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The Preparation for the Departure 9:15 to 10:10



Throughout these early chapters of **Numbers** there is a topical presentation rather than a chronological arrangement of the material. They have been telling us the story of **the Israelite's** preparations to leave Mount Sinai. In the first four chapters of **Numbers**, they took a census (to see link click [An](#) - **The Levitical Census**) and assigned **the Levites** to **their** various tasks (see [Ar](#) - **The Four Camps of Levites**). **Numbers 7-10** is a flashback and relates how **Isra'el** was ready to depart from Mount Sinai. **Chapters 9** and **10** tell of the final preparation before the departure **from Sinai** as a flashback **on the twentieth of the second month of the second year (10:11)**; the observance of **the second Passover** six days earlier (**9:1-14**); **the pillar cloud and fire** as a guide (**9:15-23**); **the trumpet signals** for assembling **the people** and **its leaders** and for breaking camp (**10:1-10**); the order of march (**10:11-28**), and a narrative relating a different marching order (**10:29-36**).¹⁴⁴