

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2011–2012
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Numbers at a Glance

	Time Frame	<i>1st Census</i> —Over 1 Year after Exodus (Num. 1:1)
Geography		<i>From Sinai</i> (1:1–10:10)—Community Formed & Tabernacle Constructed
		<i>Through the Wilderness</i> (10:11–22:1)—Internal Focus & Threats
		<i>To the Plains of Moab</i> (22:2–36:13)—External Focus & Threats
	Time Frame	<i>2nd Census</i> —Over 38 Years Later (26:64–65)

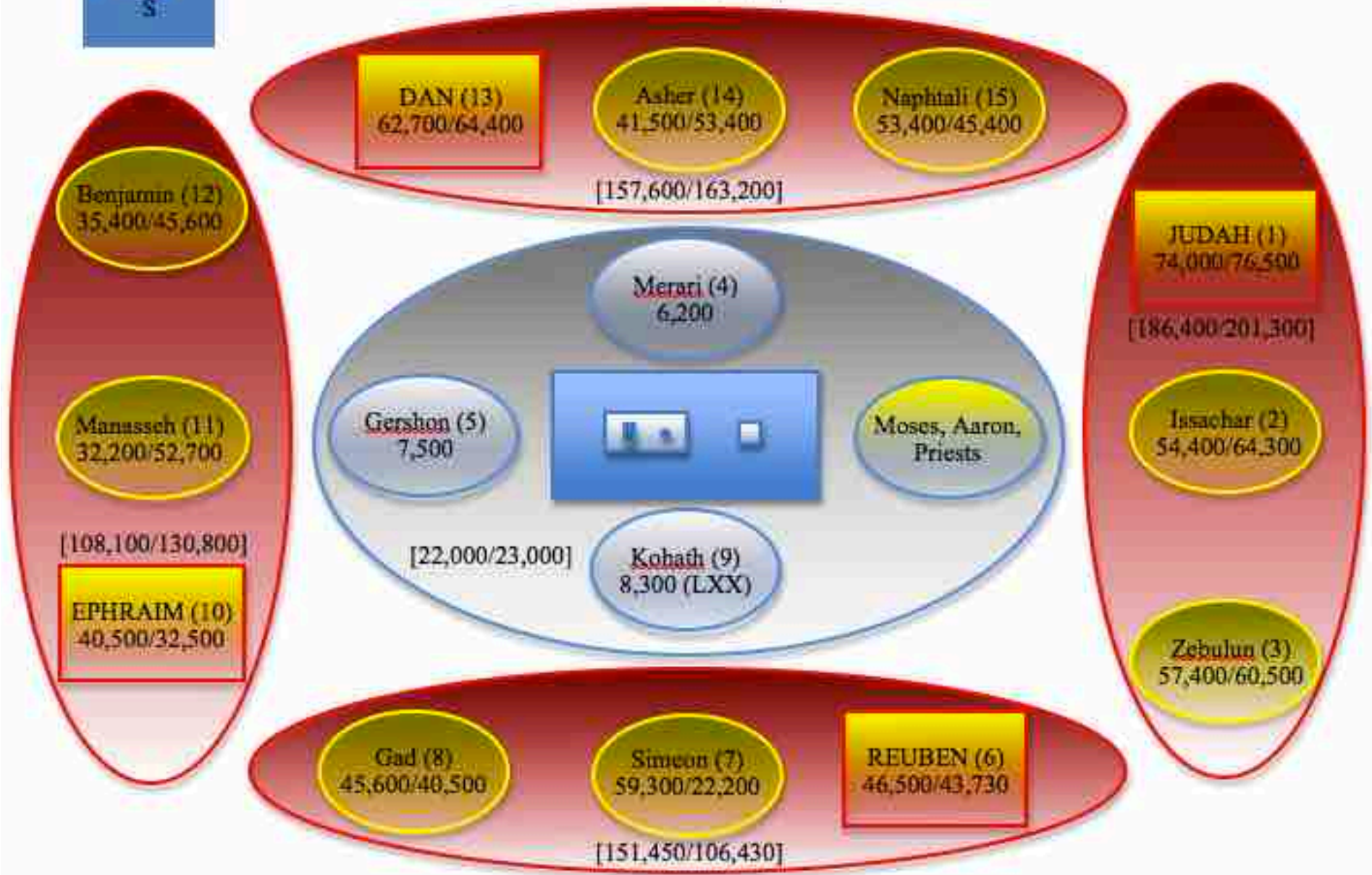
From Sinai (1:1–10:11): Reminders of Hope

❖ **Census of Israel's Warriors (ch. 1)**

- ❖ **Yahweh has been faithful to his promise of multiplying Israel's offspring.**
- ❖ **Implication: He will be faithful to his promise of land.**



Fig. 6.2. Israel's Camp Arrangement
(Numbers 1-4, 10, 26)



❖ **Camp Arrangement & Its Significance (chs. 2–4)**

❖ **Yahweh's purposes for Judah to lead and mediate blessing stand.**

❖ **Gen. 22:17b–18. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.**

❖ **Gen. 49:8, 10. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.... ¹⁰The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**

❖ **God's Presence & Israel's Journey: Waiting
& Following (9:15–23)**

Through the Wilderness (10:11–22:1): Failures of Faith

- ❖ **Complaining, Craving, Prejudice, & Divine Wrath (chs. 11–12)**
- ❖ **Israel's Tenth Testing of God & the Call to Persevering Faith**
 - ❖ **The Setting:**
 - ❖ **Israel's past failures**

Israel's Ten Testings of God

Numbers 14:21–23. “But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Yahweh, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet *have put me to the test these ten times* and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers.”

1	When Israel expressed fear at the Sea, as Pharaoh approached (Exod. 14:11–12)	6	At Rephidim, when the people were thirsty and quarreled with Moses and tested God (Exod. 17:1–2)
2	Three days into the wilderness as Mara, when Israel complained that the spring was bitter and they were thirsty (Exod. 15:24)	7	At Sinai when Israel worshipped the golden calf (Exod. 32:1–6)
3	2 1/2 months after the exodus in the wilderness of Sin, when Israel complained that they were hungry (Exod. 16:2–3)	8	At Taberah, when Israel complained about their misfortunes and God's fire consumed some of the camp (Num. 11:1)
4	Israel's failure to eat all daily manna (Exod. 16:20)	9	At Taberah, when some complained that they were sick of manna and hungry for other food (Num. 11:4)
5	In Israel's failure to gather enough manna to sustain through Sabbath (Exod. 16:27)	10	At Kadesh when the 10 spies expressed lack of faith in God (Num. 14:1–4)

Through the Wilderness (10:11–22:1): Failures of Faith

- ❖ **Complaining, Craving, Prejudice, & Divine Wrath (chs. 11–12)**
- ❖ **Israel's Tenth Testing of God & the Call to Persevering Faith**
 - ❖ **The Setting:**
 - ❖ **Israel's past failures**
 - ❖ **The fear of giants**

❖ The Significance

- ❖ God's people must face life's giants...
 - ❖ With confidence that God is with us and for us (14:9).
 - ❖ With persevering faith birthed through the experience of God's past power and mercy (14:11).
- ❖ Lack of faith is a sin deserving of death (14:12).
- ❖ God responds to the prayers of the righteous—those who pray for the fame of God's name (14:14–20).
- ❖ Israel's sin cannot thwart God's purposes to fill the earth with his glory; he will preserve a remnant through the judgment (14:21–24, 29–30).

- ❖ **Ps. 106:24–27**. Then they despised the pleasant land, *having no faith in his promise*.
²⁵They murmured in their tents and did not obey the voice of Yahweh. ²⁶Therefore he raise his hand and swore to them that he would make them fall in the wilderness, ²⁷and would make their offspring fall among the nations, scattering them among the lands.

- ❖ **Jude 5**. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those *who did not believe*.

❖ Hebrews 3:12–4:16

- ❖ Israel heard good news like us, but only some listened (4:2).
- ❖ Persevering faith proves that we are indeed in Christ (3:12–14) and have responded to the gospel.
- ❖ Persevering faith alone ensures we will enter rest (4:1; cf. 3:15–19).
- ❖ Persevering faith unites us with other believers (4:2) and is fueled by the encouragement of other believers (3:13).
- ❖ The Church must not be like Israel but must work together to live by faith, striving to enter rest (4:11) in a way that recognizes our weaknesses and draws near to God for mercy and grace to help in time of need (4:15–16).