
Day 37 – February 6

Establishment of a Nation (1525 – 1400 BCE)

Number of the Israelites

Readings: *Numbers 3:14-51; 4:1-49*

Reflections:

- Numbering of the Levites: As was mentioned in the previous section, only the Levites were excluded from the army. This is one of those clues within the meta-narrative of Scripture to God’s ultimate purposes in creating a people who live as peacemakers.
- Moses and Aaron have a special role and a privileged position in terms of where they would tent. Intimate friendship comes with its privileges.
- It is interesting how organized they are in their delegation of responsibilities. This is a good reminder not to spiritualize disorganization as a sign of being relational. Good organization and clear lines of responsibility is a part of working well together in relationship as a team.
- It is striking how throughout the text it repeatedly states, “was to be put to death” or “anyone who touches the holy things must be put to death” or “even looks at the holy things for a moment must be put to death”. It was like, “you do anything wrong, you are dead.” Again, thank God in Christ we see that mercy triumphs over judgment.
- There is a curious statement about gathering a tax for the first born at the end of this section. It seems like a strange reason for raising funds. This redemption money was used to help support the Levites and their needs.