

Numbers 9: Camping and Setting Out

- The Cloud (Num. 9.15-23)
 - First appears in Ex. 13:21; 40:38: to guide as cloud by day, pillar of fire by night. (Note usefulness of clouds by day and fire at night in the desert environment)
 - After completion of the tabernacle, the cloud fills and covers the tent of meeting as a symbol of God's glory (Ex. 40:34-35).
 - The movement of the cloud was unpredictable; it moved "by the mouth of Yahweh [Lit.]" (vs. 18).
- The Two Silver Trumpets
 - When camped
 - Both trumpets: whole congregation assembles at tent of meeting
 - Single trumpet: assemble the leaders to meet with Moses
 - When setting out
 - First blast: camps to the **east** set out
 - Second blast: camps to the **south** set out
 - What happens to camps to the north and the west?
 - Note on hermeneutics: cultural baseline knowledge likely filled in gaps modern westerners struggle with (e.g., what's an ephod?)
 - Other uses for the trumpets
 - "When you go into battle..."
 - "...Also at your times of rejoicing..."
- New Testament Connections
 - Clouds in the NT
 - Transfiguration: a bright cloud overshadowed them (Mt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9).
 - Jesus' ascension into the clouds (Act 1:9-11)
 - Jesus (Son of Man) returning in the clouds (Mt 24:30-31; Mk 13:26-27; Lk 21:27, cf. Dan. 7.13)
 - Note: even many critical scholars agree that Jesus used "Son of Man" to refer to himself. This is huge in connection with Daniel 7.
 - Trumpets in the NT
 - Jesus: Mat. 24:30-31 (again)
 - Paul: 1 Cor. 15:51-52 and 1 Th. 4:15-16
 - John: Rev. 8-9
- Leaving Sinai
 - Israelites had been camping at Sinai for ~ 2 years (Num. 10:11)
 - Headed to Kadesh Barnea: staging grounds
 - Order of departure
 - The division of Judah
 - **Eastern camp:** Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun
 - Gershonites: frames, crossbars, posts and bases of the tabernacle, etc... (Recall Num. 4)
 - Merarites: frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts and bases, etc... (Recall Num. 4)

- The division of Reuben
 - **Southern camp:** Reuben, Simeon, and Gad
 - Kohathites: the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary (Recall Num. 4)
 - The division of Ephraim
 - **Western camp:** Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin
 - The division of Dan:
 - **Northern camp:** Dan, Asher, and Naphtali
 - Acting as a “rearguard” (Num. 10:25)
 - Lessons from Hobab
 - Who is Hobab? (cf. Judges 4:11, check various translations)
 - A text-critical note: Hebrew originally had no vowels (dots and dashes)
 - חותן (cho.ten) father-in-law, relative
 - חתן (cha.tan) son-in-law, wife’s and husband’s relations generally
 - What are Hobab’s special skills?
 - Who is operating as a guide for the Israelites while in the wilderness?