

# Camping and Moving in Order

## Numbers Chapter 2

The last chapter we saw that God ordered a Census  
This chapter God organizes the people and orders the way they camp and move.

- Num 2:1 **1) Camping and Moving in Order** vs 1-34  
Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 2:2 "The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.
- God will organize the Children of Israel.
  - He says they cannot camp where ever they want to. They camp according to their families (tribe)
  - At the end of Chapter 1 we see that the Levites camp closest and around the Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle)
  - It says with their banners. There isn't anywhere in scripture that describes the banners or family crests that they aligned themselves with. Rabbinical tradition has more to say about these.
    - "According to rabbinical tradition, the standard of Judah bore the figure of a lion, that of Reuben the likeness of a man or of a man's head, that of Ephraim the figure of an ox, and that of Dan the figure of an eagle." (Keil-Delitzsch)
  - The Tabernacle was considered the "PRESENCE OF GOD"
    - What was immediately around God was WORSHIP. The Levites.
    - Every man's tent was to be facing the Tabernacle (Rabbinical tradition)
    - So all Israel was to be focused on God and His Worship.
- Num 2:3 "Now those who camp on the east side toward the sunrise *shall be* of the standard of the East Side camp of Judah, by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Judah: Nahshon the son of Amminadab,
- Num 2:4 and his army, even their numbered men, 74,600.
- Num 2:5 "Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Issachar, and the leader of the sons of Issachar: Nethanel the son of Zuar,
- Num 2:6 and his army, even their numbered men, 54,400.
- Num 2:7 "Then comes the tribe of Zebulun, and the leader of the sons of Zebulun: Eliab the son of Helon,
- Num 2:8 and his army, even his numbered men, 57,400.
- Num 2:9 "The total of the numbered men of the camp of Judah: 186,400, by their armies. They shall set out first.
- To the east of the Tabernacle are three tribes JUDAH, ISSACHAR, ZEBULUN
  - All Leah's children
  - This is the greatest number of the four groupings assigned by God
  - Not only is this how they camp it is also the order they move out when the Pillar of Fire moves.
  - They are FIRST to Move out with Judah going first.
- Num 2:10 "On the south side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Reuben by their armies, and the South Side leader of the sons of Reuben: Elizur the son of Shedeur,
- Num 2:11 and his army, even their numbered men, 46,500.
- Num 2:12 "Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Simeon, and the leader of the sons of Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai,
- Num 2:13 and his army, even their numbered men, 59,300.
- Num 2:14 "Then comes the tribe of Gad, and the leader of the sons of Gad: Eliasaph the son of

Deuel,

Num 2:15 and his army, even their numbered men, 45,650.

Num 2:16 "The total of the numbered men of the camp of Reuben: 151,450 by their armies. And they shall set out second.

- To the South of the Tabernacle are three tribes REUBEN, SIMEON, GAD
- Two are Leah's children and one (Gad) is from Leah's handmaid.
- This number is not the smallest or the largest and is about the same as those camping to the North
- Not only is this how they camp it is also the order they move out when the Pillar of Fire moves.
- This group follows in second behind the first group with Reuben leading.

Num 2:17 "Then the tent of meeting shall set out *with* the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; just as they camp, so they shall set out, every man in his place by their standards.

In the  
Middle

- In the center of their camping, In the center of their moving, are the Levites and God's Presence

Num 2:18 "On the west side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Ephraim by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Ephraim *shall be* Elishama the son of Ammihud,

West Side

Num 2:19 and his army, even their numbered men, 40,500.

Num 2:20 "Next to him *shall be* the tribe of Manasseh, and the leader of the sons of Manasseh: Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur,

Num 2:21 and his army, even their numbered men, 32,200.

Num 2:22 "Then *comes* the tribe of Benjamin, and the leader of the sons of Benjamin: Abidan the son of Gideoni,

Num 2:23 and his army, even their numbered men, 35,400.

Num 2:24 "The total of the numbered men of the camp of Ephraim: 108,100, by their armies. And they shall set out third.

- To the West of the Tabernacle are three tribes EPHRAIM, MANASSEH, BENJAMIN
- All are Rachel's children. (Benjamin and Joseph whose children were Ephraim and Manasseh)
- This number is the smallest group.
- Not only is this how they camp it is also the order they move out when the Pillar of Fire moves.
- This group follows in third behind the second group with Ephraim leading.

Num 2:25 "On the north side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Dan by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Dan: Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai,

North Side

Num 2:26 and his army, even their numbered men, 62,700.

Num 2:27 "Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Asher, and the leader of the sons of Asher: Pagiel the son of Ochran,

Num 2:28 and his army, even their numbered men, 41,500.

Num 2:29 "Then *comes* the tribe of Naphtali, and the leader of the sons of Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan,

Num 2:30 and his army, even their numbered men, 53,400.

Num 2:31 "The total of the numbered men of the camp of Dan *was* 157,600. They shall set out last by their standards."

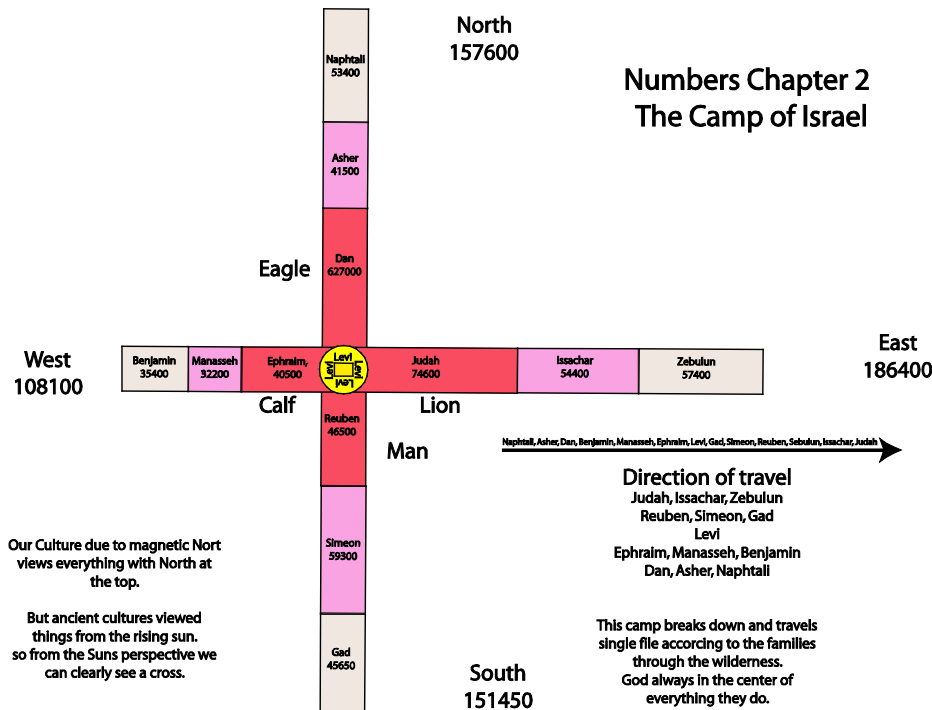
- To the North of the Tabernacle are three tribes DAN, ASHER, NAPHTALI
- All three are from handmaids. One is from Leah's handmaid (Asher) and two are from Rachel's handmaid (Dan and Naphtali).
- This number is not the smallest or the largest and is about the same as those camping to the South.
- Not only is this how they camp it is also the order they move out when the Pillar of Fire moves.
- This group follows in fourth behind the third group with Naphtali bringing up the rear,

Num 2:32 These are the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households; the total of the numbered men of the camps by their armies, 603,550.

Num 2:33 The Levites, however, were not numbered among the sons of Israel, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Num 2:34 Thus the sons of Israel did; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they camped by their standards, and so they set out, every one by his family according to his father's household.

- They did as they were instructed.
- If Israel followed this always from the East those who would look to the camp of Israel would see a cross.
  - If Israel follows God's order their actions, all they do, their life would be an illustration of the coming Messiah. Their life would testify of Jesus.
  - If (knowing how Israel grumbled, murmured and rebelled, they probably didn't follow exactly). People like Benjamin, Zebulun, Naphtali, and Gad would want to be closer to the worship. They would try to slide around to the side of their brothers. Thus their testimony wouldn't be of the Cross of Christ but it would look more like an egg.
  - What does your obedience testify of? The Cross of Christ? Or an Egg?
  - Spiritual Gifts in our churches are given by His Spirit as HE WILLS. Do we follow His order or do we do as we desire?



**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible<sup>®</sup>,  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,  
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))**