

IV. JESUS

*Is the Bright Morning-Star and Our Guidepost to Eternal Life,
Which Is Why His Family Was Required to Pitch Camp
toward the East and to March in Front (Num. 2:3).*

The tribe of Judah, with its 186,000 warriors, was required to camp toward the east and lead the way. O Lord Jesus, help me in all things to camp toward the east and to seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). For that is the true definition of orderly housekeeping (Prov. 24:4).

But in this marching host, Judah with its company again had the greatest number. For Jesus, born of the tribe of Judah, was surely to have His heavenly house full. (On this also read *Medit. 2* on Num. 1 above.)

Now, two things are noteworthy in this passage: Judah was required (1) to camp toward the east facing the morning sunrise; (2) to march in front. In truth this was done for the glory of the Lord Jesus, who was to be born of the tribe of Judah.

O Lord Jesus, You are the bright Morning-Star (Rev. 22:16). You are the Dayspring from on high (Luke 1:78). You are the Sun of righteousness (Mal. 4:2). You are the ORIENS (the "Rising," as the Vulgate rendered *Zemah*: Zech. 3:8; 6:12). Oh, lighten my heart with the brightness of Your grace, that I may walk in Your light forever!

You must be first in all things (1 Cor. 15:20). You are the King who goes up before us, and the Lord at our head (Micah 2:13), as You Yourself explain in Exodus 23:23. On the evening of Maundy Thursday You said that You would go before Your disciples into Galilee (Matt. 26:32). The angels repeated this on Easter Day (Mark 16:7). Oh, go before us always whenever we pray! Be our Advocate (1 John 2:1). When we must die, then lead the way (as in Exodus 40:36ff). Show us the way to eternal life as You did the Israelites to the Promised Land. Revelation 14:4 says of Your Christians, "They are virgins and follow the Lamb wherever He goes." Yea, You said to Peter, "Follow Me" (John 21:19). If You, O Lord

Jesus, do not go before us, oh, then do not bring us up from hence (Exod. 33:15)!

The ancient Hebrews say that Judah carried a lion on its flag, appealing to the last words of Jacob, “Judah is a young lion” (Gen. 49:9). Above, we heard that the figure of a lion was supposed to have always been seen in the fire of the altar.⁴⁸ If so, then this too must render service to the court of the Lord Jesus, of whom Revelation 5:5 says, “The Lion of the tribe of Judah has overcome.”⁴⁹

48 According to the *Pirkei Aboth*; see GWG 6.35.

49 *Vicit Leo de tribu Juda.*