

What did God develop in you today?

1. God is a God of order. Before Israel can take the Promised Land, He requires that they order themselves also. Not only is it more efficient and useful, but it also simply more like God—ordered and organized.

Nothing is accomplished in God's kingdom without order and organization. While it may seem so to us, it is only an illusion. Behind the scenes, God is moving with utmost order and organization, though we cannot see it.

2. God orders things according to His wisdom, not ours.

Our resistance to God's order and organization is almost always the product of simple selfishness—wanting to do things our own way, instead of the LORD's.

3. Everything was positioned in relation to the presence of God, the tabernacle. God could have described where the tribe of Judah was in relation to the tribe of Dan, but He did not. The reference point was always God Himself.

It is hard to underestimate the trouble people get into in their walk with God because they position and measure themselves in reference to other people. God is to be our focus, not other people.

4. The tribes of Israel camped around four standards, which were said to be a lion, a man, a calf, and an eagle. We find the same four creatures surrounding the throne of God in Revelation. (4:7)

God's order is never arbitrary, or just made up on a whim. It is after His heavenly pattern. We are to accept God's order and organization, even when we don't understand it.

Series: The Life and Times of Moses
Text: Numbers 2



Title: Know Your Place
Topic: God's organization/order

Review: So far in our study of Numbers we have seen nothing but obedience from the Israelites. They gave generously to get the tabernacle started. They cleansed the Levites. And last week, we saw them hold the 1st Passover celebration in the wilderness.

We also saw trumpets being made for signaling people to gather and to march. It has been a busy month so far (1st month of the 2nd year in chapters 7-10:10).

Lesson:

Numbers 1:1-16:

Numbers 2:1-16:

Tabernacle

Numbers 2: 17

3. Where are the tribes camped? _____ and protecting the Tabernacle.

Numbers 2:18-33

Today: The number of warriors is a better index of the _____ of a church than the number of pew sitters.

It is believed the outer tribes were about 1,000 feet (10 fb fields) away from the tabernacle. And there are Levites between the tribes and the tent. No one could approach God except representatively through another person designated by God. There was a reverence and awe involved in their relationship.

34: "according to all the Lord commanded."

Today: When we come to the communion table is there a mediator we need to go through?

Break camp/marching sequence:

_____ Marching Direction _____ → _____

4. God has appointed a place for every one of the Israelites. According to their fathers' _____.

The arrangement of the tribes shows purpose and a divine decision regarding the tribes' various functions and abilities. Groups are within groups yet the tribes have specified placement. Judah will be the one out front. Dan will bring up the rear.

5 observations:

We read *beside the emblems of their fathers' house*, and *according to their fathers' house*. There were 4 groups with standards. Within each

1. What is this "organization" of the tribes supposed to be? An _____.

group there were 3 tribes (fathers' house). So they were organized and camped and marched as 3 tribes which were identified as a larger group.

There is a reason why certain tribes will be out front and others will bring up the rear.

Today: The Christian life is a life of _____ and we are in God's army.

Today: We each have our own place. God has a place marked out for each of us.

2. What is in the center of this formation? The _____ with the

5. New Jerusalem

ark of testimony. The King is in the middle. God is right in the center of this.

Future: Rev 21:10-13:

What do you suppose the location will be of the tribe's names?

Today: At the center of our life, our mission, our purpose in this world is God.

Summary:

✓ God's people organized into a military stance

✓ God was at the center of His people

Side note: What is God living in?

✓ While they needed a mediator, we can meet directly with Him

Today: Where does God reside now?

✓ Every person had/has a place in God's Organization

✓ We will see the formation of tribes again