

Counting the Cost Ex 30:11-16

Take a Census (Ex 30:11-12)

- 'When' not 'If'
 - When God commands
 - These were His people after all
- Reasons for a Census
 - To evaluate the strength of the nation through it's potential military force
 - To be able to exact an accurate tax from the people in the nation by knowing how many there were to be taxed
 - For God this was no new information
- A Ransom or a Plague
 - This is Biblical Language
 - This language is consistent with what we have seen in Exodus: Redemption and plague
 - God Ransomed his people and brought a plague on his enemies who defied Him
 - This establishes the only two people groups in the world: the Ransomed and the Enemies (2 Sam 24:1-3,15-17)

Mustering the Army (Ex 30:13-15)

- The word for 'count' and 'number' in v.12 was a term that carried the military idea of mustering troops
- The Process was to muster men 20 years and older who could fight in the Lords Army
- This process is how the book of Numbers begins (Num 1:1-4)
- The Ransom price
 - As a man was counted he moved or 'crossed over' into his division
 - In doing so he would leave behind a half shekel of silver of approx 9-11 ounces
 - The modern worth of 11 ounces of pure silver is about \$8.60
 - This would have been a sum of good value but not exclusionary, it would have been a real cost but not a crippling one
 - It highlighted the equality under God of His people, age, socioeconomic status, size, history...none of that mattered, all paid the same ransom

God's Why behind the count (Ex 30:16)

- So that they would remember
- They were ransomed from Egypt
- God judged His enemies with plagues
- God condescended to them to live with them
- The funds would go to the maintenance of the Temple
- The funds would go to maintenance of the peoples hearts in right remembrance of their Saviour
- A reminder that they were Gods, there life was forfeit to His Glory, but He loved them and wanted them to enjoy their life of obedience through the symbolic ransoming of their life to God (Lev 27:29)

- Where was the majority of Silver found in the construction of the Tabernacle? (Ex 26:18-19)

Ransomed, Redeemed, and Atoned

- Ransom- to buy back out of captivity
- Redemption- to purchase out of slavery
- Atone- to make appropriate restitution for wrong doing
- This is Christ to us
- Matt 20:28 “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” 1 Tim 2:6 “who gave himself as a ransom for all men” Heb 9:15 “now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant” Gal 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us” Gal 4:5 “to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons” Titus 2:14 “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people”
- Mustering God’s People
 - Follow your Leader (2 Tim 2:3-4)
 - Die to Yourself Daily (Gal 2:20)
 - Ransom your life, because your life was ransomed (Rom 12:1-2)