



I. Scripture Lesson

Numbers 1:1-5, 17-19, 44-46 (ESV)

¹The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, ²“Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. ³From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company. ⁴And there shall be with you a man from each tribe, each man being the head of the house of his fathers. ⁵And these are the names of the men who shall assist you... ¹⁷Moses and Aaron took these men who had been named, ¹⁸and on the first day of the second month, they assembled the whole congregation together, who registered themselves by clans, by fathers’ houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head, ¹⁹as the Lord commanded Moses. So he listed them in the wilderness of Sinai... ⁴⁴These are those who were listed, whom Moses and Aaron listed with the help of the chiefs of Israel, twelve men, each representing his fathers’ house. ⁴⁵So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers’ houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel— ⁴⁶all those listed were 603,550.

II. Introduction

“Effective churches have one primary characteristic that sets them apart from churches that are losing members at a vast rate; they have high expectations of all their members.”

- Thom Rainer, *High Expectations*

“The story of the book of Numbers is written to a people whose lives are lived between the exodus and the Promised Land...their present experience is not one of the fullness of their salvation but rather of the wilderness along the way...the people were constantly tempted to doubt that there really was a promised land ahead...the wilderness was very real, and the obstacles were very visible, while the Promised Land seemed remote...they surely felt as if their whole lives were slipping away in one meaningless round of unsatisfying experiences.”

- Iain Duguid, *Numbers*

III. **Big Idea**

Church membership is not just a name on a role but a commitment to share in the duties and privileges of holy war.

- The Call to Fight
 - The Commitment of Resources
 - The Faithfulness of God
-
-

IV. **The Call to Fight**

“We shall fight on the seas and oceans... we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender...”

- Winston Churchill, House of Commons, June 4, 1940

“Now during the NT era there is still a calling to advance. Holy war is waged through baptism and union with Christ...this situation is the foundation for widespread evangelism. Now the whole inhabited earth has become the new land that is to be conquered in God’s name. We are to wage holy war. But the nature of that holy war is redefined because of Christ.”

- Vern Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*

V. **The Commitment of Resources**

“The first responsibility that came with being part of God’s people was giving...everyone who was counted had to contribute exactly the same amount to the Lord’s work...if you were to be a part of the community, anticipating the blessing of the inheritance that would come to you as part of God’s people, you had to contribute financially to support the work of ministry.”

- Iain Duguid, *Numbers*

VI. **The Faithfulness of God**

“Astronomer Dorrit Hoffleit of Yale University, well known for her work with variable stars, compiled the Yale Bright Star Catalog decades ago. It tabulates every star visible from Earth to magnitude 6.5, the naked eye limit for most of humanity...the total comes to 9,096 stars visible across the entire sky.”

- Bob King, *Stars in the Sky*

VII. **Conclusion**

“Your capability and potential to do what you've been called to do are as great as the size and faithfulness of God's grace.”

- Paul David Tripp