

# Numbers—Ecclesia in the Wilderness (Acts 7:38)

2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. 1<sup>st</sup> Mo.

**Exo 40:17,34** It came to pass in **the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month**, that the **TABERNACLE** was reared up... a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the **TABERNACLE**.

30 days

*Principles of Divine Worship*

**Lev 1:1-2** LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the **TABERNACLE...**

*The whole of Lev. comes between the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the first month and the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the second month (Lev 1:1 cp Num 10:11)—HPM*

2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mo.

**Num 1:1-2** LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the **TABERNACLE... on the first day of the second month, in the second year** after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, Take ye the sum of all... Israel

*Ref. point is God Manifest.*

*Next Generation*  
40<sup>th</sup> Yr. 11<sup>th</sup> Mo.

**Deu 1:1-3** Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness... And it came to pass **in the fortieth year**, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month

# Numbers—The Ecclesia in the Wilderness (Acts 7:38)

1. Exo giving of the Law, 10 commands, Tabernacle (Exo 19-40)
2. Lev regulations offerings, laws of uncleanness, feasts (Lev 1:1)
3. Num laws, ordinances for Israel in the wilderness (Num 1:1)
4. Deu the Law given to the next generation (Deu 1:39)

Two census taken: Num 1-2 cf. Num 26.

➤ (1) those who ENTERED WILDERNESS WITH MOSES,

➤ (2) those who ENTERED THE LAND WITH JOSHUA

Moses—wilderness/death. Joshua—inheritance/life.

Num 26:63-65 “These *are* they that were numbered **by Moses and Eleazar the priest**, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab **BY JORDAN** near Jericho. But among these there was not a man of them whom **Moses and Aaron the priest** numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, and **Joshua** the son of Nun”

Num 1:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses **IN THE WILDERNESS of Sinai**, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the **FIRST DAY OF THE SECOND MONTH, IN THE SECOND YEAR** *after they were come out of the land of Egypt*, saying,

**In the Wilderness**—this is the actual name of the book.

Act 7:37-39 “**THIS IS THAT MOSES**, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. **THIS IS HE** that was **IN THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS** with the angel which spake to him *in the mount Sina*, and with our fathers: who received *the lively oracles* to give unto us: To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK AGAIN INTO EGYPT”

- *Moses being typical of the greater prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ, this reps. the ecclesia after their departure from Egypt, but before their inheritance under Joshua (Mat 2:15).*
- Though many “in their hearts turned back again to Egypt” and died, they did have “the living oracles”—*the Words of Life.*

1Cor 10:1-12 “Brethren, I WOULD NOT THAT YE SHOULD BE IGNORANT, how that **ALL** our fathers were under the cloud, and **ALL** passed through the sea; And were **ALL** *baptized unto Moses* in the cloud and in the sea; And did **ALL** eat *the same spiritual* meat; And did **ALL** drink *the same spiritual* drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and *that Rock was Christ*. BUT with **many** of them God was not well pleased: *for they were overthrown in the wilderness*. Now THESE THINGS WERE OUR **EXAMPLES** (*type, figure*) to the intent we should not *lust* after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye *idolaters*, as *were some* of them...Neither let us commit *fornication*, as **some** of them committed...Neither let us *tempt* Christ, as **some** of them also tempted...Neither *murmur* ye, as **some** of them also murmured ...all these things happened unto them FOR **ENSAMPLES** (*type, figure*): and they are written for our *admonition* (*Gk. warning*), upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (*context v.13-14*) **see: Heb 3:16**

- *In direct language we are told: (1) Israel was typical of ourselves; (2) we all have the same provision to overcome the wilderness journey.*

**Heb 4:1-11** “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of *entering into his REST*, any of you should seem to come short of it. **FOR UNTO US WAS THE GOSPEL PREACHED, AS WELL AS UNTO THEM:** but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. For we which have believed do enter into **REST**, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my **REST**: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. *For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did REST the seventh day from all his works... For if \*JESUS had given them REST*, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a **REST** to the people of God... Let us labour therefore to enter into that **REST**, lest any man fall after the same **EXAMPLE** of unbelief” *\*Joshua (Act 7:45)*

### **Wilderness Warning: Hardened or Humbled—the Divine Process**

**Heb 3:8-9** “**HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS**, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation **IN THE WILDERNESS**”

**Remember:** “Jesus was led up of the spirit in the wilderness” **Mat 4:1**

➤ It is Numbers that records Moses appointing Joshua—**Num 27:15-18**

***Deu 8:1-5,16*** “Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to HUMBLE thee, and to PROVE thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he HUMBLED thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, AS A MAN CHASTENETH HIS SON, SO THE LORD THY GOD CHASTENETH THEE... Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end”

The “wilderness” is necessary for Yahweh’s people to be brought into the Land under Joshua. Though provided daily sustenance, the trials are intended to humble us and create reliance and reverence toward Yahweh (*Heb 12—chastening is evidence of Divine love*).

**Exo 14:11-12** “They said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, *hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness?* Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? *Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, LET US ALONE, THAT WE MAY SERVE THE EGYPTIANS? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness*”

➤ **Caution:** in the wilderness, the ecclesia blamed Yahweh for their failure; accusing Him of bringing His people from Egypt to destroy, not save them. *Exo 16:1-3; 17:1-4; Num 16:13-14; 20:3-5; Jos 7:7 (Jer 2:6-9; 20:7)*

**Jam 1:13-14** “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed”

- *The “trial of your faith” is to create saints that will be “found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” 1Pet 1:7*

**Vital Principle:** to comprehend the necessity of trial in the wilderness requires appreciating the purpose of the One imposing trials: Yahweh.

Num 1:1 And the LORD *spake* unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, **IN THE TABERNACLE** of the congregation, on the first *day* of the **second month, in the second year** after they were come out of the land of Egypt, *saying*,

In the Tabernacle...saying—one month after the Tabernacle was erected, and 13 months from departing Egypt, Israel is given instruction of how to prepare and overcome the wilderness journey. This center for all things was the Tabernacle—

Tabernacle taught the purpose of Israel's calling from Egypt: The Glory of Yahweh. Only by following Yahweh's pattern could this purpose be accomplished (Exo 25:1-9). *All the Law taught that only when labor and affection is toward Yahweh can man be redeemed.* It is from this tabernacle that Yahweh instructs Israel for life "in the wilderness."

Num 10:11-12 "It came to pass on **the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year**, THAT THE CLOUD WAS TAKEN UP FROM OFF THE TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY. **AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TOOK THEIR JOURNEYS OUT OF THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI...**"



## The Wilderness Journey was in harmony with God Manifestation

It is *not* only the building of the structure (Exo 25-40) and the sacrifices offered (Lev 1-5), but also the ordering of their journey.

Bro. Roberts rightly calls the Tabernacle “a structural parable” in the Law of Moses. The objects and purpose of the building teaches how Yahweh can dwell IN and AMONG His people.

Exo 25:8 And let THEM make ME a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. *(tabernacle called, became temple 1Sam 1:9; 3:3)*

Lev 26:11-12 “I will set my TABERNACLE **AMONG** YOU: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will **WALK** among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.” (Eze 43:9; Zec 2:10; 1Jhn 4:12-15)

❑ “Every true son and daughter of the Lord God Almighty is A MINIATURE TABERNACLE OR TEMPLE, as saith Paul, ‘Ye are the temple of the living God. If any man defile the temple of God, him will God destroy’.”— *Law of Moses, R. Roberts*

**2Cor 6:14-18** “Be ye not unequally YOKED TOGETHER with unbelievers: for what FELLOWSHIP hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what COMMUNION hath light with darkness? And what CONCORD hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what AGREEMENT hath the temple of God with idols? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and WALK in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”

- Paul’s quotation of **Lev 26:12** shows the principles of the Tabernacle require separation from Egypt/darkness. Yahweh can’t dwell “IN” His people otherwise. “Be ye holy...” (Lev 20:26).
- Israel was roundly condemned for polluting Yahweh’s Temple through association with the stranger (2Chr 36:14; Eze 8:5-16).
- Remember: the *stranger* was forbidden to come nigh the Tabernacle. He would be put to death (Num 1:51; 3:10; 3:38)

**Eph 2:19-22** “Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the HOUSEHOLD of God; And are BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, Jesus Christ himself being THE CHIEF CORNER STONE; *In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD:* In whom ye also are builded together **FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT”**      *Solomon’s Temple “seven years in building”—1Kin 6:37-28*

**1Cor 6:15-20** “KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT WHICH IS IN YOU**, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? *For ye are bought with a price: therefore \*GLORIFY God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” \*Glory of Yahweh filled tabernacle (Exo 40)*

**1Cor 3:16-17** “ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that **the Spirit of God DWELLETH** in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, *which temple ye are”* (Rev 21:1-4)

- The responsibility of Brethren is to Manifest God in our lives; to be repositories of the Spirit-Word dwelling in us. *This requirement will, without question, humble flesh and exalt Yahweh.*

**Num 5:1-3 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they PUT OUT OF THE CAMP every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead: Both male and female shall ye PUT OUT, WITHOUT THE CAMP shall ye put them; *that they defile not their camps, IN THE MIDST WHEREOF I DWELL*”** **The intent is to limit the defiling affects on others:**

- **It is humanism to assert the only and primary purpose for separating one from fellowship is only *“for their own good”* (1Tim 1:20).**

**1Cor 5:5-8 “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth”** (Gal 5:1-10)

**1Cor 15:22“Be not deceived, evil communications corrupts good manners”** —individual defilement spreads to communal—

Num 10:11 And it came to pass on the *twentieth day of the second month*, in the second year, that **THE CLOUD WAS TAKEN UP FROM OFF THE TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY.**

Num 10:12 And *the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.*

**20<sup>th</sup> Day of 2<sup>nd</sup> Month**—the Tabernacle was reared up on the “in the first month in the second year, on the first *day* of the month” (Exo 40:17). Therefore, Yahweh’s people departed from Sinai 50 days after Yahweh’s glory filled the Tabernacle—a Jubilee! Aaron and his sons were sanctified on this day (Exo 40:12-16). This represents the Judgment Seat, when the saints are glorified as a “kingdom of priests” (Rev 5:10) and Yahweh dwells among them (Rev 21:1-3).

- **The journey begins with a purpose in mind: the Kingdom Jubilee**
- These redeemed come from Sinai and Paran (Deu 33:1-3). Moses, declares that Yahweh’s enemies will be scattered (Num 10:35-36) ...quoted in Psa 68:1; 68:17! “*And when it rested, he said, Return, O Yahweh, unto the many thousands of Israel*” **margin 10,000**

**Num 9:17-23** “**And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched:** AS LONG AS THE CLOUD ABODE UPON THE TABERNACLE THEY RESTED IN THEIR TENTS... **whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: BUT WHEN IT WAS TAKEN UP, THEY JOURNEYED. At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses”**

- **God Manifestation is the sole direction through the Wilderness.**
- **Yahweh did this to “lead them in the way,” to “shew them light and the way wherein they should go” —Neh 9:19**

The redemption money to make atonement for the children of Israel was “after the shekel of the sanctuary”—Exo 30:12-16; Lev 27:3; Num 3:47

Num 1:2 Take ye the SUM of all the congregation of the children of Israel, *after their families, by the house of their FATHERS, with the number of their NAMES, EVERY MALE by their polls;*

**Num 1-10: the Preparation**

**After their families—*this is the structure of the ecclesia in the wilderness.*** The foundation of family and ecclesia is the MALES.

- **Fathers, Males—**The head of the woman is the MAN (1Cor 11:3), who sacrifices for her, like Christ for the Ecclesia (Gen 2:21-25; Eph 5:22-33). The MAN must give himself for the sustaining life of the wife and washes her with the Word, as Christ did the ecclesia.
- He is the instructor of the children in spiritual things (Eph 6:4; Jos 4:6) and the hand of discipline (Heb 12:9; 1Tim 3:4-5).
- The MAN is to be sober or serious-minded in the Truth (1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:7-8; 2:1-4). In warfare and in worship (Exo 23:17), he must lead the wife and children to service to Yahweh.
- All the genealogies of the Bible are by MEN. Families sustain the ecclesia, anchored by the man: *Titus 1:5; Lev 24:1-4*

**Num 1:3** From *twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth* **TO WAR in Israel:** thou and Aaron shall number them by their **ARMIES.** *(there is old age limit noted)*

**20 years and upward**—maturity, responsibility begins. This age upward gave a half shekel for redemption (Exo 30:11-16), and were responsible for their vows (Lev 27:1-3). 20 and upward died in the wilderness (Num 14:25). *This age is mentioned 15x in this chapter. Josiah 20 when he reformed Judah (2Chr 34:1-3) Compare 30 yrs Levites to serve the Tabernacle Num 4. \*consider the critical decisions you make in youth.*

**Tit 2:6** “Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.”

- Same Gk. trans Legion was clothed and “in his right mind” (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35): “to think soberly” (Rom 12:3), and “be ye sober” (1Pet 4:7). *The world praises youth, while the Truth honors eldership*

**Pro 20:29** “The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head”

**Tit 2:4** elder sisters “teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children” (see: **Ecc 12:1**)



## **Warfare—the spiritual battle: nature of flesh and carnal mind!**

***Rom 7:23; Gal 5:16-17—the Bible is filled with war! Battle of two mindsets***

***2Tim 2:3-4 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (1Tim 6:12)***

***1Tim 1:18 “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck”***

***2Cor 10:3-5 “Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”***

- The principle of warfare applies to everyone; as all of Israel constituted “an army” as they departed Egypt—

Exo 6:26 ”Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies”

Exo 7:4 “And bring forth mine armies, my people the children of Israel” (see: *Exo 12:17, 51—instruments of righteousness Rom 6:13*)

*\*Women assembling at Tabernacle as “troops” (Exo 38:8 mg)*

Eph 6:13-17 “Take unto you THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD... having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (*be prepared with doctrine*); Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

- **Exemptions: Deu 24:5 those who are newly married and have not established their own families. Significant exhortation!**

**Num 1:47** But *the Levites* after the tribe of their fathers **WERE NOT NUMBERED AMONG THEM.**

**Num 1:48** For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,

**Num 1:49** **ONLY THOU SHALT NOT NUMBER THE TRIBE OF LEVI, NEITHER TAKE THE SUM OF THEM AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL:**

**The Levites—why were they set apart? Because they represent:**

- Those who remain faithful while the mediator is absent (Exo 32).
- Firstborn and the true ecclesia (Num 3:12-13; Heb 12:22-23).
- Abrahamic seed after spirit, which no man can number (Gen 15:5)
- Those putting difference between clean/unclean (Eze 44:10-15, 23).
- Those who are not among the multitude (Exo 23:2; 2Cor 10:12).
- Students, teachers of the Word (Lev 10:11; Deu 17:9; 24:8; 2Chr 15:3; 17:8-9; 35:3; 30:22; Ezra 7:10; Neh 8:1-9; Hag 2:11; Mal 2:7; 2Kin 17:28)
- Those wholly given to minister (Heb. “serve”) the High Priest: that is, Christ (Num 3:5-9; Heb 9:11).

**Note: the genealogy of Aaron is meticulously traced in the Bible, but not Moses. The priesthood being everlasting; the Law passing away.**

Num 1:51-52 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. 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.

Num 1:53 *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.**

**Keep—Charge—a military term, as a soldier on guard.**

- It is significant that Paul used this exact language; telling Timothy of his obligation to keep the “charge” and “war the warfare” in the work of the Truth (1Tim 1:3, 18-20; 1Tim 6:12-13; 2Tim 4:7; 2:1-4).
- Accordingly, they encouraged Israel in battle (Deu 20:1-10; 2Chr 13:14; Num 10:8; Jos 6:4-20).
- They also had to withstand unclean approaches to Yahweh from their brethren (Exo 32; 2Chr 26:16-20; Eze 40:45-46; 44:8-16; Num 8:11-26)

Num 2:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Num 2:2 *\*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.* **\*individual families, although by tribe**

**Far off**—focus of each family's life is centered on God Manifestation; while the significant distance teaches the cautious approach needed, as well as the significant gulf between Yahweh's Holiness and Flesh!

- **Appropriately, it taught every individual, family, and tribe within the Nation of Israel the great type that coming nigh to Yahweh's Glory was future—2,000 years (the distance of the Ark entering the Land under Joshua cf. Jos 3:4)—and the necessity of the Wilderness process to accomplish that end.**
- **Likewise, “far off” is a phrase used for Gentiles; showing Israel they were not to consider themselves acceptable before God because they were the “seed of Abraham” (Eph 2:13; Isa 66:19; Acts 22:21).**

**Num 3:10** And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and *the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

**Stranger**—Heb. “to turn aside.” Aaron and his sons were to strictly guard the Holy things against encroachment. (Eze 44:8-10)

**Exo 32:26-27** “Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who *is* on the LORD'S side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, *and go in*

*Both the Levites who minister or prepare for worship, and the priests who conduct it, are types of the saints, who both minister and act as a spiritual priesthood (Heb. 13:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:5). The Levitical service is from God and for God, but towards men. It defines what the Scriptures call “ministry”. The name “Levi” signifies “joined”, and their work was to help men in their approach to God, so that they might be joined with Him in fellowship.*

and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.”

Num 9:18 *At the commandment of the LORD* the children of Israel *journeyed*, and *at the commandment of the LORD* they *pitched*: AS LONG AS THE CLOUD ABODE UPON THE TABERNACLE THEY RESTED IN THEIR TENTS.

Num 9:19 AND WHEN THE CLOUD TARRIED LONG UPON THE TABERNACLE MANY DAYS, THEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL KEPT THE CHARGE OF THE LORD, AND JOURNEYED NOT.

Num 9:20 And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the TABERNACLE; *according to the commandment of the LORD* they abode in their tents, and *according to the commandment of the LORD* they journeyed.

**Cloud—reps. Yahweh's presence (Lev 16:2). Israel's movement stood related to the Tabernacle: based entirely upon God-Manifestation.**

**According to the commandment of Yahweh—the *ecclesia in the Wilderness* is to be “led by the Spirit” (Rom 8:14).**

- “The way of man is not within himself” to direct his steps (Jer 10:23)
- We must not “lean upon our own understanding” but His (Pro 3<sup>3</sup>:5-6)

**Num 10:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,  
**Num 10:2** Make thee *two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece* shalt thou make them: **(1)** that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, **(2)** and for the journeying of the camps.  
*(silver = redemption: Exod. 30:12-15)*

**Two Trumpets of Silver**—that these two were made of one single piece, teaching redemption is found in both worship and warfare. The two works Christ and the Apostles were engaged in continually.

**Neh 4:16-18** “They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me”  
*(two-edged sword, Heb 4:12)*

**Php 1:7** “Inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace”

**Act 19:8** “And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God”



## **ECCLESIAL GUIDE—Bro. Roberts: Article 13: Objects Of Ecclesial Work**

**“The objects of ecclesial operations are two-fold: 1—the edification (or refreshment, encouragement, strengthening, or building up) of its individual constituents in the faith; ‘the edifying of itself in love’ (Eph. 4:16); and 2—the exhibition of the light of the Truth to ‘those that are without.’ In this two-fold capacity, the ecclesia is ‘the pillar (that which upholds) and ground (that which gives standing room) of the truth’ (1Tim. 3:15). *These two objects will always be carefully pursued by enlightened and earnest men.* Neither is to be lost sight of, and neither sacrificed to the other. Edification is the more agreeable: but the testimony of the truth is the more dutiful function. We must, therefore, resist the tendency to exalt the former over the latter; and, at the same time, be on our equal guard that we pursue not the latter to the sacrifice of the former. There is a tendency in young ecclesias to give the public testimony the more prominent place; and in older bodies, perhaps the tendency is to prefer that which is individually profitable to that which may seem to them a bootless exhibition of divine matters to a heedless public. A right condition of things *gives both an equal place.* Duty to Christ will sustain older ecclesias in a course from which their individual preferences would withdraw them: and the need of comfort, and the luxury and service and worship will help the younger bodies to give due place to breaking of bread and exhortation.”**

Num 3:12 And I, behold, *I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel* **\*INSTEAD OF ALL THE FIRSTBORN** that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; **\*Num 3:41, 45**

Num 3:13 Because *all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I* **\*SMOTE** *all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.* **\*contrast Egyptian death—Israel life**

**Levites—Firstborn—principle of “birth” (from Egypt) is associated with the priesthood. Saints are styled both “firstborn” and “priests”**

- The Levites were appointed by Yahweh to the status of Firstborn. Although they received tithes of offerings, they were NOT an “exalted” people, but servants of Yahweh and Israel. **In fact, they had no inheritance and were made base, being grouped among the fatherless, strangers, widow, men servants and maid servants (see: Deu 16:11-14; 26:12-13). See warning: Deu 12:12-19; 14:27— Number of Firstborn and Levites almost the same...**<sup>26</sup>

**Firstborn**—rep. LIFE in contrast to Egyptian DEATH, they were given and dedicated to the things of Yahweh; first committed to God at the smiting of the firstborn of Egypt (Exo 13:12-16)! Firstborn was a status, not necessary natural birth. The unworthy could be replaced:

- Replaced by father if unfaithful (1Chr 5:1-2; 1Chr 26:10)
- Important because covenants passed to firstborn (Gen 48:14-22; Gen 25:31; 27:19). Sons of Joseph: Jew and Gentile.
- Israel called Yahweh's "firstborn" and so are the saints (Exo 4:22-23; Heb 12:22-23); redeemed by passover lamb. Not all Israel who are of Israel (Rom 9:6-9). Hence, saints called seed of Abraham (Gal 3:26-29) and "Israel of God" (Gal 6:15-16).
- Made Yahweh's firstborn, the covenants were given to Christ (Psa 89:24-28; Col 1:15-19). Kingdom given to him (2Chr 21:1-3)
- Jesus firstborn among many brethren (Rom 8:28-30), called the "firstfruits" (1Cor 15:20-23; Jam 1:17-18; Rev 14:1-4); the "new creation" (2Cor 5:17)
- Firstborn represents "might" or "strength" of the Father and family (Exo 13:2; Gen 49:3; Psa 78:51).

***See: Bro Jim Cowie notes on Zarah and Pharez.***

- **Firstborn**—the principle of the firstborn is established with the patriarchs: Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Ephraim and Manasseh, and Pharez and Zarah. *This doctrine is very important as it stands related to the Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic.* Note that Zarah is Abrahamic, and Pharez “the breach” (Gal 3:17-19) is Mosaic. Zarah is actually first, but came out last (Gen 38:26-30)
- The Abrahamic Covenant teaches the very principle of the **FIRSTBORN**. The Lord Jesus Christ came to “confirm” the covenants made to the patriarchs (Rom 15:8), which were pushed out of the way by the Mosaic: the Law being added because of transgression (Gal 3:17-19). In fact, the Mosaic is called “the first covenant” (Heb 8:7; Heb 9:17-19), making the confirmation of the Abrahamic by Christ the “second” covenant.
- The Abrahamic, confirmed as the “second” is actually the covenant of the Firstborns! Mosaic is Sinai, and Abrahamic is Jerusalem (Gal 4:22-31). Thus, Abraham and Sarah’s children are that of Zion (Isa 51:1-3; Heb 12:22-23)!

**Teachers—(not speakers) as instructors of the Law, “the priests the Levites” were as the mouthpiece for Yahweh. This is realized even in Moses’ brother, “Aaron the Levite.” see: Exo 4:10-16; 7:1.**

- **Lev 10:8-11 Not to be intoxicated to, teach difference between clean and unclean. Must personally live the principle.**
- **Deu 17:8-11 To teach Yahweh’s judgments from the Law in matters enquired by the children of Israel. (Hag 2:11)**
- **Deu 24:8 To inspect cases of Leprosy among Israel.**
- **Deu 27:9-26 To urge their brethren to obey the voice of Yahweh, pronouncing cursing for disobedience.**
- **Deu 31:24-26 To carefully place the Law in the Ark. To connect the Law with Christ. (2Kin 17:27-28)**
- **2Chr 15:1-4 Without a teachers, there was no law, no God.**
- **2Chr 17:7-9 To teach directly from the same Law—not their own words—throughout all of the region.**
- **2Chr 35:1-6 To follow the king’s direction and serve the House of Yahweh and teach in Israel.**

- **2Chr 30:20-22** To teach the knowledge of Yahweh and unite with Yahweh's king; and lead their brethren in worship.
- **Ezra 7:10-11** To follow the Divine order: personally seek Yahweh, personally do the Law, then to teach Israel.
- **Neh 8:1-12** To directly reference the Word of God in the sight of all the people, to elevate the Law with all the people, and to expound the Scripture to give it proper representation. To comfort brethren when the conscience has been opened.
- **Mal 2:4-8** To seek, speak and walk the Law of Yahweh, that brethren do not "stumble" by their own personal failure.
- **The Levites are addressed heavily in the Book of Numbers: 7:5-6; 8:6-26; 18:6-30; 35:2-8**

**They were to maintain steadfastness when their brethren went astray (Exo 32):**

**Eze 44:10 "And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity"**

Col 2:16-17 “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: WHICH ARE A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME; BUT THE BODY IS OF CHRIST”

- Christ is the “substance” or personal, bodily fulfillment of the “shadows” in the Law (Heb 8:5; 9:9; 10:1).

John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST”

- The apostle refers to “the FORM of knowledge and of the truth in the law” Rom 2:20. *The Greek word “form” means to resemble. The root word is used for Christ in the “form” of Yahweh’s character (Phi 2:6).*
- “Now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being WITNESSED by the law and the prophets” Rom 3:21.
- ☐ “This view of the matter enables us to understand how Christ could say that he had come to fulfil ‘the law and the prophets’, and that ‘till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled’ (Mat 5: 17-18).”—R.R. Law of Moses