

Episode 2: Statistics and Logistics: Numbers with a Purpose

*“What we value, we count.”-- Anonymous*

1. Overview: Statistics and Logistics
   1. NUMBERS MATTER
   2. ORGANIZATION MATTERS
   3. DISCIPLINE MATTERS
   4. RESOURCES MATTER
   5. DIRECTION, LEADERSHIP MATTERS
2. First Major Theme of Numbers: Numbers

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| **Theme** | **Explanation** | **Importance** |
| **Census** | Moses counted the Israelites twice. | People have to be organized, trained, and |
|  | The first census organized the people | led to be effective in great movements. It |
|  | into marching units to better defend | is always wise to count the cost before |
|  | themselves. The second prepared | setting out on some great undertaking. |
|  | them to conquer the country east of | When we are aware of the obstacles |
|  | the Jordan River. | before us, we can more easily avoid them. |
|  |  | In God's work, we must remove barriers in |
|  |  | our relationships with others so that our |
|  |  | effectiveness is not diminished. |

-From the *ESV Study Bible*

1. **NUMBERS MATTER.** *The census of the regular tribes* (Num. 1:1–46; 2:1–34)
   1. *The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,* ***2****“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.* ***3****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.* (1:1-3)
   2. The figures (Num. 1:1–46)
      1. The names of the tribal leaders (Num. 1:1–16): The leaders of each of Israel’s tribes (minus Levi) are recorded.
      2. The number of the tribal laity (Num. 1:17–46): The grand total (minus the Levites) of all males at least 20 years old is 603,550. The largest tribe is Judah (74,600), and the smallest, Manasseh (32,200).
2. **ORGANIZATION MATTERS:** (Positions and Roles )
   1. *The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,* ***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. (2:1-2)*
   2. The field positions (Num. 2:1–34): Each tribe is assigned a place to set up camp in relation to the Tabernacle.
      1. East side (Num. 2:1–9): Judah (leader), Issachar, and Zebulun
      2. South side (Num. 2:10–17): Reuben (leader), Simeon, and Gad
      3. West side (Num. 2:18–24): Ephraim (leader), Manasseh, and Benjamin
      4. North side (Num. 2:25–34): Dan (leader), Asher, and Naphtali
      5. *The census of the religious tribe* (Levi)
   3. The facts (Num. 1:47–54; 3:1–17, 38–51; 8:5–26): The Levites are not to be included in the regular census, for God has especially adopted them and made them supervisors over the Tabernacle.
   4. All male Levites one month old and older are to be counted. They are to begin serving at the Tabernacle at age 25 and must retire at age 50.
   5. The figures (Num. 3:18–24, 27–30, 33–35)
      1. Gershonite clan (Num. 3:21–24): 7,500 males
      2. Kohathite clan (Num. 3:27–30): 8,600 males
      3. Merarite clan (Num. 3:33–35): 6,200 males
3. **DISCIPLINE MATTERS: (Policies, Procedures and Rules for Personal Conduct)** 
   1. ***5****And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ***6****“Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the Lord, and that person realizes his guilt,* ***7****he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.* (5:5-7)
   2. The standard procedures of the Tabernacle(Num. 5:5–31; 9:1–14)
   3. *Regarding unfaithfulness* (Num. 5:5–31)
   4. Jealousy removed (Num. 5:11–31): If a husband is suspicious that his wife has been unfaithful, a priest must pronounce a curse over a jar of water and make the woman drink it. If she is guilty, she will become infertile.
   5. Justice restored (Num. 5:5–10): Those who wrong others are to make restitution to those they have wronged.
   6. *Regarding uncleanness* (Num. 9:1–14): A second Passover is established for those who cannot participate in the first due to ceremonial uncleanness. Instructions are also given concerning foreigners and those who disregard Passover.
4. **RESOURCES MATTER: Stewardship and the support for the Tabernacle**
   1. Stewardship
   2. ***2****The chiefs of Israel, heads of their fathers’ houses, who were the chiefs of the tribes, who were over those who were listed, approached* ***3****and brought their offerings before the Lord, six wagons and twelve oxen, a wagon for every two of the chiefs, and for each one an ox. They brought them before the tabernacle.* ***4****Then the Lord said to Moses,* ***5****“Accept these from them, that they may be used in the service of the tent of meeting, and give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service.”* (7:2-5)
   3. (Num. 7:1–89): The gifts presented by the leaders of Israel’s twelve tribes are recorded. (Dividing the Check)
      1. *Day one* (Num. 7:12–17): Judah’s offering
      2. *Day two* (Num. 7:18–23): Issachar’s offering
      3. *Day three* (Num. 7:24–29): Zebulun’s offering
      4. *Day four* (Num. 7:30–35): Reuben’s offering
      5. *Day five* (Num. 7:36–41): Simeon’s offering
      6. *Day six* (Num. 7:42–47): Gad’s offering
      7. *Day seven* (Num. 7:48–53): Ephraim’s offering
      8. *Day eight* (Num. 7:54–59): Manasseh’s offering
      9. *Day nine* (Num. 7:60–65): Benjamin’s offering
      10. *Day ten* (Num. 7:66–71): Dan’s offering
      11. *Day eleven* (Num. 7:72–77): Asher’s offering
      12. *Day twelve* (Num. 7:78–83): Naphtali’s offering
5. **PRESENCE MATTERS: God’s Personal Presence, Direction and Leadership**
   1. ***15****On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning.* ***16****So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. (9:15-16)*
   2. **The celebration of Passover (9:1-5)** **2***“Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. (9:2) A reminder of their History and God’s Covenant Faithfulness.*
      1. Celebration (9:1-5)
      2. Purity/ Discipline
   3. **The Shekinah** (Num. 9:15–23): When the Tabernacle is set up, the Lord’s presence (sometimes called the “shekinah”) hovers over it as a cloud by day and as fire by night. When it moves, the people follow; when it stops, the people stop.
   4. **Silver trumpets** (Num. 10:1–10): Two silver trumpets are to be fashioned for instructing the people. When both are blown, all the people are to assemble at the entrance of the Tabernacle. When only one is blown, only the tribal leaders are to respond.
   5. **Signal from the Sky** (Num. 10:11–12): “One day in midspring [on the twentieth day of the second month], during the second year after Israel’s departure from Egypt, the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle,” signaling that it was time once again for the Israelites to move.
   6. **Striking of the Camp** (Num. 10:13–28): The twelve tribes follow the pillar of cloud.
   7. **The Security in the Cloud** (Num. 10:33–36): Each time the Ark is lifted up to follow the cloud, Moses says, “Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered! Let them flee before you!” Each time the cloud stops and the Ark is set down, Moses says, “Return, O Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel!”
   8. **Moses (Executive Leadership: The One Who “executes” the commands of the leader *8****And Moses said to them, “****Wait****, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you.”* (9:7-8)
   9. **Moses seeks a field guide** (Num. 10:29–32): Moses attempts to secure the services of his brother-in-law as a guide through the wilderness.