

# THE BIBLE PROJECT 2.0

## On the Road to the Promised Land

Genesis 12-Numbers 35



Israel is one huge mass trekking across the desert of Sinai and the south of Canaan and Edom.

### **BIG IDEA 1: THE JOURNEY IS THE CRUCIBLE OF FORMATION OF A NATION.**

THE nation is to be the model that promotes God's Project. Never was Israel to be in itself God's Project: Blessedness is to a purpose—that the whole world might be reclaimed for the Symphony God created: **a world where his will is done, all creatures live in joyous concert and all fellowship fully with their Creator.**

### **The STRESSES OF THE JOURNEY—are we there yet?**

- The Sheer Numbers.
- The Suddenness of the departure and the change in conditions.
- Organization is required.
- Regulation is a necessity.
- God must be honored – absolutely—discipline applied.

## **BIG IDEA 2: THE HUGE MASS REQUIRED GOD'S MANAGEMENT.**

WHATEVER THE ACTUAL NUMBER WHICH IS DISPUTED.



*Cubs victory parade, Grant Park, Chicago after winning 2016 World Series—Crowd estimate 5 million*

**Number in the Exodus -- 600,000**

THE text says 600 *eleph* (Ex 12.37, Nu 11.21, 1.46 -- 603,550; Nu 26.51, 601,730)

Very difficult to believe this number -- it is impossible to see that number failing to overrun everything in their sight -- eg Arad--see slides

Walter Kaiser: *Eleph* -- "thousand" can also mean family, clan or company/tent-group.  
E.g. Judges 6.15 reads "my clan is the weakest in Manasseh." *Eleph*

But Ex 38:25-26 talks about half-shekel to be given for each man over 20 to Tabernacle construction.

The amount given was 100 talents and 1775 shekels.

3,000 shekels were in each talent X 100 = 300K + 1775 X 2 = 3550 or exactly the number Numbers 1:46 says were in the exodus!

Conclusion: What's your conclusion?

The Bible seems to mean for us to understand a nation of more than a million in transit.



Or there is something about the number and value of the talents that we do not understand yet.

The terrain of Arad must be seen to get the idea.

### **BIG IDEA 3: SUDDENNESS OF DEPARTURE AND CHANGE PRODUCE STRESS**



#### Incidents of crisis

Ex 14.10-12--Pharaoh's attack at the sea --were there no graves in Egypt?

*10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"*

Ex 15.22-24--Marah -- 3 days into the wilderness and no water and the people complained

*22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.[f]) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"*

Ex 16:1-3--hunger in the Wilderness of Sin: manna and quail

*The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."*

Ex 17: 1-4--water from the stricken rock at Rephidim -- God commanded striking

*The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us*

water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

4 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

Nu 11: 1-23--complaining at Taberah, cry for meat -- we're sick of manna; God sends quail and the people die for their craving.

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the Lord and the fire died down. 3 So that place was called Taberah,[a] because fire from the Lord had burned among them.

Nu 14.1-4--Spies foment fear about taking the land

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Nu 20.1-5--Kadesh--command the water from the rock.

In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

2 Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. 3 They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! 4 Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? 5 Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

Crisis is the school of God to teach his people trust.

History cannot be understood apart from God or God apart from history. Agree or disagree?

Did God's dramatic intervention into the historical life of his people always achieve its desired result?

Ex 15—Song of Moses -- yes

Nu 14—God asks: How long will this people despise me ... despite the signs?

## **BIG IDEA 4: ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED**

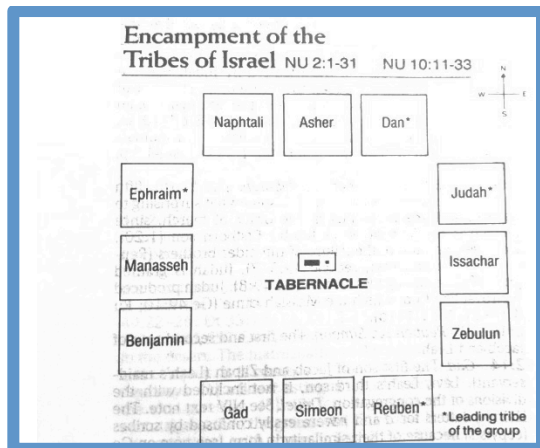


Ex 18 Rulers appointed over 1000, 100, 50, 10

Census -- Nu 1

Delegation of religious duties

Encampment detailed and specific  
diagram the order of encampment



Breaking camp systematically

Communications orderly

2 silver trumpets – name the trumpet orders—Numbers 10

2 All Assemble

1 Leaders Assemble

Alarm trumpet those on east break first then as a trumpet blows the other follow in order.

Trumpets to be blown on feast days, too

## **BIG IDEA 5: REGULATION IS A NECESSITY**



### **Law and Legislation**

Close contact – LEADING trips to Israel -- who sits in front seat of bus?

Youth trips -- clear disciplines

Hostages with discipline survived -- Katherine Koob, Terry Anderson  
POWs

People and livestock lived side by side

Infant Israel not prepared for perfect law – or complete understanding of God's will  
[→ progressive Revelation]

pure worship

just relationships

God takes Israel where she was and leads his people to Christ

Jesus:

Ex 20.13	Murder	Mt 5:21-22
Ex 20.14	Adultery	Mt 5.27-28
Deut 24.1-4	divorce	Mk 10.2-9
Ex 21.23-24	lex talionis	Mt 5.38-39

Discussion of the specific laws in Ex 21-23 will be next week.

## **BIG IDEA 6: GOD MUST BE HONORED – ABSOLUTELY—DISCIPLINE APPLIED.**



Ex 32.1-6--Gold Calf –revel

- Lv 10: 1-- Nadab & Abihu--strange fire
- Lv 24.10-11 -- Blasphemed the NAME
- Nu 12:1-2--Miriam & Aaron
- Nu 16.1-3 -- Korah, Dathan and Abiram

- Ex 32: 17-29--Moses anger; slaughter by Levites
- Lv 10.2-5--They die!
- Lv 24.13-17 -- stoned; Anyone who curses God shall bear his sin
- Nu 12.3-15 - God speaks; Miriam leprous
- Nu 16.4-50 -- Earth swallows them and families.

What value does the strong discipline have for Israel?

God knows that if Israel dies, his plan dies. Discipline is absolutely necessary for his people to fulfill their destiny.

God judges because he loves the whole world.

Assuming that God had not introduced rigid disciplines into Israel's historical life, what would have been the outcome? Would there be any Christian Church today had there been no judgment in the past?

Does the OT paint the picture of a "Santa Claus" God who lets sin slide?

## **BIG IDEA RECAP**

**BIG IDEA 1: THE JOURNEY IS THE CRUCIBLE OF FORMATION OF A NATION.**

**BIG IDEA 2: THE HUGE MASS REQUIRED GOD'S MANAGEMENT.**

**BIG IDEA 3: SUDDENNESS OF DEPARTURE AND CHANGE PRODUCE STRESS**

**BIG IDEA 4: ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED**

**BIG IDEA 5: REGULATION IS A NECESSITY**

**BIG IDEA 6: GOD MUST BE HONORED – ABSOLUTELY—DISCIPLINE APPLIED.**

**Consider the following if you choose to prepare for week 9**

Read Joshua 1-6

Re-read the following:

Exodus 12:1-23:33 Note the laws that seem strange

Numbers 1-4

Numbers 10-12

Watch for stress on the people as they experience it. Note the organization that developed.

**Note the judgments that occurred on the people.**

Ex 32:1-6 & 17-29

Lev 10:1 & 2-5

Lev 24: 10-11 & 13-17

Numbers 12: 1-2 & 3-15

Numbers 16: 1-3 & 4-50

### **MARKERS:**

Exodus 21-23

Specific cases of law

Exodus 32

Golden Calf