

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

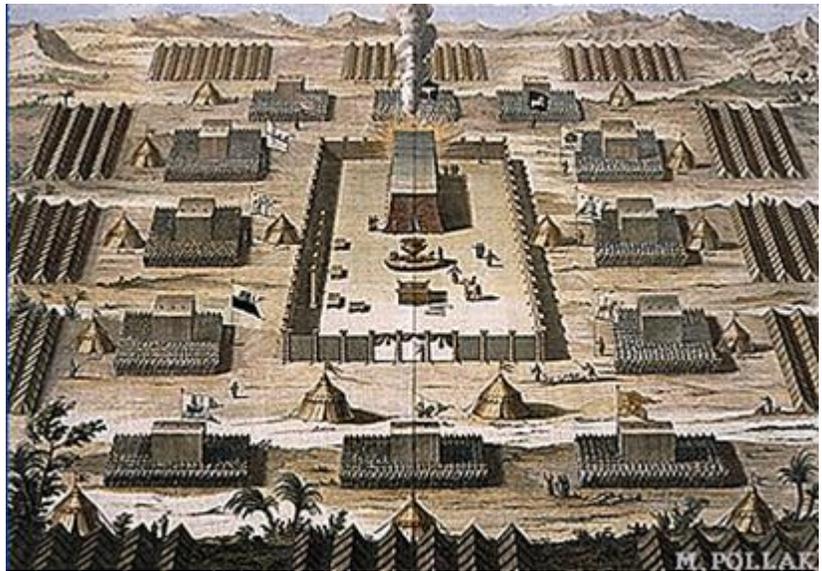
March 1, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 1:47-2:34—The Levites (1:47-53); the arrangement around the Tabernacle (2).
- ✓ John 11:28-57 – Lazarus come forth!
- ✓ Psalm 2:1-12 – The Lord and His anointed.

COMMENTARY:

Numbers 1:47-2:34. Based upon the zealous activities of the Levites at Mt. Sinai subsequent to Operation Golden Calf, the tribe of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam was set apart for special service in the Tabernacle. They would no longer be required to serve in military capacity. Instead, they would function as guardians and servants for the nation in other capacities. In spite of their failings, note the beautiful statement in 1:54—this is the key to life and can only be done properly out of faith and love. In chapter 2 we have the arrangement of the various camps around the tabernacle.

This symmetrical arrangement around the central sanctuary reflects the orderliness of a unified community of faith that is faithfully following the commands of the Lord. What beauty is reflected as God’s people come around the “presence” of the Lord! This arrangement would have provided a picture of how each one owes its essential existence and meaning to God and to one another. Many Christians today do not belong to a local church and thus miss out on being part of God’s family as per God’s command. Christ laid great emphasis on believers coming together. Let us not forget, also, that one of the most egregious sins a believer can commit is the sin of division in a church family. Believers should come to church both to receive truth and encourage one another—as least that is what God said.



John 11:28-57. After they rolled the stone away from Lazarus' tomb in verse 41, Jesus prayed and thanked God the Father openly for granting His request. He knew He was doing the will of His Father in manifesting His love and power. The prayer was public to illustrate to others that it was the Father's will. The Father granting the request would give clear evidence that He had been sent by the Father. Back in John 5:28 Jesus said that men would hear His voice and come out of their graves. As I have taught (from Rev. 6:10; 18:20; Heb. 12:1), believers who have been promoted to be with the Lord are aware of events on the earth. Jesus *shouted in a loud voice* only three words: "Lazarus come out!" Augustine once remarked that if Jesus had not said

Lazarus' name, all would come out from the graves. This is a marvelous picture of God's Son bringing life to people. He will do this physically at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16), and at the Second Advent for Old Testament saints (Dan. 12:2), and Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4-6). Also, He now speaks and calls all spiritually dead people back to spiritual life. We were once dead in sins and trespasses and upon believing came to life by the power of God (Eph. 2:1-10). In



11:45-47 we see two responses. For many of the Jews, this miracle was clear proof of Jesus' claim. In response they trusted Him. But others were only hardened in sin. As we have noted the same sun that melts wax hardens clay. Also, as we have noticed, those who reject Christ only do so because of some greater perceived good that opposes God's good. For the Jews it was their religious system.

Psalm 2:1-12. This psalm is called a royal psalm because it was used for the kings of Israel. However, it finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ as noted in Acts 4:25. It describes nations' attempts to overthrow the Lord and His anointed one. In the first verse, the psalmist is amazed that the nations of the world would actually stand against God and His Anointed One. Verse 3 shows the resolve of the kings of the world to be free of God's control. Of course, the Lord "laughs" at these nations of the world. Consider how the world is in rebellion against the Lord today! Consider the extent of the rebellion in Revelation and how the Lord responds in Revelation 19. It is not an accident that God's people, the Christians as well as the Jews, are always targets for the ungodly. It is also not an accident that the United Nations is Satan's attempt to unite the entire world under one ruler against God and God's people. Note how the Psalm ends in verse 12 with all love and focus on the Son of God!



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

Pastor Don