

פִּינְחָס

Pinchas

(Phinehas)

B'midbar 25:10-30:1

(In English Bibles 25:1- 29:40)

Warrior Census

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:1-4

1 And it came to pass after the plague, that YHWH spoke to Moshe and to Eleazar the son of Aharon the priest, saying,

2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Yisrael, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, all that are able to go forth to war in Yisrael."

3 And Moshe and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Yarden (Jordan) at Yericho, saying,

4 "Take the sum of the people, from twenty years old and upward; as YHWH commanded Moshe and the children of Yisrael, that came forth out of the land of Egypt."

This chapter basically consists of counting all the warriors in Yisrael. A warrior is one who is able to go out to war and is twenty years old and older. Now it should be pointed out, that in verse two, those who could not go out to war apparently were not counted in this particular census.

For example, if a man was lame, then obviously he could not go out to war. Therefore, it seems reasonable, that in this census those who were not able to go out to war for whatever reason were not counted.

Reuven

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:5-11

5 Reuven, the first-born of Yisrael; the sons of Reuven; of Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the family of the Palluites;

6 of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the family of the Carmites.

7 These are the families of the Reuvenites; and they that were numbered of them were forty and three thousand and seven hundred and thirty.

8 And the sons of Pallu; Eliav.

9 And the sons of Eliav; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Aviram. These are that Dathan and Aviram, who were called of the congregation, who strove against Moshe and against Aharon in the company of Korach, when they strove against YHWH,

10 and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korach, when that company died; what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men, and they became a sign.

11 Nevertheless, the sons of Korach did not die.

As the census record begins, it also begins with a reminder of those who had striven against YHWH and His anointed leaders Moshe and Aharon. And how do we know that Moshe was YHWH's anointed leader? And even more importantly, how did the people know that Moshe was sent by Elohim to lead them out of captivity?

If we will recall, Moshe asked this very same question of YHWH.

Shemot [Exodus] 4:1

And Moshe answered and said, "But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken to my voice; for they will say, 'YHWH has not appeared to you.'"

Let us look at YHWH's response, and perhaps YHWH can instruct us in our day as well through this!

Shemot [Exodus] 4:2

And YHWH said unto him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A rod."

Most of us are quite familiar with this account in Scripture. Moshe tosses his staff on the ground and it becomes a dragon (serpent) from which he flees; then YHWH commands Moshe to pick it up. It then returns to being just his staff. Then YHWH has Moshe place his hand into his clothing and it comes out leprous, which YHWH heals by having Moshe put his hand back into his clothing.

YHWH specifically gave Moshe these signs so that His people would know that He had sent this man to lead them out of bondage.

In our world today, in our country alone (USA), there are over 1500 people that are currently claiming to be Messiah. This does not even count those that are making the claim that they are someone we have to follow.

Ephrayim tends to be somewhat skeptical, which is probably a healthy thing at this point. YHWH will make it plain to us whom He raises up for us to follow. And if there are honest doubts, then we should exercise caution! There is no need to be hasty.

We should not ignore the promptings of His Still Small Voice!

In the tribe of Reuven there were 43,730 men of war counted.

Let us recall this passage concerning Reuven.

B'midbar [Numbers] 32:1-5

1 Now the children of Reuven and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle; and when they saw the land of Yazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

2 the children of Gad and the children of Reuven came and spoke to Moshe, and to Eleazar the priest, and to the princes of the congregation, saying,

3 "Ataroth, and Dibon, and Yazer, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Sebam, and Nebo, and Beon,

4 the land which YHWH smote before the congregation of Yisrael, is a land for cattle; and your servants have cattle."

5 And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession; bring us not over the Yarden (Jordan)."

The tribe of Reuven asked for their land inheritance to be given to them on the east side of the Yarden. Of course this was conditional.

B'midbar [Numbers] 32:20-22

20 And Moshe said to them, "If you will do this thing, if you will arm yourselves to go before YHWH to the war,

21 and every armed man of you will pass over the Yarden (Jordan) before YHWH, until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,

22 and the land is subdued before YHWH; then afterward you shall return, and be guiltless towards YHWH, and towards Yisrael; and this land shall be to you for a possession before YHWH."

The condition which YHWH placed upon their receiving the land they requested as an inheritance, was that they had to help their fellow countrymen to take the land that YHWH was to give to them to possess.

It was a test, in that the other tribes had helped take the land that they were requesting. Therefore, YHWH was testing their hearts to see if they were pure towards their brethren, to see if they would help them take the rest of the land. And we see that they passed this test.

Shim'on

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:12-14

12 The sons of Shim'on after their families; of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; of Yamin, the family of the Yaminites; of Yachin, the family of the Yachinites;

13 of Zerah, the family of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites.

14 These are the families of the Shim'onites, twenty and two thousand and two hundred.

There were 22,200 men of war counted in this census in the tribe of Shim'on.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:1

And the second lot came out for Shim'on, even for the tribe of the children of Shim'on according to their families; and their inheritance was in the midst of the inheritance of the children of Yehudah.

The second lot when the land was divided fell to Shim'on. If one continues to read in this chapter in Yehoshua (Joshua), the Scripture describes the boundaries of his inheritance.

Please note that the inheritance of Shim'on was in the midst of Yehudah. In a certain sense, one might say that Shim'on was surrounded, or hidden, in Yehudah. The rabbis teach that a good portion of Mossad (Israel's intelligence service) is made up of members from the tribe of Shim'on.

Gad

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:15-18

15 The sons of Gad after their families; of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the family of the Haggites; of Shuni, the family of the Shunites;

16 of Ozni, the family of the Oznites; of Eri, the family of the Erites;

17 of Arod, the family of the Arodites; of Areli, the family of the Arelites.

18 These are the families of the sons of Gad according to those that were numbered of them, forty thousand and five hundred.

The number of warriors counted in the tribe of Gad was 40,500.

And like Reuven, they asked for their inheritance on the east side of the Yarden. See passages quoted under Reuven.

However, there is one additional item that should be brought out here.

B'midbar [Numbers] 32:20-22

20 And Moshe said to them, "If you will do this thing, if you will arm yourselves to go before YHWH to the war,

21 and every armed man of you will pass over the Yarden (Jordan) before YHWH, until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,

22 and the land is subdued before YHWH; then afterward you shall return, and be guiltless towards YHWH, and towards Yisrael; and this land shall be to you for a possession before YHWH."

Please note what YHWH is speaking through Moshe here. YHWH is saying that Reuven and Gad will have to go to war in order for YHWH to drive out His enemies. The implication is that if they did not go to war, YHWH would not drive out His enemies.

As we are in the time for the second stick (the Stick of Joseph) to be built, we need to understand that YHWH actually requires us to do something in that regard. It seems quite likely that Ephrayim may have to go to war in order to take the land of his inheritance.

Yehudah

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:19-22

19 The sons of Yehudah; Er and Onan; and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

20 And the sons of Yehudah after their families were; of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites; of Perez, the family of the Perezites; of Zerah, the family of the Zerahites.

21 And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

22 These are the families of Yehudah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred.

There were 76,500 warriors counted in Yehudah at this time. Perhaps the most notable warrior among them was Calev.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 14:10-11

10 “And now, behold, YHWH has kept me alive, as He spoke, these forty and five years, from the time that YHWH spoke this word to Moshe, while Yisrael walked in the wilderness; and now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moshe sent me; as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, and to go out and to come in.”

This is an amazing testimony from Calev, that he was still as strong at the age of eighty-five as he was in his prime. Truly, YHWH was with him in a mighty way. He received his inheritance before the rest of the tribe of Yehudah. After Calev's inheritance was assigned to him, then the rest of the tribe of Yehudah received its inheritance.

Yisaskar

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:23-25

23 The sons of Yisaskar after their families; of Tola, the family of the Tolaites; of Puvah, the family of the Punites;

24 of Yashub, the family of the Yashubites; of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

25 These are the families of Yisaskar according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and four thousand and three hundred.

In the tribe of Yisakar, Moshe and Eleazar counted 64,300 men able to go out to war.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:17

The fourth lot came out for Yisakar, even for the children of Yisakar according to their families.

The fourth lot fell to the tribe of Yisakar when Yehoshua divided the land.

Zevulun

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:26-27

26 The sons of Zevulun after their families; of Sered, the family of the Seredites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Yahleel, the family of the Yahleelites.

27 These are the families of the Zevulunites according to those that were numbered of them, threescore thousand and five hundred.

The number of warriors numbered in the tribe of Zevulun was 60,500.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:10

And the third lot came up for the children of Zevulun according to their families; and the border of their inheritance was unto Sarid;

Zevulun received the third lot.

Yoseph

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:28-37

28 The sons of Yoseph after their families: Manasseh and Ephrayim.

29 The sons of Manasseh; of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir begat Gilead; of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites.

30 These are the sons of Gilead; of Lezer, the family of the Lezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites;

31 and of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; and of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites;

32 and of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; and of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites.

33 And Zelophehad the son of Hephher had no sons, but daughters: and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

34 These are the families of Manasseh; and they that were numbered of them were fifty and two thousand and seven hundred.

35 These are the sons of Ephrayim after their families; of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthelahites; of Becher, the family of the Becherites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

36 And these are the sons of Shuthelah; of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

37 These are the families of the sons of Ephrayim according to those that were numbered of them, thirty and two thousand and five hundred. These are the sons of Yoseph after their families.

This son of Ya'aqov (Jacob) received a double portion of inheritance in the land because each of his grandsons, Manasheh and Ephrayim, both received a full inheritance. They were each treated and counted as a full tribe.

In the tribe of Manasheh there were 52,700 men of war and in the tribe of Ephrayim there were 32,500 men of war.

When the land was actually divided by lot, Manasheh and Ephrayim both received a lot. Manasheh's lot was divided because half of the tribe asked for their inheritance to be on the east side of the Yarden along with the tribes of Reuven and Gad. The other half of Manasheh entered the land with the rest of the tribes, and they received their inheritance on the west side of the Yarden.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 17:17-18

17 And Yehoshua spoke to the house of Yoseph, even to Ephrayim and to Manasheh, saying, "You are a great people, and have great power; you shall not have one lot only:

18 but the hill-country shall be yours; for though it is a forest, you shall cut it down, and the goings out thereof shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong."

It is interesting to note that Yehoshua was of the house of Yoseph. Yet in giving them their inheritance, he made it small rather than large. They naturally complained about this because this was not actually according to the Torah command that YHWH had given to Moshe (as we will see below). However, Yehoshua tells them that they actually do have more land than they are currently in possession of. They just need to go take the rest of it. He is quite confident that they will be able to do this even though the Canaanites that currently lived there were a strong and powerful people. Yehoshua seemed to know that if they just depended upon YHWH for their strength, He would drive out the Canaanites before them.

Benjamin

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:38-41

38 The sons of Benjamin after their families; of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites;

39 of Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

40 And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman; (of Ard), the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

41 These are the sons of Benjamin after their families; and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and six hundred.

There were 45,600 counted in the tribe of Benjamin.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 18:11

And the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families; and the border of their lot went out between the children of Yehudah and the children of Yoseph.

It is interesting to note, that when the kingdom divided into two houses after Solomon died, it was this tribe which stayed with Yehudah. But it was Benjamin who was the only full brother of Yoseph. Perhaps this is why we read here that their inheritance was between Yehudah and Yoseph.

Dan

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:42-43

42 These are the sons of Dan after their families; of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan after their families.

43 All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those that were numbered of them, were threescore and four thousand and four hundred.

The number of warriors counted in the tribe of Dan was 64,400.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:40

The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.

Now when it came time to divide the land, Dan did something rather interesting, as we see in this passage.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:47

And the border of the children of Dan went out beyond them; for the children of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it, and dwelt therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

This pattern of naming their conquered territory after their father Dan seems to have been followed by them wherever they went. So we have places like Denmark (**D**anmark), Sweden (**S**wed**an**), the **D**anube River, and many other places throughout Europe that bear the name of this tribe.

Asher

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:44-47

44 The sons of Asher after their families; of Imnah, the family of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the family of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the family of the Berites.

45 Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

46 And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

47 These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those that were numbered of them, fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

They counted 53,400 men who could go out to war in the tribe of Asher.

They received the fifth lot when the land was divided.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:24

And the fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families.

Now there is an interesting passage of Scripture in the Brit Chadasha that mentions this tribe.

Luqa [Luke] 2:36-38

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher (she was of a great age, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity,

37 and she had been a widow even to eighty-four years), who departed not from the temple, worshipping with fastings and supplications night and day.

38 And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to Elohim, and spoke of Him to all them that were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

There seems to have been a small remnant from the other tribes that stayed with Yehudah after the nation split after Solomon died. However, this does not mean that the bulk of the ten tribe nation of Yisrael ever returned to the Land, for there is no historical record that they have done this. It is still to happen and to be fulfilled, perhaps even in our day, YHWH willing!

Naphtali

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:48-50

48 The sons of Naphtali after their families; of Yahzeel, the family of the Yahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites;

**49 of Yezer, the family of the Yezerites; of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.
50 These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and four hundred.**

In the tribe of Naphtali there were counted 45,400 men who could go out to war.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 19:32

The sixth lot came out for the children of Naphtali, even for the children of Naphtali according to their families.

If man orders things, he tends to put things in alphabetically order, or order by size, or some other such criteria. However, YHWH does not do things according to man's ways. His ways are far above our ways and who can understand them?

Yisrael's Census

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:51

51 These are they that were numbered of the children of Yisrael, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty.

There were at this time 601,730 men of war in Yisrael. And the above numbers of each tribe add up to this total.

Divided by Lot

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:52-56

52 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

53 "To these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names.

54 To the more you shall give more inheritance, and to the fewer you shall give less inheritance; to everyone according to those that were numbered of him shall his inheritance be given.

55 Notwithstanding, the land shall be divided by lot; according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

56 According to the lot shall their inheritance be divided between the more and the fewer."

Here we see the reason for this particular census. YHWH was getting them ready to go into the land which He had promised to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'aqov. And once

there, and once they had conquered enough of it to put them in control of the land, they were to divide it by lot. Dividing the land by lot, basically put YHWH in control of which tribe got what land.

If the tribe was small, then they were to receive a small portion of land. If the tribe was large, then they were to receive a larger portion of land.

Levi

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:57-62

57 And these are they that were numbered of the Levites after their families; of Gershon, the family of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

58 These are the families of Levi; the family of the Livnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korahites. And Kohath begat Amram.

59 And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and she bare to Amram, Aharon and Moshe, and Miriam their sister.

60 And to Aharon were born Nadav and Avihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

61 And Nadav and Avihu died, when they offered strange fire before YHWH.

62 And they that were numbered of them were twenty and three thousand, every male from a month old and upward; for they were not numbered among the children of Yisrael, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Yisrael.

There were 23,000 males counted in the tribe of Levi. However, these were not men of war; rather, this number included all males from one month old and upward.

The tribe of Levi did not receive an inheritance in the land. Rather, their inheritance was YHWH and He gave them certain cities and the fire offerings the people brought to Him.

A New Generation

B'midbar [Numbers] 26:63-65

63 These are they that were numbered by Moshe and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Yisrael in the plains of Moab by the Yarden (Jordan) at Yericho.

64 But among these there was not a man of them that were numbered by Moshe and Aharon the priest, who numbered the children of Yisrael in the wilderness of Sinai.

65 For YHWH had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." And there was not left a man of them, save Calev the son of Yephunneh, and Yehoshua the son of Nun.

When YHWH tells us something, He will surely bring it to pass! He told the generation that came out of Egypt that they would not be able to enter His land; that He would lay them all low (they would all die) in the wilderness for not believing He was able to bring them into the Land to possess it.

Out of that generation only two men believed YHWH enough to be able to enter into His Land, Calev and Yehoshua. May YHWH make us all like Calev and Yehoshua! Amein.

To Receive a Full Inheritance

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 12:18

But now has Elohim set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him.

This is a very important chapter for us to study and truly understand. This is probably the key passage in this chapter, as it tells us that it is Elohim who is responsible for placing each person in His body (Kingdom) in just exactly the right place, the place where He desires for him to be.

Now here is the thing that we really need to understand. If one is called to be a foot, (verse 15) then that person should not attempt to be a hand. And if one is called to be an ear, then one should not try to be an eye. Nor should one covet the calling and placement that YHWH gives to another person.

The only sure way to receive one's fullest inheritance in His Kingdom, is to do exactly as He wills. If one is called by Him to build houses, then that person cannot receive his fullest reward in His Kingdom by being a preacher.

It is by hearing and accepting YHWH's call and placement of each one of us in His Kingdom, that we will be able to receive the greatest possible reward.

One cannot do more than His will!

If it is His will for us to do something and we do not do it, then we are in trouble! And if we do what He has commanded us personally to do, then He will be pleased.

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

It is for the common good that He gives us gifts and talents and abilities. The gifts, talents and abilities that He gives to us are not for our own personal use only! He expects us to use what He gives to us, for the common good of His people in His Kingdom.

ABBA YHWH, please give each one of us Your people, the strength to walk in the fullness of Your will, to Your glory and honor and for the common good of all; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

zerubbabel@townsqr.com

www.onetorahforall.org