

Thesis: Numbers tells a three-part story about a people who are ordered for life with God, a people who refuse that life and fall into sin and death, and a people for whom God graciously provides new life and a second beginning.

Arguments in Support of the Thesis

- The Argument from *Inclusio*
- The Argument from Mood Swings
- The Argument from Geography

The *Inclusio* of Numbers 1-10

<p>Opening Bookend (Chapters 1-2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Census at Mount Sinai- Formation of the Camp (YHWH in the midst)- Marching Orders	<p>Holy Life with Yahweh <i>in the Camp</i> (Chapters 3-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Priestly and Levitical Duties- Maintaining Holiness in the Camp	<p>Closing Bookend (Chapter 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leave Mount Sinai
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The *Inclusio* of Numbers 26-36

<p>Opening Bookend (Chapters 26-27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Census (2nd Generation)- Daughters of Zelophehad request land inheritance.	<p>Holy Life with Yahweh <i>in the Land</i> (Chapters 28-35)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Legislation for Life in the Land (sacrifices, sabbath, vows)	<p>Closing Bookend (Chapter 36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Land inheritance legislation.- The case of the daughters of Zelophehad revisited.
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Order & Life to Chaos & Death

Chaos & Death to Order & Life

Chapters 1-10
Formation and Structure
of Israel at Mount Sinai

Ch. 1 - Census

Ch. 2 - Arrangement of the tribes around the Tabernacle

Ch. 3 - Aaron, his sons, and their status and duties as priests

Ch. 4 - Duties of the Levites when moving the Tabernacle

Ch. 5 - Laws of Purity

Ch. 6 - Nazarite Vow

Ch. 7 - Flashback to when the Elders of the tribes brought their tribal tribute to the Tabernacle

Ch. 8 - Instructions regarding the lamps, cleansing the Levites from impurities, and retirement of the Levites

Ch. 9 - Instructions for Passover and the provision of Yahweh's cloud

Ch. 10 - Instructions regarding war trumpets and Israel's departure from Mt. Sinai

Chapters 11-25
Wilderness Journey
and Rebellions

Ch. 11 - Rebellion
(craving for meat)

Ch. 12 - Miriam & Aaron Rebel (Moses' unique prophetic ministry challenged)

Ch. 13-14 - Spies & People Rebel; Israel defeated in Battle.

Ch. 15 - Laws about Sacrifices

Ch. 16 - Korah's Rebellion (Priesthood attacked)

Ch. 17 - Aaron's staff buds—leadership affirmed.

Ch. 18 - Priestly duties are reiterated—vindicating God's chosen cultic means of mediation.

Ch. 19 - Red Heifer Rite

Ch. 20 - Miriam and Aaron die

Ch. 21 - People rebel. Fiery serpent judgment.

Chs. 22-24 - Balaam's Oracles

Ch. 25 - Baal Worship

Chapters 26-36
Plains of Moab

Ch. 26 - Census of the Second Generation

Ch. 27 - Daughters of Zelophehad (land legislation). Joshua succeeds Moses

Ch. 28-35 - Legislation and promises regarding life in the Land.

Ch. 36 - Land Legislation and the Daughters of Zelophehad.