

2. The camp on the south side (2:10-16). This was the camp of Reuben. It included the tribes of Reuben, Simeon, and Gad, and had the second place in the march. The son of Reuel (14). This name occurs as Deuel in 1:14, 7:42,47 and 10:20. In ancient Hebrew writing D and R looked very much alike. Hence they were confused in transmission far oftener than any other two letters. Cf., for instance, Hadadezer in 2 Sam 8:3,5,7,8,9, 10, 12, with Hadarezer in 1 Ch. 18:3,5,7,8,9,10.
3. The place of the Levites (2:17). After the description of the camps of Judah and Reuben, mention is made of the Levites, since they would come next on the march. They camped in the center, around the tabernacle (1:53).
4. The camp on the west side (2:18-25). This was the camp of Ephraim, which included the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. Thus the descendants of Joseph and Benjamin, Rachel's two sons, encamped together. On the march the camp of Ephraim followed the camp of the Levites.
5. The camp on the north side (2:26-31). This was the camp of Dan. It included the tribes of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali, and came last in the march.
6. A general summary (2:32-34). Verse 32 gives the grand total of fighting men (already given in 1:46). From this total the Levites, who did not fight, are excluded (33). Verse 34 states that the Israelites observed the prescribed order in camp and on the march. God desires His people to do things in orderly fashion. Cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-28. Each has his own task, which he should do as well as possible, without envying the task or the talent given another.