

#1 Being Formed into an Army to Fight with God for His Interest on Earth Crystallization-Study of Numbers (1) 2019/2/25-3/3

I . It is not accurate to say that Numbers is merely a book of wanderings and repeated failures; Numbers is a book of victory and glory: Num. 1:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting ... 2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their father's households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. 3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military services in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.

A. The book of Numbers presents a glorious scene with standards and ensigns, with formations and order; it was glorious that one the earth God not only had a dwelling place but also had an army. Num. 2:17 Then the Tent of Meeting shall set out, with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; as they encamp, so shall they set out, every man in his place, by their standards.

B. From beginning to end the book of Numbers is a glorious book; in the beginning God formed the army, and at the end we have a record of the dividing of the land conquered by this army.

C. The picture in Numbers shows the Triune God and His chosen people mingled together as one entity so that God may move on the earth and conquer His enemy in order to regain the earth for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. 【Mon】

II . The central thought of Numbers is that Christ is the meaning of life, the testimony, the center of God's people, and the Leader, the way, and the goal of their journey and fighting: A. In Numbers Christ is revealed as the meaning of life for God's people: 1. The Ark of the Testimony was the center of the Tabernacle of the Testimony. 2. The Ark with the tabernacle was the meaning of the Israelites' life. 3. The meaning of our human life is for God in Christ to enter into us and be expressed through us. Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

4. When we see the vision of Christ in God's economy, we begin to realize that Christ Himself is the purpose of the universe and also the meaning of our human life. 【Tue】

B. Christ, who is the meaning of the life of God's people, is God's testimony: 1. Since the Ark typifies Christ, the meaning of the Israelites' life was to take care of Christ as the testimony of God. 2. In the Old Testament the Testimony refers to the law: a. The two tablets on which the law was inscribed were called the Testimony and were placed in the Ark. b. Because the Testimony was put into the Ark, the Ark was called the Ark of the Testimony. c. The law of God is a testimony of what God is; it tells us what kind of God our God is. d. The law, as a portrait of what God is, typifies Christ as the embodiment of God in all His divine attributes.

C. Christ is the center of God's people : 1. This is portrayed by the way the children of Israel were encamped around the tabernacle. 2. In the church life today we should take Christ as our unique center.

D. Christ is the Leader, the way, and the goal: 1. Christ is the One who is moving, acting, and always proceeding onward: a. In His proceeding onward, Christ is our Leader, our way, and our goal. Matt. 23:10 Neither be called instructors, because One is your Instructor, the Christ. John14:6

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. b. The unique Leader in the church is Christ; He is leading us on the way and toward His goal, both of which are actually Himself.

2. Philippians 3:12-14 indicates that Christ should be our goal, our aim; Christ is the goal toward which we press. Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, 14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

E. If Christ were not all of this to us, there would not be a way for God to gain the ground on earth to build up His kingdom with His house. Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood 6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father... (Wed)

III. The book of Numbers records how God's chosen and redeemed people were formed into a priestly army to journey with God and to fight with God for His interest on earth: A. 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. Exo. 12:51 And on that very day Jehovah brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies. 13:18 Thus God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up arrayed for battle out of the land of Egypt.

B. In Numbers we can see three things: the formation of an army, the journeys of that army, and the fighting of the army: 1. The formation of the army was for fighting, and the fighting required the army to journey, not to stay in one place. 2. 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.

C. Numbers 1 and 2 reveal that the children of Israel were formed into an army because they were surrounded by enemies: 1. This army was necessary for the protection of God's testimony. 2. The children of Israel were formed into an army able to fight for the protection of God's testimony. a. According to the picture in Numbers, the army was encamped around the tabernacle to protect the sphere, the realm, in which the tabernacle was erected. b. God viewed the children of Israel in the wilderness as an army fighting for His testimony. c. Apparently, the children of Israel were fighting for themselves; actually, they were fighting for God's testimony on earth, for among them was the Tabernacle of the Testimony, God's dwelling place on earth. 3. In this warfare there were two main functions: the function of fighting the enemies and the function of maintaining the tabernacle, which represented God's testimony in the universe. 【Thu】

D. In the forming of the house of Israel into a fighting army, we see the principle revealed in Genesis 1:26-28: Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. 27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds

of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. **1.** God desires a corporate man to represent Him in subduing and regaining the earth from the usurping hand of Satan. **2.** God had given Israel a good land called Canaan, but the Israelites had to take this land from the usurping hand of God's enemy; they had to gain the land by fighting, defeating all the enemies.

E. The army of God defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites and Og the king of Bashan: **1.** The kings of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan were the "gate guards" on the east of the Jordan guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan. **2.** In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them, and take over their territory. **3.** This signifies that in order to enjoy the unsearchably rich Christ, the church must defeat and take over the territory of the enemies signifies by these kings. Eph. 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. 11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. **[Fri]**

F. In the typology of the Old Testament, Canaan has two aspects: **1.** On the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches.

2. On the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the kingdom of Satan: **a.** As the ruler of this world and as the ruler of the authority of the air, Satan has his authority and his angels, who are his subordinates as principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness. Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. **b.** The Canaanites typify the fallen angels, the rebellious angels who follow Satan, who have become the powers, rulers, and authorities in Satan's kingdom. **c.** The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the spiritual warfare of the church as a whole, including all the members, against "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies" so that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land. **d.** The church must be such a corporate warrior, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that God's people may gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, establishing and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

G. The entire Bible shows us one thing—that God's intention is to have a people formed into an army to take Christ as their meaning of life, testimony, center, Leader, way, and goal and to proceed on and fight for God so that He may have the ground on earth and have a people built up as His kingdom and His house, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. **[Sat]**

I. The High Gospel Topic 7: Christ Is Spirit (Part 2)

1 Cor. 15:45b The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

EXPERIENCING ALL THAT GOD IS BY CALLING ON THE LORD'S NAME

When a person believes in the Lord Jesus, the Spirit comes into this person and lives within him. Second Timothy 4:22 says that the Lord Jesus Christ is with our spirit. We do not need to go to heaven to find God, and we do not

need to make any pilgrimage on earth to touch Him. The most holy place is now in our spirit. When electricity is installed in a house, all that a person has to do is to turn on the switch. Today, the Spirit is "installed" in this universe—Christ has accomplished all the work, and as the life-giving Spirit, He is now everywhere. Whenever we call on the Lord's name, our spirits are "switched on," and we can experience all that God is.

We can explain the mystery of the Spirit by yet another illustration. One day in the summer I bought a watermelon from the market. The melon was large, and I perspired a lot in bringing it home. My intention was to eat and digest that melon. In order to do this, first I had to cut the melon into slices. To make it even easier to receive the melon, I then squeezed the melon slices into melon juice. That big melon became so enjoyable to me through the melon juice. Originally, God was in heaven. He can be illustrated by the big, uncut melon. One day He became a man and was crucified on the cross. Through His crucifixion He was "cut into slices." But the process did not stop there; after His death He resurrected and was transformed into the form of the Spirit. This is like squeezing the melon slices into melon juice. The Spirit is like the juice of the melon. Through this process God became accessible to us. Today, the God whom we worship is not the "uncut" God. He is a "processed" God. In other words, He has passed through a process to become the life-giving Spirit. Now we do not need to sweat and struggle to reach Him; He has become so enjoyable and accessible to us.

NOW WE CAN FREELY DRINK OF THE SPIRIT

In the Gospel of John, at the end of the greatest religious festival of that day, Christ stood up and said that if any man was thirsty, he could come to Him and drink. Then Christ said, "He who believes into Me as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water". Here the Spirit is likened to "rivers of living water." This living water was not there at the time Christ spoke these words, because He had not been processed through His death and resurrection. But after His death and resurrection, the process was completed, and today the Spirit as the living water is here. Now we can freely drink of the Spirit. This living water fully quenches our inner thirst.

Hymn 493. Experience of Christ - As the Spirit

1. Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
That gives us life and quickens us,
With all Thy riches strengthening,
how divine and glorious
2. O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
That with Thy power liberates;
And by Thy liberation true
The law of life now regulates.
3. O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
That transforms us and saturates,
And to Thine image true conforms
And with Thy light illuminates.
4. O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
Who in my spirit makes His home;
He mingles with my spirit too,
And both one spirit thus become.
5. Lord, teach me how to exercise
My spirit now to contact Thee,
That in Thy Spirit I may walk
And live by Thy reality.

Crucial Point① : The meaning of the universe is that church corporately expresses Christ greatly.

OL 1 : When we see the vision of Christ in God's economy, we begin to realize that Christ Himself is the purpose of the universe and also the meaning of our human life.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,**16** Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.**17** And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;

OL2 : The meaning of our human life is for God in Christ to enter into us and be expressed through us. **Col. 1:27** To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

We were created in the image of the Lord Jesus. This means we were created in a way that matches Him so that He can enter into us. This is the meaning of the universe. The meaning of the universe is for God to be expressed. Wherever God is expressed, the universe has meaning. God gains His expression in a subjective way, not in an objective way. Since God desires to enter into man and be expressed through man, God created man in His image. This is very special. Every light bulb emits light for the sole purpose of expressing electricity. However, if electricity is not transmitted into the light bulb, the light bulb loses its meaning of existence. The meaning of our human life is for God to enter into us and be expressed through us. The meaning of the universe is for a group of people to receive God into them to be their content. Hence, to be saved means to be rescued by God out of a human life that is void of meaning into a life that is full of meaning. Now that we are saved, we have the meaning of our human life. Our life is meaningful because the Lord Jesus is in us.

Before you were saved, did you know the purpose of the universe, and did you know the meaning of human life? Certainly you did not know these things. You did not know the purpose of your life on earth or what your destiny would be. Both the purpose of the universe and the meaning of your life were a mystery. Only when we receive a vision concerning Christ and experience God's salvation can we understand the mysteries of the universe and of our life on earth.

For Junior High and High School Students/College Students

Please look up the sky at night. According to astronomers' estimates, there are more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy, and there are millions, hundreds of billions or trillions of galaxies in this universe. In our solar system, there are nine planets that orbit the sun exactly like a clock, centering on the sun. One of the planets, the Earth, will travel around the space at a speed of about 107,000 km/h per hour, circling the sun over 365 days. This fact is surprising when we consider that a high-speed train that runs in 1/1000 of this speed often does not go on time. All things have been created through Christ and unto Christ,

and all things cohere in Christ.

Eph. 1:4 said, "Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love." Ephesians are written about the church, the body of Christ. In this book you were chosen before the creation of the world. The universe exists for the church which is the body of Christ, and you are part of it. The meaning of existence of the universe spreading infinitely is that man expresses God. For this reason, the whole universe, all creations, are waiting for the children of God to express God greatly.

Rom. 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.**21** In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

All creation eagerly awaits you to express Christ in school and corporately express Christ greatly and in the church life. God's economy, the meaning of existence of the universe, the meaning of life is that the church expresses Christ corporately. Ultimately, the church is built up and saves all creation.

Prayer : "O Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing the mystery of the universe, the mystery of life, the mystery of God's economy to me. Christ lives within me. That is for me to experience and express Christ in daily life, build up the church with brothers and sisters, and corporately express Christ greatly. The universe eagerly awaits us to express Christ greatly. May the church be responsible for expressing Christ. I ask in the name of the Lord. Amen!"

Preaching of the Gospel—The High Gospel (英 1293)

- 1 O I'm a man— I'm the meaning of the universe;
Yes, I'm a man— I'm the meaning of the universe.
God made me such, I am so much;
I'm the center and the meaning of the universe.
- 2 Christ lives in me— He's the meaning of my human life;
Christ lives in me— He's the meaning of my human life.
Yes, He's in me My all to be;
He's the meaning and reality of my human life.
- 3 The church is Christ— His expression on the earth today;
The church is Christ— His expression on the earth today.
This corporate man Fulfills God's plan,
That this man may have dominion over all the earth.
- 4 The local church— It's the new and real family life;
The local church— It's the new and real family life.
We have the way To live today—
Eating, drinking Christ we're built up as the local church.
- 5 What shall we do? We should go and tell the world of this.
What shall we do? We should go and tell the world of this.
Disciple all— This is our call.
Let us go and spread the news abroad to every land.

Crucial Point② : Being formed into an army and fight for the interest of God

OL1 : Numbers 1 and 2 reveal that the children of Israel were formed into an army because they were surrounded by enemies.

OL2 : In this warfare there were two main functions: the function of fighting the enemies and the function of maintaining the tabernacle, which represented God's testimony in the universe.

OL3 : Because God desires a corporate man to represent Him in subduing and regaining the earth from the usurping hand of Satan God's chosen and redeemed people need to be formed into an army to journey with God and to fight with God for His interest on earth.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

In the forming of the house of Israel into a fighting army, we again see the principle revealed in Genesis 1: God desires a corporate man to represent Him in subduing and regaining this earth from the usurping hand of Satan. God had given Israel a good land called Canaan, but the Israelites had to take this land from the usurping hand of God's enemy. They could not gain the land easily; they had to fight inch by inch, defeating all their enemies. The purpose and goal of the fighting was to possess the land.

The book of Numbers is a book of vital principles for us to apply today. Where is the army now? Are you in the army? This is the problem. There is no army, because there is no building. If the church is not built, there is no priesthood, and if there is no priesthood, there is no army.

The kings of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan were the "gate guards" on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan. In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them, and take over their territory. This signifies that in order to enjoy the unsearchably rich Christ, the church must defeat and take over the territory of the enemies signified by these kings.

The kings defeated by God's chosen and redeemed people signify the spiritual powers, rulers, and authorities in the air. Today we need to fight against these powers and defeat them.

As the priestly army carrying out the holy war, God's chosen and redeemed people bore with them God's dwelling, the Tabernacle of the Testimony with the Ark of the Testimony. This indicates that in the church life today we are bearing God's testimony with God Himself. Upon our shoulder we not only have God's dwelling place but also the Dweller, God Himself. As long as the church bears the testimony of God, the church is God's dwelling place. Actually, the dwelling place of God is the testimony of God. Today, this testimony of God, this dwelling place of God, is upon our shoulder.

For Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

In Japan, there is a proverb saying, "a man has seven enemies outside". This means that once a man leaves the house and starts working, he would face various enemies and if not overcoming them, he would not be promoted at work. This describes the fact that working young people are facing and presents a concept that the business life is the warfare.

According to the revelation of the Numbers, not only 7, but we are surrounded by various enemies. To withstand

this, you need to be formed into an army and fight with God. **The slogan of church in Kobe in 2019 is "we will be formed into an army to journey with God and to fight with God for His interest on earth. Hallelujah!"**

Please recognize that the Christian life is warfare. What you must avoid in war is to be surrounded by enemies. But now you are surrounded by enemies and in a severe condition. You must be formed into an army with the brothers and sisters. The hymn 1287 shows us 4 wonderful provisions for this warfare. Those are "The blood of the Son, Jesus, the Word, the Spirit and the church".

1287 Spiritual Warfare - Taking the Land

1. Let's take the land! The land that God has given us;
In all our living, Christ can be so much;
To take this land, we have th' equipment that we need—
The blood, the Word, the Spirit, and the church.

C;(Sisters sing)

Let's take the land! O Christian brothers,
The land that God has given us.

Be strong and take it, for we can make it
And gain this land so glorious!

(Brothers sing)

Let's take the land! O Christian sisters,
And to these things give earnest heed.
The Lord implores us; He's gone before us
And given everything we need!

2. We have the blood! Christ is our spotless offering,
Who gave Himself, our God to satisfy;
And so we come with boldness to the throne of grace,
And all day long, the precious blood apply.

3. We have the Word! The written Word's our daily food;
We mix this Word with faith and say "Amen!"
Then thro' the day, the spoken Word will speak to us
And regulate our living from within.

4. The Spirit's ours! The Spirit of reality,
He's independent of the way we feel;
He dwells in us, and teaches us to dwell in Him,
And guides us into everything that's real.

5. We have the church! All saints are needed to possess
The fullness of this vast reality;
Together we will gain this all-inclusive Christ,
And He to us our everything will be.

For example, many of your colleagues have superior academic background and they are working overtime unlimitedly. In such a situation, please be uplifted by the vision of Christ and the church and declare strongly by faith that "**we will be formed into an army to journey with God and to fight with God for His interest on earth. Hallelujah!**" .

Those unsaved colleagues are fighting with 7 enemies for themselves and with their own effort. In one aspect it is natural to be anxious since you are surrounded by enemies and in the severer situation than they are. But praise the Lord. You have the blood, the Word, the Spirit and the church. You should never be isolated from the church. To overcome the enemy which surrounds you, you should fight in the Body as an army. And confess your sins and apply the blood of Jesus, the Son of God and pray read the Word to be filled with the Spirit. Then the Lord would lead you from victory to victory.

Prayer: Oh Lord Jesus, the Christian life is a life of warfare with the surrounding enemies. In this severe situation, I take the Lord's wonderful 4 provisions, the blood, the Word, the Spirit and the church by faith. I can fight with God in the army for the interest of God and overcome the enemy. Hallelujah!