

Announcements

- We will begin the next HWMR in Leviticus; copies are available in the bookroom.
- We will begin a new ministry reading schedule with the Life-Study of Numbers. Place an order with the bookroom today if you need a copy.
- Shuttle service: we will begin a shuttle service to free up more parking space. Please sign up if you can commit to parking at the Chevron. The shuttle would pick you up at 9:25 am and drop you off after the meeting. We will announce the start date shortly.
- There will be a Bible distribution at Bellevue College September 26-27. The sign up is on the table.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast will be at 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Smith - South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
 - Chang - Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
 - Wang - South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
 - Lu - Kirkland, (206) 696-2543, in Chinese

Burdens for Prayer

- England Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- Missoula
- International Innovation Exchange (School)

This Week: September 17 – September 23

Morning Revival: *Crystallization-study of Leviticus*, week 14

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Central Bellevue
Upstairs – Downtown

Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table

September	
26-27	Bellevue College Bible Distribution
October	
12-14	Junior High Boys' Retreat
19-21	High School Retreat
November	
2-4	Junior High Girls' Retreat

LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS

Message One

AN INTRODUCTORY WORD

In this introductory word to the Life-study of Numbers, we will consider the advancement of the divine revelation, a comparison of Numbers and Leviticus, the general sketch of Numbers, the central thought of Numbers, and the sections of Numbers.

I. AN ADVANCEMENT OF THE DIVINE REVELATION

In the five books of Moses (the Pentateuch) many seeds of the truth are sown. Every main point of the divine truth is in these books. However, the divine revelation was not given to us once for all but progressively.

In the progress of the divine revelation there is the advancement of the divine revelation. In the first book, Genesis, we have God and His creation. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). At the end of the sixty-six books of the Bible there is a glorious, bright, new city. In the beginning there was only God Himself. Then God accomplished the work of creation, so in addition to God there was the creation, including man. Man fell, but after the fall of man, there was God's redemption. Eventually, at the end of the Bible, there is a city built with the divine Trinity mingled with His redeemed people. Between God's creation at the beginning and the new city at the end, the divine revelation advances progressively book after book.

A. In Genesis

In Genesis we see God's creation and man's fall. Whereas Genesis begins with God's creation, it ends with the result of man's fall—a dead man in a coffin (50:26).⁴

B. In Exodus

After the fall of man, God came in to save us with His wonderful redemption. This is what we see in Exodus. In the book of Exodus we have God's salvation and the building of His habitation.

God's habitation is more valuable than His creation. When God created the heavens and the earth, He was homeless. Even though man fell, God would not give up. He still went on to redeem and save fallen man that He might build up His habitation with His redeemed people.

C. In Leviticus

In Leviticus we have the redeemed's worship and living. By the time we reach Leviticus, many of the fallen people have been saved and have become God's redeemed people. Leviticus reveals that these redeemed ones need to worship God and live the life He desires.

D. In Numbers

In Numbers we see God's redeemed people being formed into His army and their journey in fighting for God. The army is for God's people to fight so that God can gain the ground on earth to build up His kingdom with His habitation.

II. A COMPARISON

At this point, I would like to make a comparison between Numbers and Leviticus. Leviticus stresses the redeemed's worship and living. Numbers stresses the redeemed's journey and fighting. In Leviticus God's redeemed were instructed in how to worship God and live a holy life. In Numbers God's redeemed were formed into an army and fought for Him throughout their journey.

In Numbers we can see three things: the formation of an army, the journeys of that army, and the fighting of the army. The formation of the army was for fighting, and the fighting required the army to journey, not to stay in one spot. Always the children of Israel were going on from place to place to gain ground that God might have a people to be built up for His kingdom and His house. For this reason, in Numbers we have the army, the journey, and the fighting.

III. THE GENERAL SKETCH

Although Numbers is a long book, the general sketch is simple. The general sketch of Numbers is that the redeemed and sanctified Israelites were formed into a holy army of God, which was to proceed by following God's leading and was to fight for Him.

Whatever is written in the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, is a type. In particular, in these books we see that the entire nation of

Israel was a type of the church. As Israel was formed into an army, so the church should be formed into an army. Concerning this, we should not look at the present situation, at the outward appearance. If we do this, we will be disappointed and wonder where the army is. Although we may have doubts about the existence of a church army, Satan knows that there is such an army. We need to believe that today there is an army formed with all the faithful ones, journeying and fighting all the time that God may have a kingdom with a house.

Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, September 16 th	John 20:23-31
Monday, September 17 th	John 21:1-14
Tuesday, September 18 th	John 21:15-22
Wednesday, September 19 th	John 21:23-25
Thursday, September 20 th	Acts 1:1-8
Friday, September 21 st	Acts 1:9-14
Saturday, September 22 nd	Acts 1:15-26