

Bamidbar
“In the Wilderness”

Torah: **Numbers 1:1-4:20**
Haftarah: **Hosea 2:1-22**
Brit Chadasha: **Luke 2:1-7, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Numbers 1

Census of Fighting Men

1 In the wilderness of Sinai, on the first day of the second month in the second year from the Exodus from the land of Egypt, *Adonai* spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting saying,

2 “Do a head count of all the community of *Bnei-Yisrael* by their families and their ancestral house, with a total of every male one by one.

3 You and Aaron are to muster by their divisions every son from 20 years and upward available to serve in the army of Israel.

4 One man from each tribe, each head of his father’s household, is to assist you.

5 “These then are the names of the men who will assist you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur.

6 From Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

7 From Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab.

8 From Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar.

9 From Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon.

10 From the sons of Joseph—from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud, from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

11 From Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni.

12 From Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

13 From Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran.

14 From Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel.

15 From Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.”

16 These were those selected from the community, princes of their ancestral tribes. They were heads of the thousands of Israel.

17 So Moses and Aaron took these men designated by name.

18 They assembled all the community on the first day of the second month. They declared their lineage according to their families, the households of their forefathers, with the number of the names of those 20 years old and upward being listed individually.

19 Moses numbered Israel in the wilderness of Sinai just as *Adonai* had commanded him.

20 The sons of Reuben, Israel’s firstborn (their generations, their families, by their ancestral households, according to the count of their names, every male from 20 years and upward, all available for the army),

21 those counted from the tribe of Reuben were 46,500.

22 From the sons of Simeon (their generations, according to their families, their ancestral households, whose names were counted by polls, every male 20 years and upward, every one who would go with the army),

23 they counted from the tribe of Simeon 59,300.

24 From the sons of Gad (their generations according to their families, to their ancestral households, in the count of names of every male 20 years old and upward, every one available to go out with the army),

25 those counted from the tribe of Gad were 45,650.

26 From the sons of Judah (their generations, by their families, their ancestral households, the count of their names, all who would go out with the army),

27 those counted from the tribe of Judah were 74,600.

28 From the sons of Issachar (their generations, according to their families, their ancestral households, by number of the names of every male 20 years old and upward, going out with the army),

29 those counted from the tribe of Issachar were 54,400.

30 From the sons of Zebulun (their generations, according to their families, to their ancestral households, by number of the names of everyone 20 years old and upward going out with the army),

31 those counted from the tribe of Zebulun were 57,400.

32 From the sons of Joseph—the sons of Ephraim (their generations according to their families, to their ancestral households, by count of the names of all those 20 years old and upward going out with the army),

33 those numbered from the tribe of Ephraim were 40,500.

34 From the sons of Manasseh (their generations according to their families, their ancestral households, by number of the names of those 20 years old and upward going out with the army),

35 those counted from the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200.

36 From the sons of Benjamin (their generations by their families, their ancestral households, by number of the names of every one 20 years old and upward going out with the army),

37 those numbered from the tribe of Benjamin were 35,400.

38 From the sons of Dan, their generations by their families their ancestral households, by number of everyone 20 years old and upward who would go out with the army,

39 those numbered from the tribe of Dan were 62,700.

40 From the sons of Asher (their generations by their families, their ancestral households, by number everyone 20 years old and upward who could go out with the army),

41 those counted from the tribe of Asher were 41,500.

42 From the sons of Naphtali (their generations by their families, their ancestral households, by number everyone 20 years old and upward who would go out with the army),

43 those counted from the tribe of Naphtali were 53,400.

44 These were the ones numbered—Moses, Aaron and the princes of Israel counted them. Each of the twelve men represented his ancestral house.

45 So all those counted from *Bnei-Yisrael*, according to their ancestral houses, from 20 years old and up—all able to go out with the army in Israel—

46 all those who were counted totaled 603,550.

Duties of the Levities

47 The Levites, however, were not counted by the tribe of their ancestors,

48 for *Adonai* told Moses saying,

49 “Definitely you are not to number the tribe of Levi, nor take the sum of them among *Bnei-Yisrael*.

50 Instead, you are to appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its implements and all pertaining to it. They are to carry the Tabernacle and all its utensils, tend to it and camp around it.

51 Whenever the Tabernacle sets out, the Levites are to dismantle it, and whenever the Tabernacle is pitched, the Levites are to set it up. But the commoner who comes near to it must be put to death.

52 *Bnei-Yisrael* will encamp, each man with his own camp, each with his own standard, according to their own divisions.

53 The Levites are to camp around the Tabernacle of the Testimony, so that there will be no wrath unleashed on the community of *Bnei-Yisrael*. So the Levites are to maintain care of the Tabernacle of the Testimony.

54 So *Bnei-Yisrael* did—all that *Adonai* commanded Moses, so they did.

Numbers 2

Order of Ancestral Households

1 *Adonai* said to Moses and Aaron saying, “

2 Let each man encamp under his own standard among the banners of their ancestral house at an appropriate distance around the Tent of Meeting.

3 Those camping on the east—toward the sunrise—will be of the standard of Judah, according to their divisions. Nachshon son of Amminadab, is the prince of the sons of Judah.

4 His division, by their number, is 74,600.

5 Camping next to him shall be the tribe of Issachar. The prince of the sons of Issachar is Nethanel son of Zuar.

6 Their division, by their number, is 54,400.

7 Next, the tribe of Zebulun. The prince of the sons of Zebulun is Eliab son of Helon.

8 His division, by count, is 57,400.

9 All those numbered to Judah's camp, by their divisions, are 186,400. They are to advance first.

10 The standard of the camp of Reuben shall be on the south side, by their divisions. The prince of the sons of Reuben is Elizur son of Shedeur.

11 His division, by their number, is 46,500.

12 Those camping next to them are the tribe of Simeon. The prince of the sons of Simeon is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

13 His division, by their number, is 59,300.

14 Next, the tribe of Gad. The prince of the tribe of Gad is Eliasaph son of Reuel.

15 His division, by their numbers, is 45,650.

16 All those numbered to the camp of Reuben are 151,450. They are to set out second.

17 Then the Tent of Meeting will move out with the camp of the Levites, which is in the middle of the camps—just as they were in camp, each person in his own place under his own appropriate standard.

18 On the west will be the standard of the camp of Ephraim, by their divisions. The prince of the sons of Ephraim is Elishama son of Ammihud.

19 His division, by their numbers, is 40,500.

20 Next to him is the tribe of Manasseh. The prince of the sons of Manasseh is Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur.

21 His division, by their numbers, is 32,200.

22 Next, the tribe of Benjamin. The prince of the sons of Benjamin is Abidan son of Gideoni.

23 His division, by their numbers, is 35,400.

24 All those numbered to the camp of Ephraim are 108,100, by their divisions. They are to advance third.

25 The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north, according to their divisions. The prince of the sons of Dan is Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai.

26 His division, by their numbers, is 62,700.

27 Next to him will encamp the tribe of Asher. The prince of the sons of Asher is Pagiel, son of Ocran.

28 His division, by their numbers, is 41,500.

29 Next, tribe of Naphtali. The prince of the sons of Naphtali is Ahira son of Enan.

30 His division, by their numbers, is 53,400.

31 All those numbered to the camp of Dan are 157,600. They are to advance last by their standards.

32 These are the numbers of *Bnei-Yisrael*, in accordance with their ancestral households. All those counted according to their divisions are 603,550.

33 However, the Levites were not counted among *Bnei-Yisrael*, just as *Adonai* commanded Moses.

34 So *Bnei-Yisrael* acted in accordance with all that *Adonai* had commanded Moses. Thus they camped by their standards and set out, each man according to their families and their ancestral houses.

Numbers 3

The Levite Families and Duties

1 These are the generations of Aaron and Moses current at the time *Adonai* spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai.

2 These are the names of Aaron's sons: Nadab the first-born, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed *kohanim* whom he consecrated to be priests.

4 But Nadab and Abihu died before *Adonai* for offering unauthorized fire before *Adonai* in the Sinai wilderness—they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as *kohanim* under Aaron their father.

5 Then *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

6 "Gather the tribe of Levi near, and appoint them to attend to Aaron the *kohen*.

7 They are to keep watch over duties for him and the entire community before the Tent of Meeting while performing the service of the Tabernacle.

8 They are to tend to all the implements of the Tent of Meeting and the service of *Bnei-Yisrael* while performing the service of the Tabernacle.

9 You are to give the Levites to Aaron and his sons. Out of *Bnei-Yisrael* they are dedicated entirely to him.

10 You are to appoint Aaron and his sons to maintain the priesthood; any commoner who approaches must be executed.”

11 Then *Adonai* said to Moses saying,

12 “See, I have taken the Levites from among *Bnei-Yisrael* in place of the firstborn who open the womb among *Bnei-Yisrael*. The Levites will be Mine,

13 because all the firstborn are Mine. In the day when I was striking down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated to Myself every firstborn in Israel—whether man or animal—as Mine. I am *Adonai*.”

14 *Adonai* spoke in the Sinai wilderness to Moses saying,

15 “Count the sons of Levi. According to their ancestral house, by their families, every male a month old and upward you are to number them.”

16 So Moses numbered them in accordance with the word of *Adonai*, just as he was commanded.

17 These were the sons of Levi, by their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

18 These then were the names of the sons of Gershon by their families—Libni and Shimei.

19 The sons of Kohath by their families were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

20 The sons of Merari, by their families, are Mahli and Mushi. These then were the families of the Levites by their ancestral households.

21 To Gershon belonged the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites. These were the families of the Gershonites.

22 The number of every male one month old and upward who were counted was 7,500.

23 The Gershonites were to camp behind the Tabernacle on the west.

24 The prince of the ancestral house of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael.

25 The duties of the sons of Gershon in the Tent of Meeting were the Tabernacle, the tent, its coverings, the curtain of the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,

26 the curtains of the courtyard, the screen of the entrance of the courtyard around the Tabernacle and altar, its ropes and all related to its use.

27 To Kohath belonged the family of the Amramites, the family of the Izharites, the Hebronites and the Uzzielites. These were the Kohathite families.

28 The number of every male one month old and upward was 8,600. Their duties were caring for the Sanctuary.

29 The Kohathite families were to camp along the side of the Tabernacle on the south.

30 The prince of the ancestral household of the Kohathites was Elizaphan son of Uzziel.

31 They were responsible for the Ark, the table, the *menorah*, the altars, and the implements of the Sanctuary used in service with them, the curtain and all involved with its use.

32 The chief prince of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron the *kohen* appointed over those whose responsibility was the care of the Sanctuary.

33 To Merari belonged the families of the Mahlites and the Mushites. These were the families of Merari.

34 Their number by count of every male one month old and upward was 6,200.

35 The prince of the household of the father of the Merarites was Zuriel son of Abihail. They were to camp on the north side of the Tabernacle.

36 The sons of Merari were appointed over the care of the frames of the Tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, and all equipment for its use,

37 the posts of the surrounding courtyard, their bases, pegs and ropes.

38 Those camping in front of the Tent of Meeting, on the east, toward the sunrise, were Moses, Aaron, and his sons. They were to care for the Sanctuary on behalf of *Bnei-Yisrael*. But anyone unauthorized who approached had to be executed.

39 All the Levites counted by Moses and Aaron at the word of *Adonai*, by their families, inclusive of every male one month old and upward, were 22,000.

Redemption of the Firstborn

40 *Adonai* said to Moses, "Count every firstborn male of *Bnei-Yisrael* from one month old and upward and make a list of their names.

41 Set the Levites apart for me in place of all the firstborn of *Bnei-Yisrael*, and, all the livestock of the Levites in place of the firstborn of the livestock of *Bnei-Yisrael*. I am *Adonai*."

42 So Moses counted all the firstborn of *Bnei-Yisrael* as *Adonai* commanded him.

43 The sum total of the firstborn males of *Bnei-Yisrael*, one month old and upward, listed by name, was 22,273.

44 Again *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

45 "Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of *Bnei-Yisrael*, and the livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites will be Mine. I am *Adonai*."

46 To redeem the 273 firstborn of *Bnei-Yisrael* exceeding the number of the Levites,

47 you are to collect five shekels for each, based on the shekel of the Sanctuary, which is 20 gerahs.

48 Give the money for the redemption of the extra ones of the firstborn of them to Aaron and his sons.”

49 Hence Moses collected the redemption money for those exceeding the number redeemed by the Levites.

50 From the firstborn of *Bnei-Yisrael* he collected silver weighing 1,365 shekels, according to the Sanctuary shekel.

51 Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, just as *Adonai* commanded him, in accordance with the mouth of *Adonai*.

Numbers 4

Preparing the Sanctuary to Move

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses and to Aaron saying,

2 “Take a census of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families and by their ancestral households,

3 everyone from 30 years of age to 50, all who come to serve doing the work in the Tent of Meeting.

4 “This is the task of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting—the most holy things.

5 Whenever the camp is about to move out, Aaron and his sons are to take down the shielding curtain and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it.

6 Then they are to cover this with porpoise hide, then spread over it a cloth of solid blue. Then they are to put its poles in place.

7 “Then over the table of the Presence they are to spread a solid blue cloth, then lay on it the plates, ladles, bowls, and jars for the drink offering. The bread that is continually there is to remain there.

8 Over them they are to spread a solid scarlet cloth, cover it with a covering of porpoise hide, then install its poles.

9 “Then they are to take a blue cloth and cover the *menorah* for light, along with its lamps, tongs, snuffers and oil jars that they use to tend to it.

10 They then are to wrap it and all its accessories in a cover of porpoise hide and place it all on a carrying frame.

11 “Over the golden altar they are to spread a blue cloth and cover that with a covering of porpoise hide, then put its poles in place.

12 “They are to take all the utensils used for the service of the ministry of the Sanctuary, wrap them in a blue cloth, cover them with porpoise hide, and place them on a carrying frame.

13 “They are to remove the ashes from the altar, then spread over it a purple cloth.

14 They are to put onto it all the utensils with which they tend to the altar, among them the firepans, meat forks, shovels and sprinkling bowls. They are to spread over it a covering of porpoise hide and install its poles.

15 “When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the Sanctuary and all its holy implements, and when the camp is ready to move out, after this the sons of Kohath may come to do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy items or they will die. These are the task of the sons of Kohath with regard to the Tent of Meeting.

16 “Eleazar son of Aaron the *kohen* will have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering and the anointing oil. He is to have charge of the Tabernacle and all that is in it, including its holy items and all its implements.”

17 *Adonai* spoke to Moses and Aaron saying,

18 “You are not to let the families of the tribe of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites.

19 Do this for them so that they may live and not die whenever they approach the most holy items—Aaron and his sons are to go into the Sanctuary and assign each man his job and his responsibility.

20 But the Kohathites are not to go in to look at what is holy, not even momentarily, or they will die.”

HAFTARAH

Hosea 2

Restoring the Covenant Promises

1 “Yet the number of *Bnei-Yisrael* will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. Instead of ‘You are not My people’ being said to them, they will be called ‘Children of the living God.’

2 Then the descendants of Judah and descendants of Israel will be gathered together. They will appoint themselves one head And they will go up from the land. For the day of Jezreel will be great.

3 Say you to your brothers, ‘Ammi’ and to your sisters, ‘Ruhamah’.

4 Contend with your mother, contend! For she is not My wife nor I her husband. Let her put away her fornications from her face and her adulteries from between her breasts.

5 Or else I will strip her naked and expose her as on the day she was born. Then I will make her like a wilderness. Yes, I will make her like desert land, and I will let her die of thirst.

6 I will have no compassion for her children, for they are children of prostitution.

7 For their mother has practiced prostitution. She who conceived them has been shameful. For she said, ‘Let me go after my lovers, who are giving me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’

8 Therefore see, I will hedge her in with thorns, and I will build a wall around her so she cannot find her paths.

9 Then she will chase after her lovers, but she will not overtake them. She will seek them, but not find. Then she will say: ‘Let me go and return to my first husband, for was it better for me then, than now.’

10 But she did not realize that I Myself gave her the grain, the wine and the fresh oil. I lavished on her silver, also gold- which they made into Baal.

11 Therefore I will return and take back My grain in its season, and My new wine at its appointed time, and I will snatch away My wool and My linen for covering her nakedness.

12 So now I will uncover her lewdness to the eyes of her lovers, and no one will rescue her from My hand.

13 I will also put an end to all her rejoicing- her feasts, her New Moon, her Shabbat, and all her *moadim*.

14 I will also devastate her vines and her fig trees, of which she said: 'These are my payment that my lovers have given to me.' But I will turn them into a thicket and beasts of the field will devour them.

15 Then I will punish her for the days of the Baalim to whom she would burn incense- adorning herself with her rings and jewelry, going after her lovers- but Me she forgot." It is a declaration of *Adonai*.

Compassion and Covenant Love

16 "So then, I Myself will entice her, I will bring her into the wilderness and speak to her heart.

17 I will give her back her vineyards from there and make the valley of Achor a door of hope. She will respond there- as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of the land of Egypt.

18 In that day—it is a declaration of *Adonai* - you will proclaim, 'My husband,' and never again call Me, 'My Baal.'

19 Then I will remove the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, no longer to be mentioned by their name.

20 In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the flying creatures in the sky, and the creeping things on the ground. I will break into pieces the bow and sword and warfare from the land, and I will cause them to lie down securely.

21 Then I will betroth you to Me forever - yes, I will betroth you to Me with righteousness, justice, covenant loyalty and compassion.

22 I will betroth you to Me with faithfulness, and you will know *Adonai*.

BRIT CHADASHA

Luke 2:1-7

Yeshua's Birth in Bethlehem

1 Now it happened in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the world's inhabitants.

2 This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 Everyone was traveling to be registered in his own city.

4 Now Joseph also went up from the Galilee, out of the town of Natzeret to Judah, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family of David.

5 He went to register with Miriam, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

6 But while they were there, the time came for her to give birth-

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth and set Him down in a manger, since there was no room for them in the inn.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

12 For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of the body—though many—are one body, so also is Messiah.

13 For in one *Ruach* we were all immersed into one body—whether Jewish or Greek, slave or free—and all were made to drink of one *Ruach*.

14 For the body is not one part, but many.

15 If the foot says, "Since I'm not a hand, I'm not part of the body," is it therefore not part of the body?

16 And if the ear says, “Since I’m not an eye, I’m not part of the body,” is it for this reason any less part of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has placed the parts—each one of them—in the body just as He desired.

19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

20 But now there are many parts, yet one body.

21 The eye cannot tell the hand, “I don’t need you!” or in turn the head to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be less important are indispensable.

23 Those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe with greater honor; and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty;

24 but our presentable parts have no such need. Rather God assembled the body, giving more honor to those who are lacking,

25 so that there may be no division in the body, but so that the parts may have the same care for one another.

26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer together. If one part is honored, all the parts rejoice together.

27 Now you are the body of Messiah, and members individually.

28 God has put into His community first emissaries, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then healings, helps, leadership, various kinds of tongues.

29 All are not emissaries, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All do not work miracles, do they?

30 All do not have gifts of healing, do they? All do not speak in tongues, do they?
All do not interpret, do they?

31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And still I show you a far better way: