

NUMBERS

The book **Genesis** covers thousands of years, from creation to Joseph's death. The book of **Exodus** covers about 400 years, from the sons of Israel going to Egypt till the 2nd year of the Exodus. The book of **Leviticus** covers about 1 month, while Israel was encamped at the foot of Sinai. The book of **Numbers** covers about 38/39 years, from the 2nd year of the Exodus until the 2nd generation arrives at the Plain of Moab.

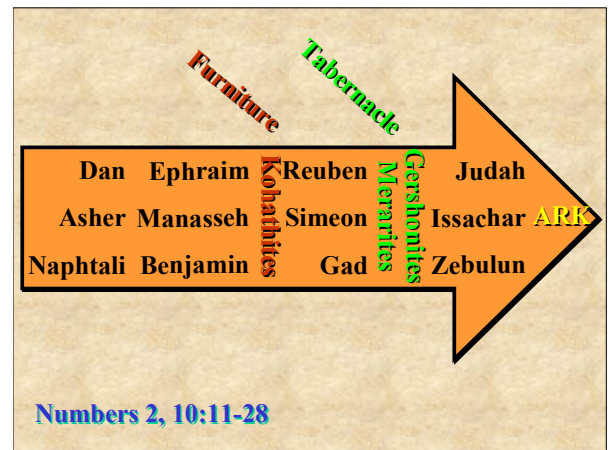
The book of Numbers can be divided into three portions as follows:

Numbers									
Preparation to Occupy the Land									
Census & Preparation (1st Generation)			Wilderness Wandering* (Due to Unbelief)				Census & Preparation (2nd Generation)		
1 - 10			11 - 25				26—36		
God's Faithfulness 20 Days Mount Sinai			Israel's Faithlessness 38/39 years Wilderness				God's Faithfulness About 5 months Plain of Moab		
Organization (1-4)	Sanctification (5:1-10:10)	To Kadesh (10:11- 12:16)	Kadesh Sin (13-14)	Wilderness (15-19)	To Moab (20-21)	Moab Sin (22-25)	Provision for Land (26-27)	Offerings & Vows (28-30)	Final Preparations (31-36)

Chapters 1-10

The book begins with a census – a military census where we are told just how many fighting men Israel had. The rest of the chapters, up to Numbers 10 covers all the necessary preparation work before moving forward to conquer Canaan.

Population Changes in the Wilderness			
Tribe	Num. 1 (1444 BC) Start of Wanderings	Num. 26 (1406 BC) End of Wanderings	Increase (Decrease)
Reuben	46,500	43,730	(2,770)
Simeon	59,300	22,200	(37,100)
Gad	45,650	40,500	(5,150)
Judah	74,600	76,500	1,900
Isaachar	54,400	64,300	9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	(8,000)
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	20,500
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	10,200
Dan	62,700	64,400	1,700
Asher	41,500	53,400	11,900
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	(8,000)
Total	603,550	601,730	(1,820)



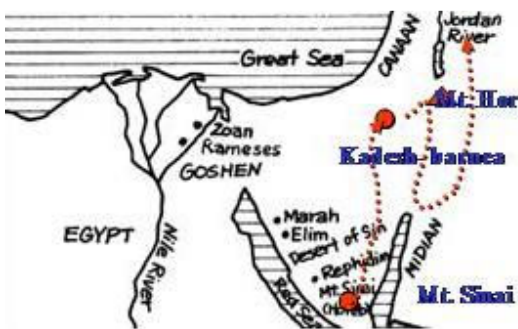
Precious lessons can be drawn from the way the Israelites are to camp and they way they are to march forward. Where you pitch your tent, God must be at the centre and when you go forward, He must lead the way!

Chapters 11-25

These 15 chapters are full of action and drama. Read it for yourself. And as you do so, look for Christ --- *how does this incident, this action, this person point me to Jesus Christ?* This is a very profitable exercise. Do it!

Chapters 26-36

By this time, almost 40 years have passed. The 1st generation who left Egypt – almost all has died. This section begins with another military census, and we note that the number of fighting men in the 2nd generation is roughly the same as that in the 1st generation!



Route of the Journey

As we come to the end of **Numbers**, Israel finds herself at the Plain of Moab. The question that confronts them is this: *Will you obey?*

Your fathers disobeyed. You've seen the consequences. Now you have to make the choice. *What will it be?*

In the same way, each of us has to answer for ourselves. You need to work out your own response to God. You need not be tied down by the sins of your forefathers. *Will you obey God?*