

12.25 Moving from Sinai (Exodus 33:1; Deuteronomy 1:6–8; Numbers 4:5–15; 10:11–32; 9:16–23; 2:1–25)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.
- Nancy Ganz’s treatment of this story is excellent in *Numbers: A Commentary for Children*, published by Shepherd Press, 2006.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (none for this lesson)

Scripture (NASB)

Exodus 33:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Depart, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’”

Deuteronomy 1:6 “The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and set your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites, and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negev and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.’

Numbers 4:5 When the camp is to set out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it. 6 Then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin and spread on top of that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles. 7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a cloth of blue and put on it the plates, the dishes for incense, the bowls, and the flagons for the drink offering; the regular showbread also shall be on it. 8 Then they shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet and cover the same with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles. 9 And they shall take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand for the light, with its lamps, its tongs, its trays, and all the vessels for oil with which it is supplied. 10 And they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of goatskin and put it on the carrying frame. 11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a cloth of blue and cover it with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles. 12 And they shall take all the vessels of the service that are used in the sanctuary and put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of goatskin and put them on the carrying frame. 13 And they shall take away the ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it. 14 And they shall put on it all the utensils of the altar, which are used for the service there, the fire pans, the forks, the shovels, and the basins, all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread on it a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles. 15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.

10:1 The LORD spoke further to Moses, saying, 2 “Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out. 3 When both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the doorway of the tent of meeting. 4 Yet if *only* one is blown, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall assemble before you. 5 But when you blow an alarm, the camps that are pitched on the east side shall set out. 6 When you blow an alarm the second time, the camps that are pitched on the south side shall set out; an alarm is to be blown for them to set out. 7 When convening the assembly, however, you shall blow without sounding an alarm. 8 The priestly sons of Aaron, moreover, shall blow the trumpets; and this shall be for you a perpetual statute throughout your generations. 9 When you go to war in your land against the adversary who attacks you, then

you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and be saved from your enemies. 10 Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first *days* of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your God. I am the LORD your God.”

11 Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony; 12 and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran. 13 So they moved out for the first time according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses. 14 The standard of the camp of the sons of Judah, according to their armies, set out first . . . 15 the tribal army of the sons of Issachar; 16 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Zebulun.

17 Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari, who were carrying the tabernacle, set out. 18 Next the standard of the camp of Reuben, according to their armies, set out . . . 19 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Simeon, 20 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Gad.

21 Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy *objects*; and the tabernacle was set up before their arrival. 22 Next the standard of the camp of the sons of Ephraim, according to their armies, was set out . . . 23 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Manasseh; 24 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Benjamin.

25 Then the standard of the camp of the sons of Dan, according to their armies, *which formed* the rear guard for all the camps, set out . . . 26 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Asher; 27 and . . . the tribal army of the sons of Naphtali. 28 This was the order of march of the sons of Israel by their armies as they set out.

29 Then Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses’ father-in-law, “We are setting out to the place of which the LORD said, ‘I will give it to you’; come with us and we will do you good, for the LORD has promised good concerning Israel.” 30 But he said to him, “I will not come, but rather will go to my *own* land and relatives.” 31 Then he said, “Please do not leave us, inasmuch as you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will be as eyes for us. 32 So it will be, if you go with us, that whatever good the LORD does for us, we will do for you.” . . .

35 Then it came about when the ark set out that Moses said,
“Rise up, O LORD!

And let Your enemies be scattered,
And let those who hate You flee before You.”

36 When it came to rest, he said,
“Return, O LORD,
To the myriad thousands of Israel.”

Numbers 9:16 So it was continuously; the cloud would cover it [the tabernacle] *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. 17 Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would then set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp. 18 At the command of the LORD the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud settled over the tabernacle, they remained camped. 19 Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would keep the LORD’s charge and not set out. 20 If sometimes the cloud remained a few days over the tabernacle, according to the command of the LORD they remained camped. Then according to the command of the LORD they set out. 21 If sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning, when the cloud was lifted in the morning, they would move out; or *if it remained* in the daytime and at night, whenever the cloud was lifted, they would set out. 22 Whether it was two days or a month or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out. 23 At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out; they kept the LORD’s charge, according to the command of the LORD through Moses.

2:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 “The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers’ households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.

3 Now those who camp on the east side toward the sunrise shall be of the standard of the camp of Judah, . . . Issachar . . . Zebulun. . . . They shall set out first.

10 “On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Reuben, . . . Simeon, . . . Gad. . . . And they shall set out second.

17 “Then the tent of meeting shall set out with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps. . . .

18 “On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim, . . . of Manasseh, . . . Benjamin. . . . And they shall set out third.

25 “On the north side shall be the standard of the camp of Dan, . . . Asher, . . . Naphtali. . . . They shall set out last by their standards.”

Introduction/Review:

Today we will review the meanings of the names of the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy [refer to chart below]. *Genesis* means “beginning.” *Exodus* means “exit.” *Leviticus* means “Levites” and “law.” *Numbers* means “counting/census taking.” *Deuteronomy* means “second law.”

It had been just over a year since the Israelites had left Egypt. Many events had taken place in that year. [List the events and the time that had elapsed, referring to the chart below.]

Story:

God said to Moses, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Set out on your journey, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt. Go to the land which I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’”

The tabernacle to disassemble

God had given exact instructions to prepare the tabernacle furniture for moving. Remember, only Aaron and his sons were allowed inside the tabernacle.¹ Therefore, they were the ones who had to cover each piece of furniture before the Levites could go get the furniture to carry. [Refer to chart below for furniture and coverings; briefly mention the items and their coverings.] When each piece of furniture was covered in the specified way, poles were put into rings on each side of the item so that two men might carry the items.

Other bulky things—like the tabernacle coverings, the forty-eight boards of wood overlaid with gold for the inside walls of the tabernacle, posts, sockets, *etc.*—were carried in wagons.

When the congregation arrived at a new destination, the first thing to do was to reassemble the tabernacle.

Two trumpets to call

One more instruction God gave was to make two trumpets of hammered silver to use for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out. The sons of Aaron were to blow the trumpets and ✓thus identify themselves with the LORD God who would save them from their enemies.

Here are the signals God specified for the two trumpets [refer to chart below]:

Both trumpets blown: All the congregation would gather at the doorway of the tent of meeting. For example, the congregation would be called together on days of gladness like victories in battle, appointed feasts, the first days of the months, at the time of burnt offerings and peace offerings, as well as when Moses had a message to deliver from God.

One trumpet blown, ✓perhaps at a higher or lower pitch than the first trumpet: Only leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, would assemble before Moses at the tent.

First alarm ✓(a definite sound to indicate an emergency) [Teacher, “toot” out a made-up alarm]: The camps pitched on the east side of the tabernacle (Judah, Issachar, Zebulun) would set out.

Second alarm: The Levites—sons of Gershon and of Merari—who carried the cumbersome items of the tabernacle in six wagons were next. (Gershon carried the tabernacle coverings, the entrance screen, and the curtains and screen of the courtyard; Merari carried planks, bars, pillars, sockets, and utensils.) They would set out before the camps pitched on the south side of the tabernacle (Reuben, Simeon, Gad).

Third alarm: The Levite Kohathites would set out, carrying the holy objects of the tabernacle (the ark of the covenant, the table of shewbread, the lamp stand, the incense altar, the laver, the bronze altar, the curtain to the Holy of Holies); the camps pitched on the west side of the tabernacle (Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin) would follow them.

Fourth alarm: Finally, the camps pitched on the north side of the tabernacle (Dan, Asher, Naphtali) would set out, becoming the rear guard for the congregation.

A brother-in-law to help

Before the Israelites set out, however, Moses urged his wife's brother, Hobab, to go with them. Moses said, "Come with us and we will do you good, for the LORD has promised good concerning Israel."

Hobab refused, saying, "I will not come but rather will go to my own land and relatives."

Moses persisted, "Please do not leave us since you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will be as eyes for us. Also, if you go with us, whatever good the LORD does for us, we will do for you too."

That is all that is said in this passage: we can't tell if Hobab went or not. However, other Scripture passages indicate that at least some relatives of Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, did go with the Israelites.²

The cloud to lead

Remember, the Israelites were to be led by the pillar of cloud and of fire. In the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel were to camp. In this way, the Lord commanded the sons of Israel when to set out and where to stop and camp. In every situation, the people watched for the position of the cloud. If it lingered over the tabernacle for many days, Israel stayed where they were. If it remained a few days over the tabernacle, they camped only a few days. If the cloud remained only from evening until morning, they would move out when the cloud lifted in the morning.

The time to leave

Moses sang a song (or chanted a chant) each time the cloud lifted. He would say, "Rise up, O LORD! And let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You." When the cloud rested, he would say, "Return, O LORD, to the myriad thousands of Israel."

All preparations now being complete, it was time to move on. How did the Israelites know it was time to move? First of all, God had said, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Set out on your journey to the promised land." How long had they been at Mount Sinai? [A little less than one year.] The second way the Israelites knew it was time to move was that the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle. That was the signal for the sons of Israel to prepare to set out in the prescribed order.³ and they did.

¹In fact, only Aaron was allowed in the Holy of Holies and that only once a year. Apparently, when the cloud lifted and it was time to move, Aaron's sons were allowed enter this place to help take down the veil and to cover the ark of the covenant.

²"Jarchi says, when the land was divided, the fatness of Jericho was given to the sons of Jethro, to Jonadab, the son+ of Rechab, see (Judges 1:16); from whence, however, as well as from other places (Judges 4:11; 4:17; 1 Samuel 15:6), it appears that the posterity of this man had a settlement in the land of Canaan, and from his silence it may be thought that he was prevailed upon to go along with Moses; or if he departed into his own country, as he said he would, he returned again; at least some of his children did"
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/numbers-10-32.html>).

³Was the ark of the covenant in front of the people (Numbers 10:33) or in the middle of them with the Kohathites, who were to carry it? See <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/numbers-10-33.html> for a discussion of this question.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“This ark of the covenant, so called because the covenant or law was laid up in it, was a type of Christ the end of the law for righteousness, and who is the forerunner of his people, is gone before them to prepare a place for them.”
“The three days’ journey may have respect to his resurrection from the dead on the third day for their justification, which is the foundation of their rest, peace, and joy”
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/numbers-10-33.html>).
- Unlike Hobab, we should always want to be with the people of God.

Activities:

- Play dough: wagons; 12 people (place 3 on each side of a tent and move them in the order in which the tribes set out)
- Snack: Trail mix
- With 12 wooden “people” representing the twelve tribes of Israel and 2 more representing the Levites, show the order of progression as the tribes set out.
- Using 2 toy or real trumpets, blow to show the sounds for gathering the congregation (two for all; one for leaders). Sound the alarms for setting out: first, tribes on the east; second, Levites and tribes on the south; third, Levites and tribes on the west; fourth, tribes on the north.
- Review questions: (Game: Being careful to wipe the mouthpiece with a disinfectant towelette after each student, give the student who answers correctly a chance to blow either a toy or a real trumpet.)
 1. How long had the Israelites been camping at Mount Sinai? [One year.]
 2. Tell one way the people knew it was time to leave? [God told Moses; the cloud lifted.]
 3. Why did Moses ask his brother-in-law, Hobab, to go with them? [To be a help to them in the wilderness.]
 4. How were the heavier parts of the tabernacle transported? [In six wagons.]
 5. Which tribe was in charge of transporting, setting up, and dismantling the tabernacle? [The Levites.]
 6. What musical instruments did God use to call the people together and to sound alarms? [Two silver trumpets.]
 7. How was God visibly with the Israelites? [In the pillar of cloud and fire.]
 8. What is the meaning of the word *Genesis*? [Beginnings.]
 9. What is the meaning of the word *Exodus*? [Exit.]
 10. What is the meaning of the word *Leviticus*? [Levites; law.]







Memory Verse[s]:

- Exodus 20:1–17. An enlarged copy of the words, the “Exodus 20:1–17” song sheet, and motions are in Lesson 12.15 or on the “Lessons” and “Songs” pages at teachingthebibleto kids.org. “Stop! It’s the Law,” a song that teaches only the basic Ten Commandments, is found on the same “Songs” page.

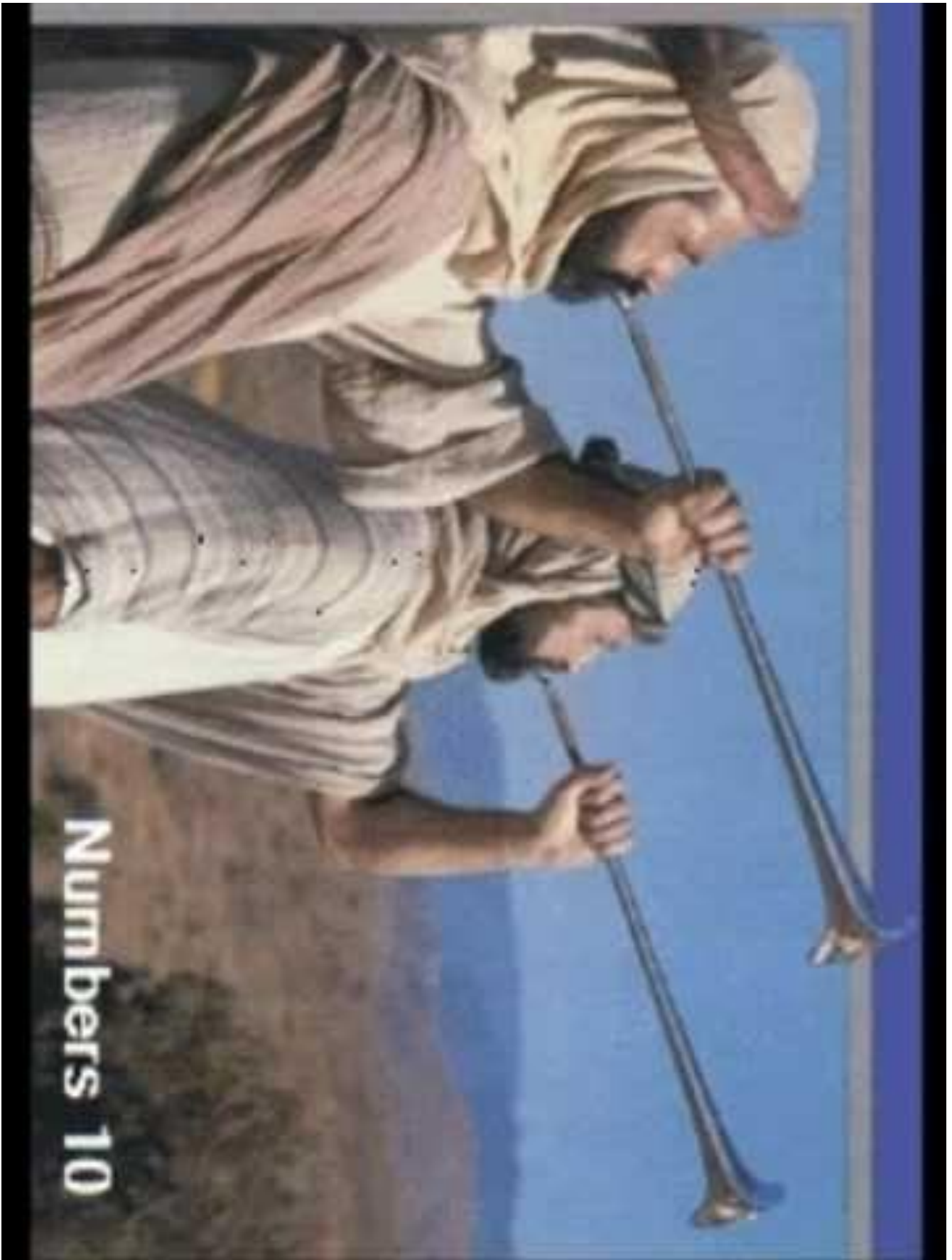
Handwork:

- Make a pillar of cloud and fire with red construction paper glued to white cardstock. Draw fire on the red paper; glue or tape fiber fill or cotton to the white side.

Book	Meaning
Genesis	beginning
Exodus	exit
Leviticus	Levites or law
Numbers	counting/census-taking
Deuteronomy	second law

Furniture	Covering
Ark of Covenant 	Veil Goatskin Blue
Table of Shewbread 	Blue Plates, dishes, incense bowls, flagons, bread Scarlet Goatskin
Lamp Stand 	Blue Lamps, tongs, trays, vessels for oil Goatskin
Altar of Incense 	Blue Goatskin
Vessels of Service	Blue Goatskin
Bronze Altar 	Purple Fire pans, forks, shovels, basins, other utensils Goatskin
Laver 	(uncovered)

Event	Time	Elapsed Time Since Egypt
First Passover	1 st mo., 14 th day	
Red Sea		
Water at Marah	(3 days)	
Elim		
Manna	2 nd mo., 15 th day	1 mo.
Rephidim Water		
Amalekites Fight		
Jethro Visits		
Sinai Wilderness	3 rd mo.	1 ½ mo.
-10 Commandments		
-Glory of God		
-Golden Calf		
-God's Tent		
-Levites counted		9 ½ mo.
-Tabernacle Set Up	1 st mo., 1 st day	11 ½ mo.
-Priests Consecrated	(7 days)	
-Fire of God		
-Nadab and Abihu		
-Feasts & Sacrifices		
-Passover	1 st mo., 14 th day	1 year
-Census & Organization	2 nd mo., 1 st day	1 yr, ½ mo.
Moving	2 nd mo., 20 th day	1 yr, 1 mo., 6 days



Trumpet Signals

Both trumpets	All the congregation to gather at the doorway of the tabernacle
One trumpet	Only leaders to gather to Moses at the tabernacle
First alarm	Judah, Issachar, and Zebulon on the east to set out
Second alarm	The Levites, sons of Gershon and of Merari, with wagons of tabernacle furnishings to set out Reuben, Simeon, and Gad on the south to set out
Third alarm	The Levite Kohathites, carrying holy objects of the tabernacle, to set out Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin on the west to set out
Fourth alarm	Dan, Asher, and Naphtali on the north to -set out



<http://fraternidadelroi.blogspot.com/2006/06/persuacin.html>

**MARCHING ORDER OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL
AS THEY TRAVELED EAST TO THE PROMISE LAND OF CANAAN:
Numbers 10:11-28**

