

Message Two
**The Growth and Maturity Required
for the Formation of the Army
to Protect God’s Testimony
and Fight for His Move on Earth**

RK Hymns: 540

Scripture Reading: Num. 1:2-3, 19-20; 2:1-2, 32, 34; Phil. 3:12-15; Eph. 6:10-12

- Num 1:2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.
- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- Num 1:19 As Jehovah commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.
- Num 1:20 And the children of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, their generations, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go forth for military service,
- Num 2:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 2:2 The children of Israel shall encamp each by his own standard with the ensigns of their fathers' households; they shall encamp facing the Tent of Meeting on every side.
- Num 2:32 These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' households. All who were numbered in the camps according to their companies were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty.
- Num 2:34 Thus did the children of Israel do. According to all that Jehovah commanded Moses, so they encamped by their standards and so they set out, every one by their families, according to their fathers' households.
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.
- Phil 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

I. The emphasis of Numbers is how the Israelites, who had been redeemed, received revelation, and been trained by God, were formed into an army to protect God’s testimony and fight for His move on earth—1:2-3, 19-20:

- Num 1:2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.
- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- Num 1:19 As Jehovah commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.
- Num 1:20 And the children of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, their generations, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go forth for military service,
- A. Since the earth created by God was ruined by Satan, God needs to gain a group of people to be formed into an army for His move on earth—v. 3.
- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- B. Numbers shows how God formed His redeemed people into an army to surround and protect His testimony—2:1-2, 32, 34:
- Num 2:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

- Num 2:2 The children of Israel shall encamp each by his own standard with the ensigns of their fathers' households; they shall encamp facing the Tent of Meeting on every side.
- Num 2:32 These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' households. All who were numbered in the camps according to their companies were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty.
- Num 2:34 Thus did the children of Israel do. According to all that Jehovah commanded Moses, so they encamped by their standards and so they set out, every one by their families, according to their fathers' households.
1. In Numbers, particularly in the first four chapters, the Israelites were formed into an army according to God's arrangement.
 2. In order for the children of Israel to be formed into an army, they needed to be numbered; only after being numbered could the Israelites be formed into an army—1:2-3, 19-20.
 - Num 1:2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.
 - Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
 - Num 1:19 As Jehovah commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.
 - Num 1:20 And the children of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, their generations, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go forth for military service,

II. In order “to go forth for military service,” an Israelite male needed to be at least twenty years old; this is related to growth and maturity—v. 3:

- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- A. There were approximately two million Israelites, but only 603,550 were twenty years old and upward and were able to go forth for military service—vv. 45-46.
 - Num 1:45 So all who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' households, from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go forth for military service in Israel,
 - Num 1:46 Even all the numbered men were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty.
 - B. Even though there are a great many believers on earth, only a small number among them are mature in life to the extent that they are able to fight for God's testimony—Eph. 4:12, 15-16; 6:10-12.
 - Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
 - Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
 - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 - Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 - Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
 - Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
 - C. Numbers mentions the age for those enlisting in the army, which was twenty years old and upward, yet this book does not mention the age for retirement:
 1. God's army was strong, just as Caleb was able to fight and was as strong before God in his eighties as he was in his forties—Josh. 14:6, 10-11.
 - Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.
 - Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.

- Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.
2. This signifies that we must have both life and maturity in life in order to be numbered by God.
- D. According to Numbers, neither children nor women were numbered:
1. Children signify immaturity, and women signify weakness.
 2. That only males who were twenty years old and upward were able to engage in warfare signifies that among the believers, only those who are mature in life and strong are able to fight in spiritual warfare.
- E. Those who were numbered needed to be confirmed by Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the twelve tribes—1:4, 16-18:
- Num 1:4 And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each man the head of his fathers' household.
- Num 1:16 These are the ones who were called from the assembly, the leaders of the tribes of their fathers; they were the heads of the thousands of Israel.
- Num 1:17 And Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name.
- Num 1:18 And on the first day of the second month they gathered all the assembly together; and they registered themselves by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head.
1. Moses signifies Christ as the Head of the Body who executes His authority, Aaron signifies Christ as the High Priest who exercises His priesthood, and the leaders of the twelve tribes signify the elders and leading ones in the church—Col. 1:18; Heb. 8:1; Acts 14:23:

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church and had prayed with fastings, they committed them to the Lord into whom they had believed.

 - a. This indicates that the numbering of God's people is based on life and maturity in life and is confirmed by spiritual authority.
 - b. Life, maturity, and the confirmation of spiritual authority are required for the formation of God's army.
 2. In order to be numbered, the children of Israel were required to be in the fellowship of the life of their fathers' households and had to grow in life unto maturity, which is signified by the age of twenty—Num. 1:1-16.

Num 1:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

Num 1:2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.

Num 1:4 And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each man the head of his fathers' household.

Num 1:5 And these are the names of the men who shall stand with you. From Reuben: Elizur the son of Shedeur.

Num 1:6 From Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

Num 1:7 From Judah: Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

Num 1:8 From Issachar: Nethanel the son of Zuar.

Num 1:9 From Zebulun: Eliab the son of Helon.

Num 1:10 From the children of Joseph: from Ephraim: Elishama the son of Ammihud; from Manasseh: Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Num 1:11	From Benjamin: Abidan the son of Gideoni.
Num 1:12	From Dan: Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.
Num 1:13	From Asher: Pagiel the son of Ocran.
Num 1:14	From Gad: Eliasaph the son of Deuel.
Num 1:15	From Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan.
Num 1:16	These are the ones who were called from the assembly, the leaders of the tribes of their fathers; they were the heads of the thousands of Israel.

III. In the Lord's recovery today, there is an urgent need for the growth and maturity required for the formation of God's army; we need to grow in life unto maturity—Exo. 30:14; Num. 1:2-3, 18; Eph. 4:12-16:

- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Num 1:2 Take the sum of all the assembly of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.
- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- Num 1:18 And on the first day of the second month they gathered all the assembly together; and they registered themselves by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head.
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- A. Spiritually, males who are twenty years old and over signify those among God's people who, regardless of their natural status, are strong in spirit and mature in the divine life; only these are qualified to be formed into an army to fight for God's interest and move on earth—Exo. 30:14; Num. 1:3.
- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all who are able to go forth for military service in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their companies.
- B. The growth of life is the increase of the element of God (Col. 2:19), the increase of the stature of Christ (Eph. 3:17a; 4:13), the expanding of the ground of the Holy Spirit (5:18), the decrease of the human element, the breaking of the natural life, and the subduing of every part of our soul (2 Tim. 1:7).
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
- 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.
- C. To be transformed is to be metabolically changed in our natural life, whereas to be matured is to be filled with the divine life that changes us; the last stage of transformation is maturity, the fullness of life—Heb. 6:1.
- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

- D. In the New Testament the word *mature* refers to the believers' being full-grown and perfected in the life of God—Matt. 5:48; John 3:3, 5-6, 15:
- Matt 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
1. As believers, we need to go on, to be brought on, to maturity by forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, pursuing toward the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ for the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom—Phil. 3:12-15.

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Phil 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.
 2. The prerequisite for maturity in the spiritual life is to grow continually in the divine life—Eph. 4:15.

Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
 3. The ultimate issue of the believers' growth and maturity in the life of Christ is a full-grown man—the church as the Body of Christ growing into a mature man—vv. 13, 16.

Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- E. To be mature is to have Christ fully formed in us; it also means that we have been fully transformed into His image—Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:18:
- Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
1. Since the time of our regeneration, the Lord has been working in us so that we may have His image—v. 18; Rom. 8:29.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
 2. When the Lord has fully worked His image into us and is fully expressed through us, we will be mature in life—v. 29; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

- F. Chapter 3 of Song of Songs shows us the maturity of the seeking one, and chapter 4 explains that maturity is reached by the subduing of the will:

S.S. 3:1 On my bed night after night / I sought him whom my soul loves; / I sought him, but found him not.

S.S. 3:2 I will rise now and go about in the city; / In the streets and in the squares / I will seek him whom my soul loves. / I sought him, but found him not.

S.S. 3:3 The watchmen who go about in the city found me - / Have you seen him whom my soul loves?

S.S. 3:4 Scarcely had I passed them / When I found him whom my soul loves; / I held him and would not let go / Until I had brought him into my mother's house / And into the chamber of her who conceived me.

S.S. 3:5 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, / By the gazelles or by the hinds of the fields, / Not to rouse up or awaken my love / Until she pleases.

S.S. 3:6 Who is she who comes up from the wilderness / Like pillars of smoke, / Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, / With all the fragrant powders of the merchant?

S.S. 3:7 There is Solomon's bed; / Sixty mighty men surround it, / Of the mighty men of Israel.

S.S. 3:8 All of them wield the sword and are expert in war; / Each man has his sword at his thigh / Because of the night alarms.

S.S. 3:9 King Solomon made himself a palanquin / Of the wood of Lebanon.

S.S. 3:10 Its posts he made of silver; / Its bottom, of gold; / Its seat, of purple; / Its midst was inlaid with love / From the daughters of Jerusalem.

S.S. 3:11 Go forth, O daughters of Zion, / And look at King Solomon with the crown / With which his mother crowned him / On the day of his espousals, / Yes, on the day of the gladness of his heart.

S.S. 4:1 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; / Your hair is like a flock of goats / That repose on Mount Gilead.

S.S. 4:2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes / That have come up from the washing, / All of which have borne twins, / And none of them is bereaved of her young.

S.S. 4:3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, / And your mouth is lovely; / Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil.

S.S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.

S.S. 4:5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, / Twins of a gazelle, / That feed among the lilies.

S.S. 4:6 Until the day dawns and the shadows flee away, / I, for my part, will go to the mountain of myrrh / And to the hill of frankincense.

S.S. 4:7 You are altogether beautiful, my love, / And there is no blemish in you.

S.S. 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.

S.S. 4:9 You have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride; / You have ravished my heart with one glance of your eyes, / With one strand of your necklace.

S.S. 4:10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! / How much better is your love than wine, / And the fragrance of your ointments / Than all spices!

S.S. 4:11 Your lips drip fresh honey, my bride; / Honey and milk are under your tongue; / And the fragrance of your garments / Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

S.S. 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my bride, / A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

S.S. 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; / Henna with spikenard, / Spikenard and saffron; / Calamus and cinnamon, / With all the trees of frankincense; / Myrrh and aloes, / With all the chief spices.

S.S. 4:15 A fountain in gardens, / A well of living water, / And streams from Lebanon.

S.S. 4:16 Awake, O north wind; / And come, O south wind! / Blow upon my garden: / Let its spices flow forth; / Let my beloved come into his garden / And eat his choicest fruit.

1. The secret of the maturity of the seeking one is that her will has been completely subdued and resurrected—3:6-9; 4:1b, 4.

S. S. 3:6 Who is she who comes up from the wilderness / Like pillars of smoke, / Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, / With all the fragrant powders of the merchant?

S. S. 3:7 There is Solomon's bed; / Sixty mighty men surround it, / Of the mighty men of Israel.

S. S. 3:8 All of them wield the sword and are expert in war; / Each man has his sword at his thigh / Because of the night alarms.

- S. S. 3:9 King Solomon made himself a palanquin / Of the wood of Lebanon.
 S. S. 4:1b ... Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; / Your hair is like a flock of goats / That repose on Mount Gilead.
 S. S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.
2. The neck signifies the human will under God; the Lord considers the submission of our will a most beautiful thing—v. 4.
 S. S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.
 3. First, our will must be subdued; then it will be strong in resurrection and be like the tower of David, the armory for the spiritual warfare—Eph. 6:10.
 Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 4. If we have a submissive will, our will becomes like the tower of David that holds all kinds of weapons for warfare—2 Cor. 10:3-5.
 2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh;
 2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,
 2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

IV. In order for the children of God to reach the spiritual age of twenty, they need to pass through the first three stages of the experience of life and enter into the fourth stage:

- A. The first stage of the experience of life is being in Christ, the second stage is abiding in Christ, and the third stage is Christ living in us, which is also the stage of the cross—Gal. 2:20; 3:1; 5:24; Matt. 16:24.
 Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was openly portrayed crucified?
 Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- B. In the third stage the seeking believers deal with the flesh, the self, and the natural constitution with the natural strength and ability:
 1. The flesh denotes the totality of the fallen old man, our entire fallen being—Gen. 6:3; Rom. 7:18a; Gal. 2:16:
 Gen 6:3 And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years.
 Rom 7:18a For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; ...
 Gal 2:16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.
 - a. The flesh is the living out and the expression of the old man—Rom. 6:6.
 Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
 - b. The flesh cannot be changed or improved; thus, we need to be mindful of the fact that the flesh is always with us—13:14; Gal. 5:16.
 Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.
 Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- c. The flesh is the camp of God's enemy and the largest base for his work—vv. 19-21:
- Gal 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- Gal 5:20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects,
- Gal 5:21 Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1) The flesh is the first among our enemies, taking the lead over sin, the world, and Satan to fight against us—Rom. 8:3.

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
 - 2) God hates the flesh in the same manner that He hates Satan, and He wants to destroy the flesh in the same manner that He wants to destroy Satan—Exo. 17:16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 15:2-3.

Exo 17:16 For he said, For there is a hand against the throne of Jah! Jehovah will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Deut 25:17 Remember what Amalek did to you on the way when you came out of Egypt,

Deut 25:18 That he met you on the way and struck you at the rear, struck all those who were worn out at your rear, when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God.

Deut 25:19 Therefore when Jehovah your God gives you rest from all your enemies surrounding you, in the land which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

1 Sam 15:2 Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they set themselves against them in the way as they came up out of Egypt.

1 Sam 15:3 Go now and strike the Amalekites; and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, oxen and sheep, camel and donkey.
2. The self is the soul-life with the emphasis on human thoughts and opinions—Matt. 16:23-25:
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- a. In Matthew 16:23-25 three terms are related to one another: *mind*, *himself*, and *soul-life*:

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
 - 1) Our mind is the expression of our self, and our self is the embodiment of our soul-life—vv. 23-25.

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- 2) Our soul-life is embodied in and lived out by our self, and our self is expressed through our mind, idea, thought, concept, and opinion—vv. 22-23.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- b. The self is the embodiment of Satan; the self is the essence of Satan in the soul, making the soul independent from God to express its self-opinion and self-will—v. 23; Gen. 3:1-6; 2 Cor. 11:3.
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?
- Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
- Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.
- Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!
- Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.
- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.
- 2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.
- c. The self is the soul declaring its independence from God—Matt. 16:23; Luke 14:26; Job 42:5-6.
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.
- Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
- Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
3. The natural constitution is the aggregate of our physical and mental abilities—1 Cor. 2:14-15; Phil. 3:3, 10-11:
- 1 Cor 2:14 But a soulish man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he is not able to know them because they are discerned spiritually.
- 1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.
- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

- a. The natural strength and ability do not have the divine element.
 - b. The natural strength and ability act on their own, not according to God's will.
 - c. When we work with our natural ability, we seek our own glory and satisfy our own desire.
 - d. When our natural strength and ability are dealt with by the cross, they become useful in resurrection—v. 11.
Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- C. The fourth stage of our spiritual experience and spiritual life is the highest stage—Christ's full growth in us—the stage of spiritual warfare, where Christ is fully grown and matured in us—Eph. 4:13-16; 6:10-18:
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
 - Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
 - Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
 - Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 - Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 - Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
 - Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
 - Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
 - Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
 - Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
 - Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
 - Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
 - Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
1. At the end of the third stage, we express God with His image, and in the fourth stage, we represent Him with His authority—Gen. 1:26.
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
 2. The experience of life in the fourth stage includes knowing the Body, knowing ascension, reigning with Christ, engaging in spiritual warfare, and being full of the stature of Christ—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 6:10-12.
1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
 3. In order to know the Body and live in the Body, we must first deal with the flesh, the self, and the natural constitution—Gal. 5:24; Matt. 16:24:
Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- a. If we still live according to the flesh, in ourselves, and serve the Lord in our natural ability, there is no way for us to know the Body—1 Cor. 12:12.
1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
 - b. Only when our flesh has been dealt with, the self-opinion has been broken, and the natural life has been smashed will the divine life within us enable us to know the Body and realize that we are simply members of the Body and that the life within us cannot be independent.
4. If we want to fight the spiritual warfare and deal with God’s enemy, we must first deal with our flesh, self, and soul-life—2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-12:
- 2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh;
2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,
2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.
Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- a. Engaging in spiritual warfare to deal with Satan and recover the earth for God requires that we be wholly and absolutely for God and obey Him completely—Gen. 1:26-28:
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
 - 1) We cannot preserve ourselves or leave one bit for ourselves.
 - 2) When we are dealing with Satan, self must be utterly abandoned.
 - b. The church must engage in spiritual warfare, fighting to bring in the kingdom of God—Matt. 12:28; Eph. 6:10-18; Rev. 12:10a; 11:15.
Matt 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Rev 12:10a And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, ...
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

V. The prayer at the incense altar issued in the numbering of the children of Israel for the formation of an army to fight for God’s interest on the earth—Exo. 30:11-16; Num. 1:45-46:

- Exo 30:11 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Exo 30:12 When you take the sum of the children of Israel, according to their numbering, every man shall give a ransom for himself to Jehovah when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.
- Exo 30:13 This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah.
- Exo 30:14 Each one who was enrolled among their numbering, from twenty years old and over, shall give the heave offering of Jehovah.
- Exo 30:15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than the half shekel, when you give the heave offering of Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
- Exo 30:16 And you shall take the expiation silver from the children of Israel and shall give it for the service of the Tent of Meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before Jehovah to make expiation for your souls.
- Num 1:45 So all who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' households, from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go forth for military service in Israel,
- Num 1:46 Even all the numbered men were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty.
- A. As a result of the prayer at the incense altar, the Lord conducts a “military census” of the saints in the churches; those who are numbered are qualified to go to war for God’s move on the earth—2:32; 4:23; 2 Tim. 2:3.
 - Num 2:32 These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' households. All who were numbered in the camps according to their companies were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty.
 - Num 4:23 From thirty years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters to carry out the service to do the work in the Tent of Meeting.
 - 2 Tim 2:3 Suffer evil with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- B. The intercession offered at the incense altar is for the growth and maturity of the believers so that an army can be formed—Eph. 4:13; 6:10-12:
 - Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
 - Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 - Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
 - Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- 1. The more we pray at the incense altar, the more we will realize that the need for maturity is desperate, and the greater will be the urgency to pray for the growth in life unto maturity—1 Cor. 2:6; 3:1-2; 14:20; 16:13; Heb. 5:14—6:1; Eph. 3:16.
 - 1 Cor 2:6 But we do speak wisdom among those who are full-grown, yet a wisdom not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are being brought to nought;
 - 1 Cor 3:1 And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshy, as to infants in Christ.

- 1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,
- 1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your understanding, but in malice be babes and in your understanding be full-grown.
- 1 Cor 16:13 Watch, stand firm in the faith, be full-grown men, be strong.
- Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
2. Only when such an army is formed will God be able to move on earth for His purpose; apart from an army formed of mature ones, there is no way for God to move—4:13; 6:10-12.
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.