

Session 1: The Battle on the Journey Ahead

Scripture Focus: Numbers 1:2-4, 24; Numbers 2:1-2

Theme: An Honest Accounting - Preparing for Battle

I. Opening: An Honest Accounting Amongst the People of God

Numbers 1:2-4

"Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company."

The Context: Israel has received the _____ at Mount Sinai, the _____ has been constructed, and now God commands a _____.

Why an Honest Accounting?

- Persecution, turmoil, and strife lead to times when we can no longer "fudge the _____."
- We need a real look at our _____ condition
- We need a real inventory of our _____ and _____

KEY QUESTION: Is God's house the center? Is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (both personally and corporately) properly _____ according to all the Lord has said?

Damascus Road Connection

The Pattern:

- **RELIGION** → (what we think we know)
- **REVELATION** → (God shows us reality)
- **RESTORATION** → (transformation begins)
- **PURPOSE** → (sent on mission)

Before we enter the battle ahead, we need honest accounting like Saul's Damascus moment.

Notes

II. The Thirteen Elements of Preparation (Numbers 1-2)

Before God moved Israel forward, He required complete preparation in thirteen areas:

1. An Honest Survey Based on God's Word

Numbers 1:24

"Do all according to what the LORD has said"

We must assess our position according to God's _____, not our _____ or _____.

2. The Arrangement of the Camp

Numbers 2:2

"The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side."

The Pattern:

- **East:** Judah (meaning _____), Issachar, Zebulun
- **South:** Reuben, Simeon, Gad
- **West:** Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin
- **North:** Dan, Asher, Naphtali
- **Center:** The _____ (God's dwelling place)

Key Truth: Everything faced the _____. God was the _____. Every tribe knew their position in relation to God's _____.

3. The Duties of the People

- **The Levites:** Set apart for _____ to the Tabernacle
- **The Warriors:** Numbered for _____

Principle: Not everyone has the same _____, but everyone has a role.

4. The Separation of the Unclean

God's presence requires _____. Uncleaness cannot coexist with His dwelling.

The Question: What unclean things are you in your life?

The Warning: Are we worshiping with _____ fire?

Notes

5. Confession and Restitution

The Requirement:

- Confess the _____
- Make full _____
- Add one-fifth to it
- Give it to the one wronged

1 Peter 2:1

"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander."

We are a _____ priesthood - we must live differently.

6. The Testing of Commitment

God tests what we claim to believe. Our _____ will be proven.

7. The Consecration of Commitment

The Nazirite Vow (Numbers 6): Voluntary _____ beyond the requirements - giving yourself wholly to God.

8. The Blessing

Numbers 6:24-27 - The Aaronic Blessing

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace... So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

God puts His _____ on His people. We carry His _____ into battle.

9. The Offerings of Consecration

Numbers 7: All the leaders brought _____ offerings over twelve days, showing unity in worship.

10. The Lighting of the Lamp

Light must be _____. The priests kept the lamps burning continually.

Question: Are you a light on a _____ or hidden under _____ or _____ ?

Notes

11. The Cleansing of the Priests

Those who serve in God's presence must be _____ by God's process.

1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

We are a _____ priesthood, called to declare His praises.

12. The Passover

Never forget where you came from. Never forget the _____ that delivered you.

The Cloud and Fire (Numbers 9:15-23):

- We have the cloud of the day - (Hebrews 12)
- We have the fire for night - (Romans 13:11-14)

13. HIS PRESENCE - The Goal of Everything

Numbers 9:17

"And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped."

THE ULTIMATE REALITY: Everything - the census, the arrangement, the offerings, the cleansing - was about POSITIONING IN RELATION TO GOD'S PRESENCE.

The Question: We don't have the power of the Lord without the _____ .

What happened before the cloud carried the tabernacle bringing fire in the night?

All elements of preparation had to be in place, then - HIS PRESENCE manifested to lead.

Notes

III. The Journey Ahead - One of Truth

THE CORE MESSAGE: The journey ahead requires honest _____ and undivided _____ .

The Book of the Wars of the LORD

Numbers 21:14

"Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD"

Key Truth: The entire Bible is the Book of the Wars of the LORD. It reveals what natural sight cannot see - the _____ reality behind every conflict.

Preparing for Battle

Numbers 1:3: "From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are "

The journey from Sinai to Canaan would require:

- Spiritual _____
- Physical _____
- Organizational _____
- Unity of _____
- Proper _____

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. **Honest Accounting:** Have you taken an honest inventory of your spiritual condition? Are you "fudging the numbers" in any area?
2. **Proper Positioning:** Is Jesus Christ truly at the center of your life? Do you know your role in the body of Jesus Christ?
3. **Separation from Uncleaness:** What "unauthorized fire" might you be offering in worship? What unclean things need to be removed?
4. **Confession and Restitution:** Is there anyone you've wronged who needs restitution?
5. **Consecration:** What would complete consecration to Jesus Christ look like in your life?

My Personal Response

This Week's Take-Home Token

**"Your salvation requires nothing from you.
Your sanctification does."**

What this means:

Salvation: Freely given by grace through faith - it's finished

Sanctification: The lifelong process of becoming who you already are in Jesus Christ - requires your active participation through the Holy Spirit's power

Key Takeaways

1. **The Battle Requires Preparation:** God numbered Israel before they entered the battles ahead. We must be spiritually prepared before spiritual warfare.
2. **Everything Centers on His Presence:** The entire camp faced the Tabernacle. We must arrange our lives around Jesus Christ at the center.
3. **Honest Accounting Is Essential:** We can't "fudge the numbers" with God. Damascus Road moments reveal what we truly are.
4. **Your Role Matters:** Not everyone has the same role, but everyone has a role. Know your calling in the body of Jesus Christ.
5. **The Journey Ahead is Real:** There are battles coming. We need God's presence to guide us. We cannot have His power without proper preparation.

Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

We have the cloud of the day - surrounded by witnesses

Romans 13:11-14

"The hour has come for you to wake from sleep... The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."

We have the fire for night - Jesus Christ clothes us for battle

THE QUESTION:

Are you positioned for the battle ahead?

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