

NUMBERS

(Numeri)

*A Factual Study
from Peter Schweitzer
Global-Leaders-Empowerment Forum 2018*

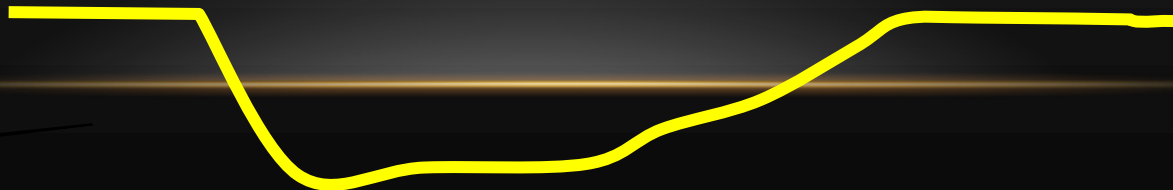
Key verse: Numbers 14:24

„ But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly,
I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.“

INTRODUCTION

Name of the book:	Latin: Numeri („Numbers“) Hebrew: bemidbar („In the dessert“)
Author:	Moses (and a subsequent editor)
Time:	2nd year to 40th year of the wilderness journey
Content:	History of their wilderness journey from Sinai to the Jordan Valley Regulations
Places:	Sinai – Dessert – Jordan Valley
Main Topics:	Rebellion, unbelieve and disobedience ==> 40 years of dessert training God's faithfulness ==> Blessing is given to the next generation

Symbol:



OVERVIEW

Who	When	Where	History	Chapters	Law
	1st year	MT Sinai	Preparation for the journey	1	First Census
				2	Arrangement of tribes
				3	Arrangement of Levites
				4	Loads for the Levites
				5	Offering for jealousy
				6	Nazirite
				7	Offering of tribe elders
				8	Dedication of Levites
	20.02. 2nd year		Leaving	9	Repeating of the Passover
				10	The cloud Trumpet signals; leaving Sinai
				11	Waiting; Quails → graves leaving
				12	Anger of Miriam + Aaron → Leprosy
				13	Sending of the spies
				14	→ 40 years of wilderness
				15	Offerings, Tassels
				16	Rebellion of Korah
				17	→ Annihilation
				18	Priests and Levites
				19	Water of Cleansing
				20	Water of Meribah; Death of Miriam and Aaron → Eleazar high priest
				21	Bronze Snake; Victory over Gihon Og
				22	Balaam acts Balaam
				23	→ Balaam must bless Israel
				24	
				25	Fornication + Idolatry → Zeal of Pinchas
				26	Caleb + Joshua
				27	Moses has to die → Joshua successor
	40th year		Healing	28	Inheritance of Daughters
				29	Order for regular offerings
				30	Vows of Women
				31	Vengeance on the Midianites
				32	Transjordan to 2 1/2 tribes
				33	List of resting places
				34	Borders and distribution concrete
				35	Cities for the Levites
				36	Murder and Killing
					Inheritance of Daughters

NUMBERS

	First Census	Second Census
Chapter	1	26
Time	2nd year	40th year
Place	Sinai	Jordan Valey
Sum of the Israelites	603.550	601.730
Levites	22.000	23.000

PLACES

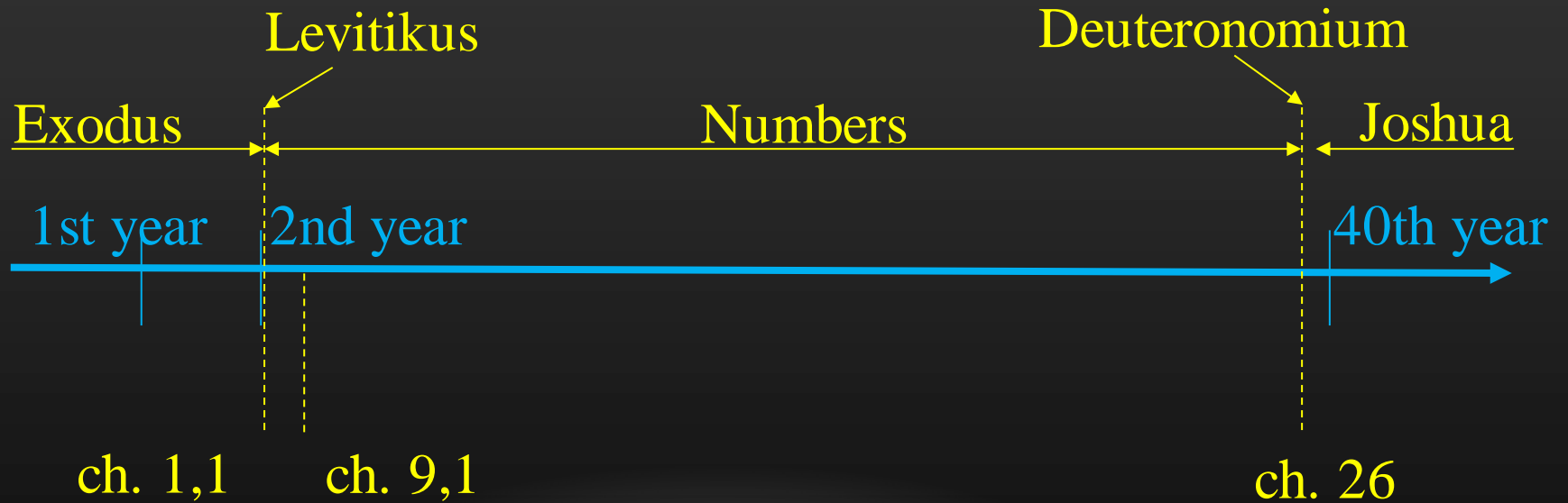
Sinai
(ch. 1-10)

Wilderness jourey
(ch. 11-21)

Jordan valley
of the Moabites
(cn. 22-36)



TIMELINE



Part 1: PREPARATION FOR WILDERNESS JOURNEY

- **Census (1)**
 - **Regulations (2-5)**
 - **Dedication (6-8)**
 - **Leaving (9-10)**
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1. First census of the Israelites

When? on 02/01 in the 2nd year (1)

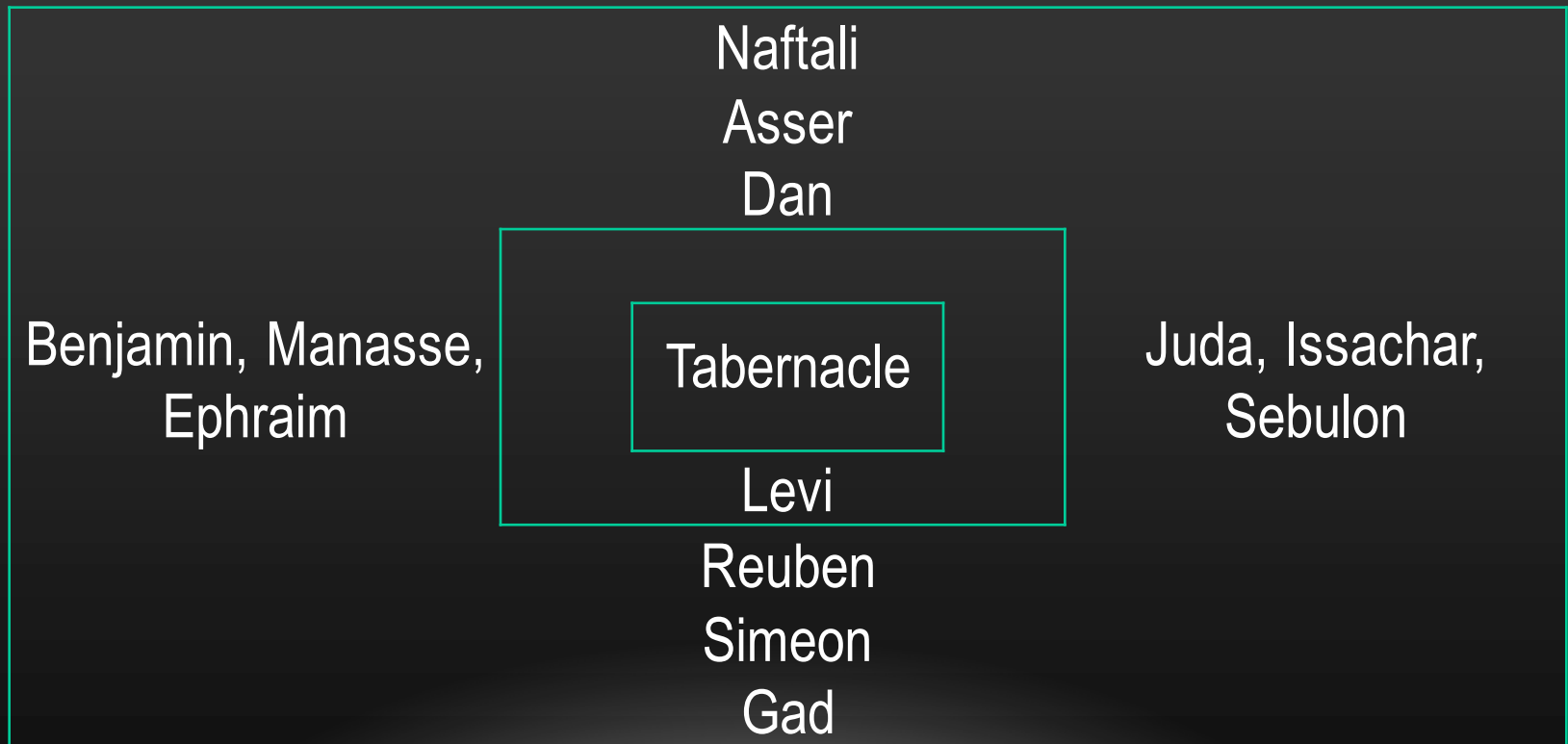
Who? all 12 tribes (from 20 years on)

 sum = 603.550 (46)

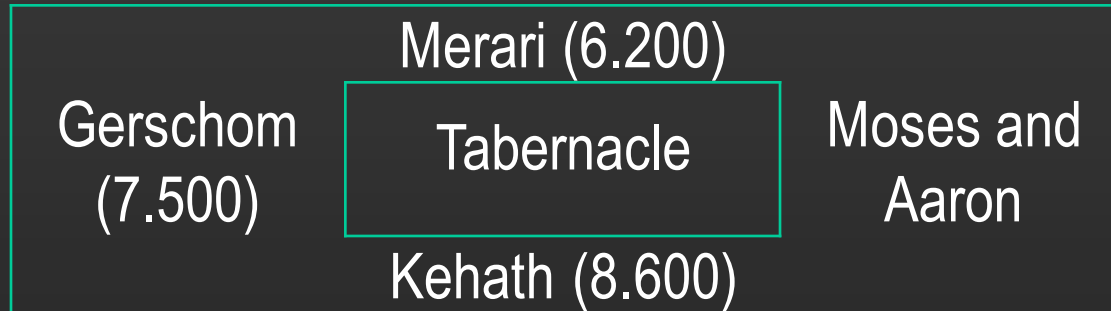
 Levi is excluded. (47)

Where? Sinai Dessert

2. Arrangement of the tribes



3. Arrangement of the Levites



Levites are dedicated to God in place of the firstborns. (12)

To be counted from 1st month on (15)

Sum of the Levites: 22.000 (38)

Surplus firstborns are redeemed with silver (40-51)

4. Arrangement of loads for the Levites

30 to 50 years of age (3)

Kehath: 2.750 holy Instruments, covered with blankets (4-20)

Gerschom: 2.630 Carpet and blankets (21-28)

Merari: 3.200 Boards (29-33)

Sum of all carriers: 8.500 (48)

5. Offering for jealousy

Unclean have to leave the camp (1-4)

Sin against people shall be restituted (plus 20%) (5-10)

In case of jealousy because of unfaithfulness, the woman shall be tested under oath (11-31)

6. Vow and Blessing

Regulations for people who make a special vow:

No alcohol (1-4)

Leave the hair uncut (5)

No touching of a death person (6)

In case of uncleanness, the period has to be repeated from the start (7-12)

At the end of the vow, a offering is done (13-21)

Priestly Blessing (22-27)

7. Offerings for the dedication of the tabernacle

6 Wagons for the Levites (1-8)

12 days of offering for the dedication of the altar. (12-88)

Each tribe leader brought the same offerings

8. Dedication of the Levites

The golden lampstand (1-4)

Levites are washed and dedicated for service (5-22)

Levites are a wave offering to the Lord (11)

Levites shall serve from age 25 to 50 (23-26)

9. Repeating of the passover. Obedience to the cloud

in 1st month of 2nd year (1)

Passover shall always be held on 01/14 (2-5)

In case of uncleanness or journey it can be held on 02/14 (6-14)

Israelites follow the cloud absolutely (15-23)

=> **Absolute obedience to God's leading**

10. Trompet blowing and leaving from Sinai


2 silver trumpets for different signals and to access God (1-10)

on 02/20 leaving the Dessert of Sinai to the Dessert of Paran (11-28)

Mose asks Hobab, his brother-in-law for help (29-32)

Leaving the Dessert of Sinai (33-36)

Part 2: WILDERNESS JOURNEY

- **History of rebellion**
 - **Punishment**
 - **Healing, new beginning**
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REBELLION

- Wailing (11) – after food
- Arrogance of Miriam and Aaron (12) – against leadership of Moses
- Unbelieve of the spys (13-14) – Unbelieve and disobedience
- Rebellion of Korah (16-17) – against the order of the priests
- Water of Meribah (20) – Unbelieve in God's providence
- Wailing (21) – after food
- Fornication and idolatry (25) – Seduction

PUNISHMENT

- Taberah fire (11)
- Leprousy of Miriam (12)
- Dying in the dessert, 40 years (13-14)
- Annihilation of Korah (16-17)
- Death of Aaron (20) and Mose (27)
- Poisonous snakes (21)
- Death of Zimri (25)

HEALING AND HOPE

- ✓ Caleb and Joshua had faith (13-14)
 - ✓ Eleazar (20) and Joshua (27)
 - ✓ Bronze Snake (21)
 - ✓ Zeal of Phinehas (25)
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11. Wailing of the people, Quails

Israelites wailing about food (1-3), punishment with fire (floor brand)

The rabble craved for meat instead of manna (4-9)

Moses complains about the burdens of leadership (10-15)

God's solution: 70 helpers and one month of meat (16-23)

70 elders are filled with the power of the spirit as co-workers (24-30)

God sends quails for one month (31-32)

God's wrath on people who craved for food: Kibroth Hattaavah („graves of craving“) (33-34)

12. Arrogance of Miriam and Aaron

Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses because of his Cushite wife (1)

They want to be leaders (2-3)

God puts them on test and rebukes them (4-8)

Miriam receives leprocy and must stay outside the camp for seven days (9-16)

=> Humbly accept God's spiritual order

13-14. Sending of the spys

Appointing of 12 spys from 12 tribes (13,1-16)

Task to find out the geography, the inhabitants and the agriculture (17-20)

For 40 days they travel and bring fruits (21-25)

Report: a land flowing with milk and honey, but the people are powerful (26-29)

Caleb thinks they can conquer the land, but others plant fear and bad talkings (30-33)

People go in fear and want to return to Egypt (14,1-4)

Joshua and Caleb encourage them, to have faith in God (5-9)

God wants to strike Israel (10-12)

Moses intercedes for them (13-19)

God punishes them to stay 40 years in the wilderness. No adult will come into the land, except Caleb and Joshua (20-38)

Israelites want to conquer Canaan, but are stricken (39-45)

=> **Unbelieve is rebellion -- we can not enter the land**

15. Offerings, Unintentional sins, Tassels

All offerings should be brought together with a food offering (1-9)

For nationals and foreigners the same law applies (10-14)

Offering of the first of the ground meal in the promised land (15-21)

Offering for unintentional sins (22-31)

A Sabbath-Breaker is put to death (32-36)

Tassels remind of the law (37-41)

16-17. Rebellion of Korah

Korah's people want to be recognized as priests (16:1-3)

Moses rebukes them and God wants to show his choosing on the next day (4-11)

Dathan and Abiram do not want to obey Moses (12-15)

The rebels are swallowed by an earth hole (16-35)

The censers of Korah are used to overlay the altar (36-40)

Israelites again speak out against Moses and Aaron because of hard punishment (41)

14,700 people die from God's plague; Aaron stops God's anger (42-50)

12 staffs are placed into the tents. Only Aaron's staff has buds. (17:1-12)

=> **God punishes rebellion against God's appointed servants**

18. Duty and privileges of the priests and levites

Levites serve the priests, but are not allowed to use the holy instruments (1-7)

Aarons sons receive the holy offerings (8-19)

Levites do not receive any land, but instead the tenth of the Israelites (20-24)

Levites have to give the tenth to Aaron's sons (25-32)

19. Water of Cleansing

Produced from the ash of a cow (1-10)

Touching a dead person makes unclean and is cleansed by this water of cleansing (11-22)

20. Water of Meribah, death of Miriam and Aaron

Miriam dies in Kadesch, Dessert of Zin (1)

Israelite wail because of lack of water (2-6)

Moses hits the rock, so water pours out (7-11)

Because of their unbelieve, Moses and Aaron are not to enter the promised land (12-13)

Edom does not allow the Israelites to move through their country (14-21)

Aaron dies on mount Hor, Eleazar becomes high priest (22-29)

21a. The Bronze Snake

Canaanites attack Israel and are defeated (1-3)

Israelites wail about bread and water (4-5)

God send poisonous snakes into the camp (6)

Moses makes a bronze snake (7-9)

=> God's salvation is obtained by faith

Part 3: PREPARATION FOR CONQUEST

- **Victory over Sihon and Og (21)**
 - **Balaam must bless Israel (22-24)**
 - **Second census (26)**
 - **Regulations (27-30)**
 - **Distribution of Transjordan (32)**
 - **Inheritance (34-36)**
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21b. Way to Moab, Victory over Sihon and Og

- Long detour to the Arnon of the Moabites (10-20)
- Sihon of Heschbon attacks Israel and is annihilated (21-31)
- Og of Baschan also attacks and is annihilated (32-35)

22-24. Balaam must bless Israel

The Moabites are fearful before Israel (22,1-4)

Balak calls for Balaam, but God does not allow him to go. (5-13)

Balak calls Balaam again, promising him a lot of money (14-20)

The donkey avoids the angel and saves Balaams life (21-35)

Balak brings offerings in Bamot-Baal and prepares everything (22,36-23,6)

But Balaam has to obey God and blesses Israel (23,7-10)

The same happens at mount Pisga and Israel is blessed (11-24)

At mount Peor Balaam no longer asks God, but immediately blesses Israel (23,25-24,25)

Balaam promises the „star out of Jacob“ (24,17)

=> God turns curse into blessing

25. Fornication and idolatry; Zeal of Phinehas

Moabites seduce the Israelites for fornication and idolatry (1-3)

God wants all the elders to be hanged (4-5) and 24,000 die (9)

Phinehas kills Zimri and Kosbi, who go whoring openly, with his spear (6-8)

God blesses Phinehas for he was zealous for the Lord (10-18)

26. Second census of the tribes of Israel

Who? 12 tribes counted. Sum: 601 730 (51)

Tribe of Levi counted. Sum: 23.000 (62)

Next generation, only Caleb and Joshua counted twice (65)

Where? Jordan Vally, before crossing over to Canaan

When? Imidiately before entering the promised land

Numbers almost identical with chapter 1.

=> God protects and keeps his people and fulfills his promise

27. Inheritance of daughters; Joshua to succeed Moses

Zelophehad's daughters ask for inheritance, as they do not have a brother (1-11)

Moses shall not enter the promised land (12-14)

Moses prays for a successor, so the people may not go without a shepherd (15-17)

Joshua is called as the successor for Moses (18-23)

28-29. Order for offerings

Daily offering:	2 lambs (morning offering and evening offering) (28,1-8)
Sabbath:	2 lambs (9-10)
1st of every month:	2 young bulls, 1 ram, 7 lambs (11-15)
Passover (01/15-22):	each day 2 young bulls, 1 ram, 7 lambs (16-25)
Festival of weeks:	2 young bulls, 1 ram, 7 lambs (26-31)
Festival of trumpets (07/01):	1 young bull, 1 ram, 7 lambs, 1 goat (29,1-6)
Day of Atonement (07/10):	1 young bull, 1 ram, 7 lambs, 1 goat (7-11)
Festival of Tebernacle (07/15-21):	13 bis 7 young bulls, 2 ram, 14 lambs, 1 goat (12-34)
07/22:	1 young bull, 1 ram, 7 lambs, 1 goat (35-39)

30. Vows of women

Vows have to be kept absolutely (2-3)

A womans vow can be renounced from her husband or father on the same days, when he learns about it (4-17)

31. Vengeance on the Midianites

The reason is their trick, to mislead Israel to worship their God's (1-2.16)

12.000 Israelite soldiers struck all the Midianites (3-8)

All Midianites are killed, except young girls (9-24)

Prey is spread between army and the the people; tax is 0,2 % rsp. 2 % (25-47)

Thanksoffering of money, as not one soldier was killed in the fight (48-54)

32. Transjordanian given to Reuben, Gad and half of Manasse

- Reuben and Gad want to receive the Land east of Jordan river (1-5)
- Moses thinks it is a rebellion and rebukes them, He recalls the unbelief of the spies (6-15)
- Reuben and Gad agree to accompany Israel in Canaan (16-42)

Women and children are allowed to stay in Transjordanian

=> **fight to the end, fight for others**

33. List of resting places on the wilderness journey

- from Ramses, through the Sea, Aarons death and Jordan valley (1-49)
- Command to remove the Canaanites (50-56)

34. Borders of canaan; land distribution comitee

- Exact borders of the promised land (1-15)
- List of leaders, who are responsible for land distribution (16-29)

35. Cities for the Levites; murder and killing

- 48 cities reserved for Levites and their part of pasture-land (1-8)
- Among these 6 refuge cities for people suspected to be murderers (9-15)
- Distinction, what is a murder and what is unintentional killing (16-34)

36. Daughters who inherit, must marry within their own tribe

- Because of Zelophehad's daughters, there was a risk, the land of one tribe may shrink (1-4)
 - Moses orders the daughters who inherit, they must marry within their own tribe (5-13)
- => Responsibility for the inheritance**

ONE WORD

- ✓ God's faithfulness and our unfaithfulness
 - ✓ With rebellion and disobedience we will not inherit the land
 - ✓ God does fulfill his promises
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