

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Feb. 29, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 1:1-46 – The “numbering” of the tribes.
- ✓ John 11:1-27 – Jesus’ delays of love.
- ✓ Psalm 1:1-6 – The Blessed man.

COMMENTARY:

Numbers 1:1-46. Sixteen of the twenty-four names never recur in biblical literature and contain theophoric elements (e.g., *El, Ab, Shadday, Zur, Ezer*) that date back to 2,000 B.C. in ancient inscriptions. This is powerful evidence for the historicity of the events in Numbers and thus the book itself—contrary to the critics who do not believe it could have been written in 1,400 B.C. by Moses. This is apologetic material on a natural level that refutes critics who maintain that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch). Of course, for the believer there is no question that Moses wrote the Pentateuch because of the supernatural revelation of the New Testament that tells us that the events in the Pentateuch are historical and that Moses did in fact recorded them, cf., John 3:14; Acts 7; 1 Cor. 10:2-8; Heb. 3:7-16. This is apologetics on a supernatural level for our liberal Christian friends who have accepted modern criticisms of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. In verse 46, the total given for those

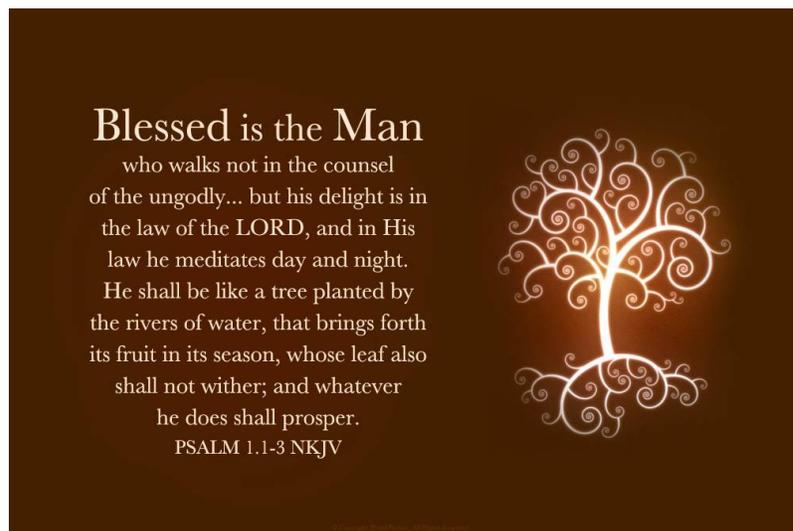
qualified for military service is 603,550, which means that there were a total of 2-3 million people. This vast number demonstrates the faithfulness of God to His Word to Abraham in Genesis 15:7 when He told him that he would greatly multiply his descendants over 400 years from the original 70 who first entered Egypt. So, when we read over these half-pronounceable names and it seems so irrelevant, let us remember that every name and every number is what God has called into existence in accordance with His promise to Abraham back in Genesis 15.

Genesis 29-30	Numbers 1	Revelation 7
Reuben	Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon	Simeon
Levi	Judah	Levi
Judah	Dan	Judah
Dan	Naphtali	Manasseh
Naphtali	Gad	Naphtali
Gad	Asher	Gad
Asher	Issachar	Asher
Issachar	Zebulun	Issachar
Zebulun	Ephraim	Zebulun
Joseph	Manasseh	Joseph
Benjamin	Benjamin	Benjamin

John 11:1-27. Look with extra attention at verses 5-6: out of Jesus's love, He delayed two days. The lesson we all need to learn is that Christ's delays are delays of love. We have all had, I suppose, desires for the removal of sorrow, or for the fulfillment of some wish, which we believed, on the best evidence that we could find, to be in accordance with God's will, and yet no relief comes. However, note the motivation for Christ's delay: LOVE! The bottom line is that God's love in Jesus Christ can give us nothing better than the opportunity to bow our wills to His with "not my will, but Your will be done." We are, by nature, a very willful people. The more we complain, the more evidence of our will running on its own. Such a will spells disaster for the spiritual life. How long before we learn that it is useless to fight against God? How long before we stop and recognize the beauty of His person and timing? "Heaven's clock" is far different from ours. Scripture uses the analogy comparing our 12 hours to God's a thousand years. What seems so long for us is "a little while for Him." He has in mind our eternal future, while our view is often very short term. His goal is to develop spiritual virtue in us, while our goal is often comfort when faced with the difficult road to forming a new character. We prize comfort, He prizes humility—and therein lies the great conflict in our lives between His will and our will.



Psalms 1:1-6. Psalm 1 is the fitting introduction to the Psalter in that it summarizes two kinds of people, the blessed believer with biblical integrity and the wicked who shall perish. Note in the first verse the three characteristics of a believer with spiritual integrity: 1) he does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, 2) does not stand in the path of the sinners, and 3) he meditates on God's Word/Law day and night. His thoughts and manner of life is totally different from those without spiritual virtue. The person that meditates on the Word of God will get it and his actions will be godly and his being will prosper. This is in contrast to the wicked who live according to their passions and evil thoughts that meditate on anything but the Word of God. The wicked may be nice, honest, faithful in marriage, and respectable. However, from God's perspective they are wicked and will perish as will everyone who is not with the Lord.



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don