bag that hung from the pole. Blue represents His heavenly Glory. It is said that the light created before the heavenly lights on the fourth day of Creation *was the true light*.

🔥 **John 8:12** “Yeshua said, “I am THE Light of the World.”

Yeshua spoke this during the Feast of Tabernacles as He stood beneath the giant flaming menorahs. It was reported that the *light* from these menorahs during the Feast was so intense that it could be seen all over Jerusalem. A short while later, Yeshua died, hung on a pole - The Light for all to see.

The Golden Altar
Numbers 4:11

In transport, the priests covered the altar of incense with a blue wool cloth and then with an animal hide/*tachash* covering. Two poles were inserted on either side for carrying. These elements represent the praise rising to the heavenly realms as all declare His Glory.

🦁 **Revelation 4:8** “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is *ADONAI*, God/*Elohim* of heaven’s armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!’” CJB (Isaiah 6:3; Amos 3:13; 4:13)

All articles used for ministry in the Tabernacle were wrapped in blue cloth, covered with a *tachash* hide and then carried on a frame. They represent His Heavenly ministry (Numbers 4:12).

The Bronze Altar
Numbers 4:13-14

The last item of furniture mentioned was the brazen altar. In preparation, the priests removed the ashes. Then a purple cloth draped the altar. Its utensils lay on top, and a *tachash* hide its final covering. Two poles were in place on the sides for carrying. The purple represents Yeshua’s Kingly and Princely ministry in the order of Melchizedek.

The moving of the Tabernacle furniture, with all its assemblage and flowing robes, was solely under the care of the Kohath. They balanced it on their shoulders between the two poles as they walked barefoot through the wilderness. The responsibility these men maintained during their travels was not an easy task. How they conducted themselves in this ministry so many generations ago is how we are to measure our walk with Messiah’s ministry today. The Kohath are our example of holiness.

The Kohath High Priest
Numbers 4:16-20

Aaron’s son Eleazar was acting High Priest in charge of Tabernacle protocol. It was also his responsibility to care for the oil of the lampstand/*menorah*, the incense for the golden altar, the grain offering, and anointing oil, especially while journeying through the wilderness. These elements are all symbols of our *holy* walk in Yeshua today, for without holiness no one can see the ministry behind these items.

🦁 **Luke 2:30-32** “For my eyes have seen your salvation [*Yeshua*], which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Nations and for glory to your people Israel.”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Reference

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Israel Enters the Promised Land, as in Joshua 3:5-17, illustration from a Bible card published between 1896 and 1913 by the Providence Lithograph Company. Public Domain
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