



## BAMIDBAR - IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 1:1 to 4:20

Hosea 2:1-22

Hebrews 6:20-7:19

Luke 2:1-52

Revelation 7:1-17

A one-month period has transpired between the book of Leviticus/*Vayikra* and the book of Numbers/*Bamidbar* while necessary instructions were conveyed to the Children of Israel before proceeding. In the book of Numbers, Moses will begin to guide Israel through their wilderness experience.

### Mighty Men of God

Looking back through the last three books of Moses, we see Yahweh's Kingdom principles that govern the earth, through the testimonies of our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Their lives reflected the power and authority of the *Spirit of Yeshua* in their walk. This simple truth challenges thousands of years of Christian theology, as the Word very clearly states that *Yeshua preached the Gospel to Abraham in his day!* (1 Peter 1:11).

📖 **Galatians 3:8** “And *the Scripture* [*the Word that became flesh - Yeshua*], foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*Nations*] by faith, **preached the gospel to Abraham** beforehand, saying, ‘*In you all the nations shall be blessed*’ ” (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; John 1:1,14)

If this is true, that Abraham received the Gospel from *Yeshua*, then the question remains:

- What *Gospel* was preached to Abraham?
- What *Gospel* did John the Baptist preach *before* meeting *Yeshua* at the river?
- What *Gospel* did Yeshua preach while He walked on this earth?
- When the twelve disciples were sent out by *Yeshua* to preach the *Gospel*, what *Gospel* did they preach *if Yeshua was still alive and with them*?
- When *Yeshua* sent out the seventy to preach the good news of the *Gospel* what did they preach since *Yeshua had not died for their sins and risen from the dead yet*?
- What is the great commission then and when was it first given?

If indeed the *Gospel* was preached to our patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob way back in Genesis - where does this leave the Jewish people and the doctrine of Christian theology? Is

Galatians 3:8 teaching opposite to that of mainstream religious institutions today? The answer is clearly, *yes*.

We see more evidence of the indwelling Spirit of Yeshua (the Gospel) in Isaiah when the Israelites journeyed from Egypt.

✠ **Isaiah 63:8-13** “For He said, ‘Surely they *are* My people, Children *who* will not lie.’ So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, *and* He fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses *and* his people, *saying*: ‘Where *is* He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where *is* He who put His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* within them, Who led *them* by the right hand of Moses, With His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, Who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, *that* they might not stumble?’”

Yeshua said this about Moses.

✠ **John 5:46-47** “For if you [*believers*] believed Moses, you [*believers*] would believe Me [*Yeshua*]; for he [*Moses*] wrote about Me [*Yeshua’s commandments*]. But if you [*believers*] do not believe his [*Moses*] writings [*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy*], how will you believe My words [*Yeshua - New Testament*]?”

#### Numbers – The Walk

In the Book of Numbers, believers are shown a broader picture of how to grow spiritually and enjoy a deeper walk. At Mount Sinai, Yahweh’s Kingdom protocol was given to the children of Israel through the pattern and design of the Tabernacle. This pattern was contained for them in the book entitled *Exodus*. Additional instruction was also presented in the book known as *Leviticus*. The pattern of His Kingdom has not changed since the beginning of time. In short, it is called *His Gospel*. His Gospel is His word that transforms the heart into His image. This development of His army occurs when there is an *earthly* response to His *heavenly* directives. With the Gospel legalized at Mount Sinai on Shavuot, the Israelites were fully equipped to enter in and possess the Promised Land. Today, His instructions from Mount Sinai still apply. They are as active and sharper than any two-edged sword.

✠ **John 1:1,14** “In the beginning was the Word [*the Gospel*], and the Word [*the Gospel*] was with God/*Elohim*, and the Word [*the Gospel*] was God/*Elohim*. And the Word [*the Gospel*] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (1John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJ).

✠ **Hebrews 4:11-12** “Let us [*believers*] therefore be diligent to enter that rest [*the Sabbath*], lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word [*the Gospel*] of God/*Elohim* [*Genesis to Revelation*] *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

✚ **Revelation 1:16** “He [*Yeshua*] had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword [*the Gospel*], and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.”

✚ **Revelation 2:12,16** “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He [*Yeshua*] who has the sharp two-edged sword [*the Gospel*]:’”

Our response to His *whole* word (*The Gospel: Genesis to Revelation*) activates His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* in power and authority. Through obedience to His word, Scripture teaches that every male over the age of twenty has the potential to walk *as a priest after His likeness*. This is *Yeshua’s* army today – those who uphold and walk in His Word, *the Gospel*, since the beginning (Exodus 19:5-6; 1Peter 2:9).

✚ **Numbers 1:2-3** “Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above - all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies.”

✚ **Joshua 1:6-8** “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law [*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

God/*Elohim* is not looking for perfection. He is looking for a response in believers. Edmund Burke, an eighteenth-century Irish philosopher, once said, “*In order for lawlessness and violence to prevail, all that good men have to do is nothing.*”

Paul exhorted believers to take hold of *Yeshua* and take up their positions.

✚ **1 Corinthians 9:23-27** “Now this I [*Paul*] do for the Gospel’s sake [*Yeshua, the word made flesh*], that I may be partaker of it with you. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you [*believer*] may obtain it. [*Obtain what? Eternal life*] And everyone [*believer*] who competes for the prize [*eternity*] is temperate in all things. Now they [*the unwise*] do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we [*the wise*] for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection [*obedience – walk out His Kingdom principles in holiness*], lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

For a believer to have a powerful anointing in their walk today, they must first appropriate *Yeshua’s* heavenly principles. If not, they will be inept at overcoming the enemy or able to help others if they are not upholding His principles of holiness in their lives.

The day I met Yeshua, my life changed. The first thing I wanted to know was *how do I walk, what do I do, and how do I do it?* I was told to go “share the Gospel.” They had a four-step tract to hand to the “sinful” so they too could begin their journey to peace. It said, “*God loves you and has a plan for you*” “*Man is sinful and separated from God.*” “*God sent His Son to die for your sins!*” “*Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?*” But, what was this Gospel? For years, I searched for a response to my question. I knew I needed sanctification and consecration. I *hungered* for it. Even though I was *saved*, I still did not fully understand what I was saved from, as the fuller explanation of *sin* was missing.

Our society dictated what they deem *culturally* incorrect, but was that God’s/*Elohim* moral standard of righteousness? What man deems right may not be righteousness in God’s/*Elohim*. Now that I was in Yeshua, I wanted to learn His ways. However, no one could tell me what that was. In the three years our family was with this church, sanctification and consecration were not taught. That started my quest through Scripture, and for another church. After many churches, I began to see a pattern. Wherever we went, they all had the same response. They believed that just because they were saved, holiness was a given. It was assumed. I noticed many discrepancies among these believers. When I asked about sanctification, I got blank stares. No one could answer my question. In reading the Scriptures, it became apparent - there was a definite distinction between *salvation* and *eternal life*. The common missing link was the definition of sin. My questions could not be answered because the *Old Testament* was no longer part of the emergent *New Testament Church*. More specifically, *Leviticus*, the one book that contained all my answers was *the book* everyone ignored. With Moses taken out of the Church’s fundamental teaching, the *answer of holiness* went with him. Therefore, no one could help me. Without this vital link about holiness, my salvation would never be complete, and my walk would turn stagnant.

🌿 **1John 2:3-9, 24-25** “Now by this we [*believers*] know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments [*Exodus 20*]. He [*a believer*] who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God/*Elohim* is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning [*Exodus Chapter 20*]. The old commandment is the word, which you heard from the beginning [*the Gospel given at Mount Sinai*]. Again, a [*re*] new [*ed*] commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He [*a believer*] who says he is in the light, and hates his brother [*Exodus 20, 23:1-9*], is in darkness until now. Therefore, let that [*truth*] abide in you, which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us - *eternal life*.”

Yahweh plans our walk and growth very carefully. By progressive revelation, He puts His plan together in a pattern (the Tabernacle) and shares this protocol of how His Kingdom functions - *all based on holiness*. Without holiness, our walk cannot begin. Thus, the Book of Numbers (journeys) is placed *after* the book of Exodus (the pattern) and *after* Leviticus (holiness). Once the understanding of holiness is recognized, the journey of our walk (Numbers) can begin. In the

Book of Numbers, the Children of Israel (we included) are all well equipped and adequately informed as to the walk of holiness. Holiness is the proper code of behavior in His Kingdom. The Israelites all possessed this understanding described as the two-edged sword – *the Gospel*. With the Gospel, they were now ready to begin their journey. The Book of Numbers is where God's/*Elohim* people learn *how* to use their two-edged sword – *the Gospel*.

Today, redemption is being restored and the true Gospel reviving in the hearts of Yeshua's People. His sheep are no longer lost or confused, but found. Thus, His army is moving under the prompting of His Holy Spirit/*Ruach* helping many to grow to maturity in upholding their rightful inheritance.

## Men of God – Angus Buchan

Angus Buchan of the autobiographical movie *Faith like Potatoes* wrote in his book *Coming of Age*,

“2 Chronicles 7:14 is a verse in the Bible that's very, very close to my heart. It says: ‘*If My people...*’ Who are God's people? They are the believers. They are not the churchgoers, they are not the casual enquirers, they are not the pew-fillers, they are not the bench-warmers; they are the *believers*. Pride is probably the biggest sin in the Bible. It says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. You'll find that wherever Jesus went, He spent time with the widows and orphans; He spent time with the down-and-outs, the nobodies, the prostitutes, the alcoholics. He didn't spend too much time with the hierarchy in the church or indeed in society. He was for the people. He was a people's Man.”

“The verse continues: ‘...*will humble themselves and pray...*’ We have to pray the prayer of faith. It's no good just praying mechanically, going through the prayer book, or praying a prayer that you've prayed many times before and you don't even believe is going to happen. God never answers that type of prayer. He only answers the prayer of faith. James 5:16 says, “*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*”

“Returning to our Scripture in 2 Chronicles 7:14, we read: “...*and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways...*” That means to put the things of this world to one side; to really seek the face of God and to turn away from any known wickedness and sin; things like hatred, unforgiveness, theft, murder, homosexuality, abortion and racism. The Lord says that if we turn away from these things, then He will hear from heaven, He will forgive our sins and He will heal the land.”

“We can be a spectator or we can start by repenting and asking for forgiveness for arrogance, for pride, for fearfulness, for inadequacies and start to live our lives as an example to our sons and daughters” (*End of quote*).

Today, Yeshua is preparing His army to move camp. When believers obey the instructions given at Mount Sinai – *His Gospel* - and follow this Heavenly pattern, they will experience resurrection life and revival in spirit (*mobility*). The meaning of *salvation of our spirit* is entering into relationship with Yeshua's Eternal Covenant. This is not to be confused with the *salvation of our soul*. Both work together in the sanctifying process. Now that we are born again (saved), how do we walk in Yeshua's holiness, as He said, *be holy as I am holy?* (1 Peter 1:9-13).

✿ **1 Peter 1:9-16** “receiving the end of your faith [*believer*] - *the salvation of your souls*. *Of this salvation the prophets* have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you [*today*], searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ/Yeshua who was in them [*the prophets*] was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ/*Messiah* and the glories that would follow. To them [*the prophets*] it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they [*the prophets*] were ministering the things which now have been reported to you [*believer*] through those who have preached *the Gospel* to you by the Holy Spirit/*Ruach* sent from heaven - things which angels desire to look into. Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach*; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘*Be holy, for I am holy.*’”

✿ **Hebrews 12:14** “[*Believer,*] Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

### Melchizedek – King and Priest

Today, Yeshua is preparing His mighty army of *priests*, those who walk upright united in His Spirit, *in the order of Melchizedek*, the King of *Right-ness* and follow His Holy principles for life. This combination brings a heavenly response that blesses all Israel, not only for those who follow the Holy One of Israel in the land but also those scattered throughout the Nations (Exodus 19:5-6; Ezekiel 44; Zachariah 14:16-21; Revelation 1:6).

✿ **Jeremiah 33:15-18** “In those days and at that time [*end days*] I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: ‘*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*’ For thus says Yahweh: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.’”

✿ **Revelation 1:6** “and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God/*Elohim* and Father/*Abba*; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (NAS)

Yahweh gave man authority to rule the earth (creation) and have dominion over the creatures. Man was not given authority to *control* or *rule over man* (Genesis 1:28). In God’s/*Elohim* Kingdom, only one who was both *king* and *priest* could govern man in His Kingdom. This is known as *the order of Melchizedek*. Adam failed in that appointed role (Genesis 3:13-19). Melchizedek, King of Salem, walked according to this protocol and representing the Messiah (Genesis 14:18). King David also performed his duties in the order of Melchizedek (king and priest). Yeshua, our Messiah, came as *King* and *Priest*. Thereby, all power and authority was given Him to renew the Covenant (*Gospel*). Therefore, those disciples who are not walking in His image (the order of Melchizedek) may have the power but will lack His authority on the earth. Thus, sound like a clanging cymbal (1Corinthians 13:1).

🌿 **Luke 9:1-2** “Then He [*Yeshua*] called His twelve disciples together and gave them *power and authority* over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God/*Elohim* [*the Gospel*] and to heal the sick.”

🌿 **Luke 10:17-19** “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’ And He [*Yeshua*] said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the *authority* to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Acts 28:3-6).

God/*Elohim* desires for the entire nation of Israel to become a kingdom of priests and act as a holy nation before Him. Unfortunately, the children of Israel failed to walk appropriately. At Mount Sinai, while legally betrothed, Israel chose to bow down to worship another god/bridegroom - *the golden calf*. Because the firstborn worshiped another, Yahweh set them aside as priests *for a season*. He then appointed the tribe of Levi, those who had not prostrated themselves before this golden calf, to act as tutors and demonstrate how to return, which ultimately pointed the way to the Messiah (Exodus 19:5-6; 1Peter 2:9).

When Yahweh came to His creation in the flesh as *Yeshua*, His life, death, and resurrection restored Israel back to the initial priestly pattern; that of the firstborn (John 1:1,14).

🌿 **Numbers 3:12-13** “See I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that open [*pehter*] the womb among the children of Israel; Therefore the Levites shall be Mine *because all the firstborn are Mine*. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

The problem at the time of the golden calf had to do with the hearts that would not obey. A hard heart corrupts the holiness of the Word, which in turn profanes His name. Therefore, Yahweh found fault with *their hearts* (Hebrews 8:8-10).

In renewing the *Abrahamic* and *Mosaic* Covenants, through the *Re-newed* Covenant of the Messiah, *Yeshua* transformed those with stony hearts by the indwelling power of His Spirit/*Ruach Ha Kodesh*. This gave His people the opportunity to observe His instructions. However, one thing is very clear - His law, given at the beginning, has never changed, as His Word is an *eternal* Covenant. Therefore, *the law did not change, only the personal position of the law changed*. No longer was His word written on stone tablets or *hearts of stone*, but could now, through the Messiah, be written on *hearts of flesh*. This restored the order of Melchizedek, not only with the Levites but also His firstborn (Numbers 8:16-19; Isaiah 12; Hebrews 7-8; Galatians 3:16:17).

🌿 **Hebrews 7:11-15** “Therefore, *if* perfection were through the Levitical priesthood, what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law [*where it is written*]. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated

at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord [*Yeshua*] arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless [*indestructible/holy/heavenly*] life.”

The physical representation of the Tabernacle, the Levitical priesthood, and the moral code that governs the earth in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, are for believers today. The instructions contained in these books are for the redemption and holiness of the redeemed - those who follow the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Yahweh declared to believers that *if they obeyed Him, through the pattern of His Heavenly Kingdom, they would become a royal priesthood and a holy nation – the order of Melchizedek.*

📖 **Exodus 19:5-6** “Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and *you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.* These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

📖 **1 Peter 2:9** “But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s/Elohim own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”

When the Messiah came, the order of Melchizedek was restored. If believers are *in Him*, they are of that *restored royal priesthood and a holy nation - Israel.* Melchizedek is derived from two words: *Melech* meaning king and *zedek* meaning priest of righteousness. Melchizedek also represents the House of Judah (the kingly side) and the House of Israel (the priestly side). When the two houses unite they become the two witnesses of the Messiah in the order of Melchizedek (Ezekiel 37:15-28).

📖 **Revelation 1:5-6** “...to him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood, who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, *cohanim* for God/*Elohim*, his Father - to him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. *Amen* (CJB).”

Just as Scripture foretold, there has been a mighty thirst in the land, a hunger for His Word. “*Behold, the days are coming,*” says the Lord/Adonai GOD/*Elohim*, “*That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD/Yahweh*” (Amos 8:11; Hosea 1:10; Isaiah 66:1-2; Psalms 107:2-3; Luke 13:29).

When believers are filled with Yeshua’s Spirit Life *and* walk in His directives, heaven will meet with earth. Then believers will find themselves in the fulfilled prophecy the prophets longed to see - *a royal priesthood and holy nation.* This walk is not about salvation; it is all about obedience and holiness; *the commencing of eternal heavenly life on earth – the order of Melchizedek.*

🌿 **Matthew 6:10** “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

🌿 “The Kingdom of God [*supreme Messianic term for the LORD/Yahweh in the flesh, Yeshua*] does not come visibly, nor will people say, ‘here it is,’ or ‘there it is,’ because the Kingdom of God/*Elohim* is within you” (Luke 17:20; Luke 10:24).

## The Census

🌿 **Numbers 1:2-46** “Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their *fathers’* houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above - all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies. And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each one the head of his *father’s* house” (Numbers 1:2-4).

Biblically, one’s heritage was established through the father’s bloodline, not the mother’s.

On the day of *Rosh Chodesh*, the New Moon celebration, Yahweh appointed leaders from the twelve tribes as heads of His army. From Reuben there was Elizur (*My God the Rock*), from Simeon Shelumiel (*God my Salvation*), from Gad Eiasaph (*My God that Gathers*), from Judah Nahshon (*The Diviner*), from Issachar Nethaneel (*God the Giver*), from Zebulun Eliab (*My God the Father*), from Ephraim Elishama (*My God the Hearer*), from Manasseh Gamaliel (*My God the Rewarder*), from Benjamin Abidan (*My Father is Judge*), from Dan Ahiezer (*My Brother is Help*), from Asher Pagiell (*My prayer-God*) and from Naphtali Ahira (*My Brother is Friend*). The total count of Israelites at this time: 603,550.

## The Tribe of Levi

Again, the tribe of Levi is singled out and assigned a priestly order to help govern Yahweh’s Kingdom on earth.

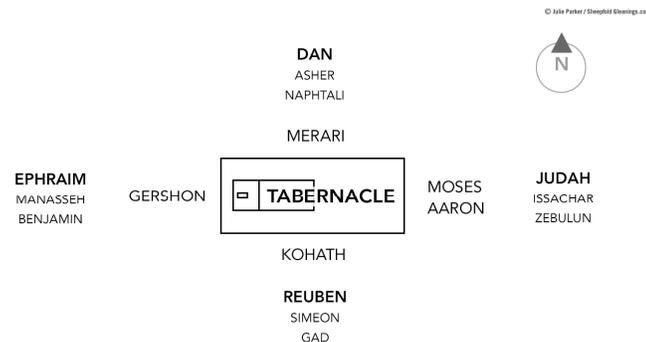
🌿 **Numbers 1:47-51** “But the *Levites* were not numbered among them by their fathers’ tribe; for the LORD/*Yahweh* had spoken to Moses, saying: Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel; but you shall appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the Tabernacle. And when the Tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the Tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

## The Twelve Tribes Camp Arrangement

Numbers 2:3-34

Yahweh is the God/*Elohim* of order. Earlier in the book of Exodus we learned of the care and set up for the Tabernacle. Now we are learning about the holiness of camp order around the Tabernacle. Without a life of obedience and holiness (order), there is no camp, no army, and no taking possession of the land – *Israel’s inheritance and homeland*. Yahweh placed each tribe in

strategic positions, each under his own family banner. In this order, they not only camped but also traveled.



- East side:** The head tribe of *Judah*, along with the tribes of *Issachar* and *Zebulun* (186,400).
- South side:** The head tribe of *Rueben*, with tribes *Simeon* and *Gad* (151,450).
- West side:** The head tribe of *Ephraim*, with the tribes of *Manasseh* and *Benjamin* (108,100).
- North side:** The head tribe of *Dan*, with the tribes *Asher* and *Naphtali* with him (157,600).

The only families allowed to camp in close proximity to the Tabernacle/*Mishkan* were the three Levitical tribes.

- East side:** Moses and Aaron (Kohath)
- South side:** Kohath
- West side:** Gershon
- North side:** Merari

When Yahweh summoned the camp to move, Judah and his companion tribes on the east side led Israel’s army. The Levitical tribes of Gershon and Merari followed transporting the Tabernacle framework and coverings on carts. Joining in procession behind them came Reuben and his companion tribes. The Kohath Levites were next. They physically carried the Tabernacle furnishings on their shoulders. Dan completed the rear guard with Naphtali the last tribe in the procession.

### The Firstborn Numbers 3:11-16, 40-51

Yahweh now focuses our attention on the tribe of Levi and more specifically Aaron’s family. With Aaron’s first two sons no longer living, his younger sons Eleazar and Ithamar were elevated to serve. Eleazar, the elder of the two, became high priest/*kohan gadol* after his father, Aaron. Together these Levite brothers oversaw both the care of the Tabernacle and the priesthood by Yahweh’s instructions. Yahweh will have two witnesses before Him at all times (Jeremiah 33:17-26).

🏰 **Numbers 3:12-13** “See I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that open [פִּטְרָהּ *pitrah* Strong’s H6363] the womb among the children of Israel; therefore the Levites shall be Mine *because all the firstborn are Mine*.”

On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

The Hebrew word for open *pitrah* (or peter) refers to a *bursting open* or a *firstling*. It was Peter in Matthew 16:19, whom Yeshua first gave the keys to the heavenly Kingdom that opened the revelation (womb) allowing the firstborn (in Torah/Yeshua) to return thereby regaining access to His Presence in the Tabernacle. No longer was one tribe or one man given access, now all who honored the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, *and* walked in His righteous ways (Torah) were called *firstborn*. They are given the opportunity to act as *priests* having access during His special times to the Heavenly throne room.

The restoration of the firstborn was a huge revelation in Peter’s day and is still a revelation for believers today. However, few understand the walk of living a holy lifestyle. Because of a lack of holiness, many are left outside their potential. Righteous behavior fashions righteous garments and righteous ways. This attitude generates *the order of Melchizedek* and paves the way to approach His Holy throne at His right times and in His proper seasons.

📖 **Ephesians 6:13-17** “Therefore take up the whole armor of God/*Elohim*, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God/*Elohim*.”

The above Scripture in Ephesians 6 is a picture of Yeshua’s army standing ready, clothed in a full suit of armor - *in the order of Melchizedek*. Do believers realize that His army is composed of everyday believers like you and me? What is the difference that transforms a believer into Yahweh’s warrior army? We witnessed this transformation in the story of David when he approached his brothers serving in King Saul’s army. David’s brothers were fitted with the finest metal coats of armor, but they still could not defeat the enemy before them. It was not until David appeared in *his armor* that the enemy was defeated. David’s armor was not visible. His armor was in the form of five smooth stones. Those stones represented Yeshua’s life instructions from the five books of Moses: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*. These stones are the true armor of Light Yahweh asks His people to walk in (Ephesians 6). With Yahweh’s wisdom, David was fully equipped to walk in *His power and authority*, thus, defeat the enemy no matter what he looked like or how big he was.

Throughout Scripture, *the Gospel* (Word of *Elohim*) is the only armor that slays Israel’s enemy. This protocol also applies to those who walk in Yeshua’s commandments today. Yeshua’s army consists of those clothed in the full armor of His righteousness – His Gospel *in the proper order of Melchizedek*. Nothing of an earthly kingdom, whether it be a physical assault by an enemy, a natural disaster or a personal misfortune, *nothing* will stand or defeat a believer if the believer is clothed correctly and standing in Yeshua’s right order. God’s/*Elohim* people, who truly establish their lives in His righteous ways (His protocol), are a strong and courageous people, shielded and protected under His banner, the King of Righteousness, the Prince of Peace.

Our lives took a turn of events this winter when my husband woke with a major health issue. We rushed him to the hospital, but the doctors said the damage to his system was irreversible. There was nothing more they could do for him. They kept saying, “*It is what it is.*” During this event, we kept our focus on Yeshua. “*What was His plan for our lives?*” “*What did He want us to learn through this event?*” and “*How could we serve Him?*” The days turned into weeks and the weeks into months. During that time, we followed all the medical protocol, which included endless rounds of doctors and rehab visits. If the event wasn’t enough, these appointments were indeed exhausting. Now looking back we could see we were never without Yeshua’s covering. Each day we were captivated by what He had prepared for us whether it was in the beauty of the early spring flowers, the walks along our local nature trail, sitting by the quiet calm of the ocean or watching the setting sun. During his recuperation, Yeshua spoke to us through the simple and the pure. Our hearts were truly lifted in appreciation. In all this, we were genuinely strengthened, and my husband’s health excelled. What the enemy planned for our destruction, God/*Elohim* overturned for our good. I can actually say we are thankful for this time in our lives.

✠ **Matthew 16:18-19** “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

### Redemption of the Firstborn

In Numbers 3:12 the firstborn male Israelites who participation and worship of the golden calf were defiled and unfit to act in Yahweh’s priesthood. Therefore, Yahweh chose the Levites who had not participated in this idolatry to stand for the firstborn males. In redeeming the firstborn, the Levites were counted (22,000), then the firstborn males, one-month-old and up, were counted (22,273). With more firstborn males than there were Levites, the firstborn paid a redemption price of five shekels each to Aaron. Today, observant Jews still pay the Levites redemption of their firstborn males thirty days after birth according to the sanctuary shekel price.

✠ **Jeremiah 33:17-22** “For thus says Yahweh: ‘David [*representing the firstborn sons in the Melchizedek order – king and priest*] shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually. If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant *and* the Levites who minister to Me.’”

### The Levites Numbers 3:17 - 4:20

Yahweh now gives instructions for the position of the Levite’s around the camp and details their work. Holiness surrounds the Tabernacle.

## The Names of the Sons of Levi

**Gershon:** with sons: Libni and Shimei

**Kohath:** with sons: Amram (Moses and Aaron's family), Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel

**Merari:** with sons: Mahli and Mushi

### The Levites - The Gershon Clan

Numbers 3:21-26

The first son of Levi was *Gershon*, along with his sons the *Libnites* and the *Shimeites*, their numbers were 7,500. The Gershonite clan was to camp on the west side behind the Tabernacle and before the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. In connection with the Tabernacle, the descendants of Gershon were to care for the Tabernacle coverings and all related materials including: the Tabernacle itself, its inner and outer coverings, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the curtains surrounding the courtyard, the screen for the entrance of the courtyard surrounding the Tabernacle and additionally all the fixtures and ropes for these items, and their maintenance.

### The Levites - The Merari Clan

Numbers 3:33-37

*Merari* was the third son of Levi. Together with his son's families, the *Mahlite*, and the *Mushite* clans, their numbers were 6,200. The Merari family camped on the north side of the Tabernacle before Dan and the tribes with him, Asher and Naphtali. The Merarites were in charge of the framework of the Tabernacle and everything related to it including the crossbars, posts, and bases, as well as the posts for the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes.

### The Levites - The Kohath Clan

Numbers 3:27-32

The second son of Levi was *Kohath*. Along with his son's *Izharites*, *Hebronites*, and *Uzzielites*, they numbered 8,600. The Kohath camped on the south side of the Tabernacle just before Rueben, Simeon, and Gad. The Kohath's were responsible for the care of the ark, the table of showbread, the menorah, the altars, the articles used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use. Aaron's son Eleazar, the priest, was appointed the chief leader of all the Levites. From the Kohathites came the Levitical *priestly* line. The firstborn Kohan inherited the title *kohan gadol* or high priest. In this case, Eleazar would carry the title after his father Aaron.

### The Levites - Moses and Aaron – Kohath High Priest

Numbers 3:38-39

The final camp assignment belonged to Moses and Aaron and those from the Amramite clans. They were to camp before the entrance of the Tabernacle on the east side toward the rising sun. The tribes that camped behind them were Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

## Consider The Plan

It is amazing to see the functioning of the Tabernacle detailing the priests, the Levites, and the tribes all working together. The principles of order and holiness are the foundation to all of Yahweh's teaching and instruction. Holiness is about honor and reverence. This order stems from obedience. All of Creation is obedient to His order of holiness as He alone is holy. Man is the only existence in all of Creation given a free choice: *to obey or not obey*. That is the reason why Yahweh teaches His people how to be obedient to His instructions and order. Obedience brings the blessing. Without obedience to His heavenly Tabernacle order, and the acting out of His principles here on earth, chaos and lawlessness would rule. Chaos here on earth is what man brings through his disobedience, neglect, and lack of acknowledgment to the Word. That is why we pray, study, and consider His Word for the wisdom it contains on *how* to walk in His redemption and holiness so freely offered us *today*.

The earthly Tabernacle and its positioning are an exact replica of the Heavenly Tabernacle and are an exact blueprint of Yeshua's ministry today. *God/Elohim* does not change. His word is written on our hearts and is the pattern He asks believers to serve in. There is no other pattern we are to follow. Even the layout around the Tabernacle keeps this formation - the Tabernacle being its center, the priesthood in the middle, and then the twelve tribes mark the outer boundary. This holiness pattern exists in everything to do in Yahweh's order. It also speaks of our walk of holiness comprised of body, soul and spirit all functioning as *one*. His Kingdom order gives clear guidance to Israel, as Yahweh's people are to be a *royal priesthood and a holy nation - the army of Yahweh*. (Ezekiel 43:10-12; Hebrews 8:2).

## The Kohaths Numbers 4

Chapter four illustrates more detail about the work of the Levites and continues into the next study. Yahweh asks for a second census of the men aged thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work of the Tabernacle. Starting with the Kohath men, the second son of Levi, Yahweh gave instructions on how to transport the furnishings of the Tabernacle. The Kohaths were the only clan allowed to handle the furniture, which was moved in a special way and a specific order.

## How to Move Camp

### The Ark with the Mercy Seat Numbers 4:1-6

The partition-curtain between the holy place and the most holy place was taken down and placed over the ark. The second layer of *tachash* hide or animal fur was laid over this, and then a third layer consisting of blue wool became the final wrapping over the ark. These coverings were likened to the progressive revelation of our walk with the goal of eternity - the throne room. Two staves placed on the sides of the ark made it easier for the Kohath's to carry the furnishings on their shoulders, as the ark was not touched even in transport. The priests also walked barefoot while moving



the furnishings, as the sages believed the elements in the gold along with the fur, may have created an electric field that could have injured or even killed the priests if they were not grounded and walking in unison with one another.

### The Table of Showbread Numbers 4:7-8

For transport, the showbread table was first covered with a blue wool covering. All its dishes and utensils, along with the twelve loaves of unleavened bread were carefully positioned on top on the blue cloth. A second layer consisted of scarlet wool and a third layer of animal/*tachash* hide. Two staves were placed on either side for carrying. It is interesting that the sky blue cloth, representing heaven, was placed on the table before the instruments and the bread. Arranging the scarlet wool next to the bread - both represent Yeshua, the Bread of Life.

🔥 **John 6:49-51** “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” (John 6:35).

### The Menorah Numbers 4:9-10

The menorah was wrapped in a blue wool covering and carried on a pole. All its utensils and the oil were then placed in an animal skin/*tachash* bag that hung from the pole. Blue represents His heavenly Glory. It is said that the light created before the heavenly lights on the fourth day of Creation *was the true light*.

🔥 **John 8:12** “Yeshua said, “I am THE Light of the World”.

Yeshua spoke this during the Feast of Tabernacles as He stood beneath the giant flaming menorahs. It was reported that the *light* from these menorahs during the Feast was so intense that it could be seen all over Jerusalem. A short while later Yeshua died, hung on a pole - The Light for all to see.

### The Golden Altar Numbers 4:11

In transport, the altar of incense was covered with a blue wool cloth and then with an animal hide/*tachash* covering. Two poles were inserted on either side for carrying. These elements represent the praise rising to the heavenly realms as all declare His Glory.

🔥 **Revelation 4:8** “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is ADONAI, God/*Elohim* of heaven’s armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!’” CJB (Isaiah 6:3; Amos 3:13; 4:13)

All the articles used for ministry in the Tabernacle were wrapped in blue cloth, covered with a *tachash* hide and then carried on a frame. These all represent His Heavenly ministry (Numbers 4:12).

### The Bronze Altar Numbers 4:13-14

The last item of furniture mentioned was the brazen altar. The ashes were removed and carried separately. A purple cloth covered the altar with its utensils placed on top and then a *tachash* hide. Two poles were in place on the sides for carrying. The purple represents Yeshua's Kingly and Princely ministry in the order of Melchizedek.

The moving of the Tabernacle furniture, with all its assembly and flowing robes, were solely under the care of the Kohath's. All of these Tabernacle furnishings were balanced on their shoulders between two poles while they walked barefoot through the rough terrain of the wilderness. The responsibility these men maintained during their travels through the desert was not an easy task. How they conducted themselves in this ministry so many generations ago is how we are to measure the handling of our ministry in Messiah today. The Kohath priests are our example of holiness.

### The High Priest Numbers 4:16-20

Aaron's son Eleazar was acting High Priest in charge of the entire Tabernacle. It was also his responsibility to care for the oil of the lampstand/*menorah* oil, the incense for the golden altar, the grain offering, and anointing oil, especially while journeying through the wilderness. These elements are all symbols of our *holy* walk in Yeshua today, for without holiness no one can see the ministry behind these items.

📖 **Luke 2:30-32** "For my eyes have seen your salvation [*Yeshua*], which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Nations and for glory to your people Israel."

*To be continued...*

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Julie Parker*

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*Israel Enters the Promised Land*, as in Joshua 3:5-17, illustration from a Bible card published between 1896 and 1913 by the Providence Lithograph Company. Public Domain

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