

The Inverted Nuns of Numbers 10:35-36

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Introduction

See below where Monte Judah writes that “wisdom in verses 35 and 36 are equivalent to the wisdom of Genesis or any other books of the Torah”, a “quickening of life from the dead”, “Jews use these words to open and close the Ark with the Torah scroll” and “two great resurrections”. John Parsons from Hebrew Christians a more contextual argument and suggests that it’s indicative of the “Church age”.

All are pretty powerful claims. Well I have a different take that is also based on the context of the verses.

What sticks out to me is what Moses asks of God...that the enemies of YHVH. It doesn’t take us many more verses before Israel get’s God so angry with him that he judges them to, essentially, death sentence. So the question to be asked is “where’s the enemies of Israel?”. One of the most important lessons I learned attending Monte Judah’s Sukkoth gatherings (a bit ironic) is that the biggest enemy that Israel had to fear was actually *inside* the camp, not outside.

Num 10:35-36 The Inverted Nuns

³⁴ And the cloud of YHVH was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. [³⁵ And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, YHVH, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. ³⁶ And when it rested, he said, Return, O YHVH, unto the many thousands of Israel. [

was] upon them by יָמָם a-lei-Hem' was over עֲלֵיהֶם Yah-weh of the LORD יְהוָה va-'a-Nan And the cloud יָעִנָּן ³⁴
Ham-ma-cha-Neh of the camp ס הַמַּחֲנֶה min from מָרָה be-na-se-'Am when they went out בָּנָסְעוּ יָמָם ;yo-Mam day
that מֹשֶׁה vai-Yo-mer said וַיֹּאמֶר ha-'a-Ron pass when the ark And it came to הָאָרֶץ bin-So-a set forward בָּנָסְעוּ vay-Hi came יְהוָה ³⁵
and let thine אֲבִיבֵיךָ ve-ya-Fu-tzu be scattered וַיִּפְצְוּ LORD Yah-weh יְהוָה ku-Mah Rise up | קוּמָה mo-Sheh Moses
mip-pa-Nei-cha before מִפְּנֵיךָ me-san-'Ei-cha and let them that hate מִשְ�נֵאֵיךָ ve-ya-Nu-su thee flee וַיִּנָּסוּ o-ye-Vei-cha' enemies
unto the רַבְבוֹת ,Yah-weh O LORD יְהוָה shu-Vah Return שׁוּבָה ;yo-Mar he said יֹאמֶר u-ve-nu-Choh And when it rested וַיִּבְנָחָה ³⁶
of Israel Yis-ra-'El ס יִשְׂרָאֵל al-Fei' thousands אֲלֵפֵי riv-Vot many

Source: <http://myhebrewbible.org/Verse/Num-10-34-36/InterlinearWlc>

Monte Judah Commentary

The Inverted Nuns stand out as a class all their own when seeing the Jots and Tittles of Moses. Preceding verse 35 and following verse 36, Moses placed the letter Nun by itself and reversed it. He drew it

backwards. It is the ancient version of what we know to be a set of brackets. In fact it looks like a bracket we use today "]" . The sages of Israel say that Moses was trying to draw our attention to the wisdom in those two verses. They go further. They say that the wisdom in verses 35 and 36 are equivalent to the wisdom of Genesis or any other books of the Torah. They said with Numbers divided into three parts by the Inverted Nuns, that the Torah is seven pillars of wisdom.

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; ^{PRO 9:1}

The letter nun means life (the quickening of life). The letter pictures a fish swimming away quickly. But a letter drawn backwards, what does that mean? It is the quickening of life from the dead. That which was dead has come alive. It is sign for resurrection. With that in mind, look at the verses again.

Verse 35 describes the resurrection of the Messiah. This is when Yeshua gained victory over his enemies. As a result, they have been scattered and must flee from His presence. He has gained victory over death.

Verse 36 describes our resurrection which happens at the Lord's return to Israel. The myriads of Israel's family is the flock of Jacob, the redeemed of Jacob.

This portion of Scripture is so profound that Jews use these words to open and close the Ark with the Torah scroll. Whenever the Torah is brought out of the ark, we say, "Arise O Lord,..." and whenever, it is put back, we say, "Return O Lord, ..."

The Inverted Nuns illustrate the two great resurrections, first for the Messiah, and then for us at His return.

Source from Monte Judah's Yavoh magazine <http://lionlamb.net/v3/YavohHeisComing/2004/07#13theinvertednunsnum103536>

Here is another source on this from Hebrews 4 Christians

In the Talmud (Shabbat 115b, 116a) it is stated that any part of the Torah with 85 or more letters is itself considered a "book," and therefore, according to some of the Jewish sages, this passage of Scripture actually demarcates a separate book of the Torah! If so, instead of the five books of Moses, we would have seven:

1 Genesis	2 Exodus	3 Leviticus	4 Numbers ^{1:1-10:34}	5 Numbers ^{10:35-36}	6 Numbers ^{10:37-ff}	7 Deuteronomy
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Before Moses would lead the Israelites to a new station in the wilderness, he would order the ark to be moved by the Levites and then would chant "Arise, O LORD, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you!" When the Shechinah rested, Moses would stop the procession of the camp and chant, "Return, O LORD, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."

However, on account of the "Sin of the Spies," Israel was refused entry into the Promised Land, and the "story" of what follows after Numbers 10:35-36 - namely, the outbreak of fiery judgment and the subsequent exile - was sadly written as history instead. What should have been written is that the LORD (as symbolized by the presence of the ark) entered the land with the redeemed Israelites on account of their faith in His promises. According to these sages, this part of the Torah is "yet to be written" and will be altered when the Messiah comes.

From a Messianic perspective, it is fascinating to see that what immediately preceeds this "book" is the story of Jethro, Moses' gentile father-in-law, who was offered to partake of the blessings of Israel. This is a perhaps a picture of the "Church age" - i.e., the time when God would offer His salvation to the nations of the world (as represented by Jethro) just before a time of purging of national Israel. In other words, we can

read this parenthetical “book” as a time of special dispensation for the nations of the world to turn to the “Son of Life” and be saved. Source: http://www.hebrew4christians.net/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Nun/nun.html