

B'midbar - In the Desert

Numbers 1:1-4:20

The book of Numbers begins after the mixed multitude has:

- Left Egypt
- Entered into a covenant with YHVH on Mount Sinai
- Broken their covenant with YHVH
- Renewed their covenant with YHVH
- Built the tabernacle, and created its furnishings and priestly garments.

The people are about to leave Mount Sinai and set out for their new destination.

It's time for several kinds of censuses to be taken.

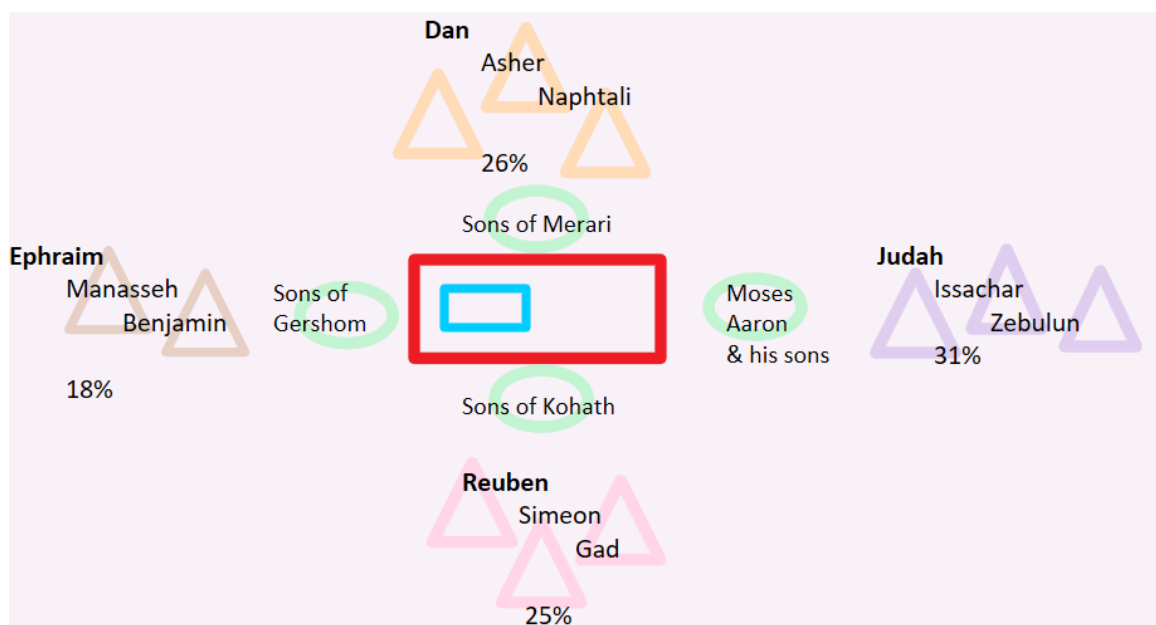
Charts and figures are on separate pages when possible. This document is 6 pages total.

First Census		
Wilderness of Sinai 1 st day, 2 nd month, 2 nd year		
Census of every male from 20 years old and above, all who are able to go to war, numbered by armies. (See another note about who could enter the land from the 1 st generation [Numbers 32:1]).		
Tribe - Leader of Tribe	Number	Percent
Reuben (1-L) – Elizur, son of Shedeur	46,500	7.7%
Issachar (9-L) – Nethanel, son of Zuar	54,500	9.8%
Judah (4-L) – Nashon, son of Amminadab	74,600	12.4%
Simeon (2-L) – Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai	59,300	9.0%
Zebulun (10-L) – Eliab, son of Helon	57,400	9.5%
Joseph (11-R)		
Ephraim – Elishama, son of Ammihud	40,500	6.7%
Manasseh – Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur	32,200	5.3%
Benjamin (12-R) – Abidan, son of Gideoni	35,400	5.9%
Dan (5-B/R) – Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai	62,700	10.4%
Asher (8-Z/L) – Pagiel, son of Ocran	41,500	6.9%
Gad (7-Z/L) - – Eliasaph, son of Deuel	45,650	7.6%
Naphtali (6-B/R) – Ahira, son of Enan	53,400	8.8%
Levi (3-L) – NOT NUMBERED. They were responsible for the tabernacle, its furnishings, and all that belonged to it. They were to carry it when traveling, attend to it, and camp around it. They were responsible to take it down and set it up.		
Grand Total	603,550	100%

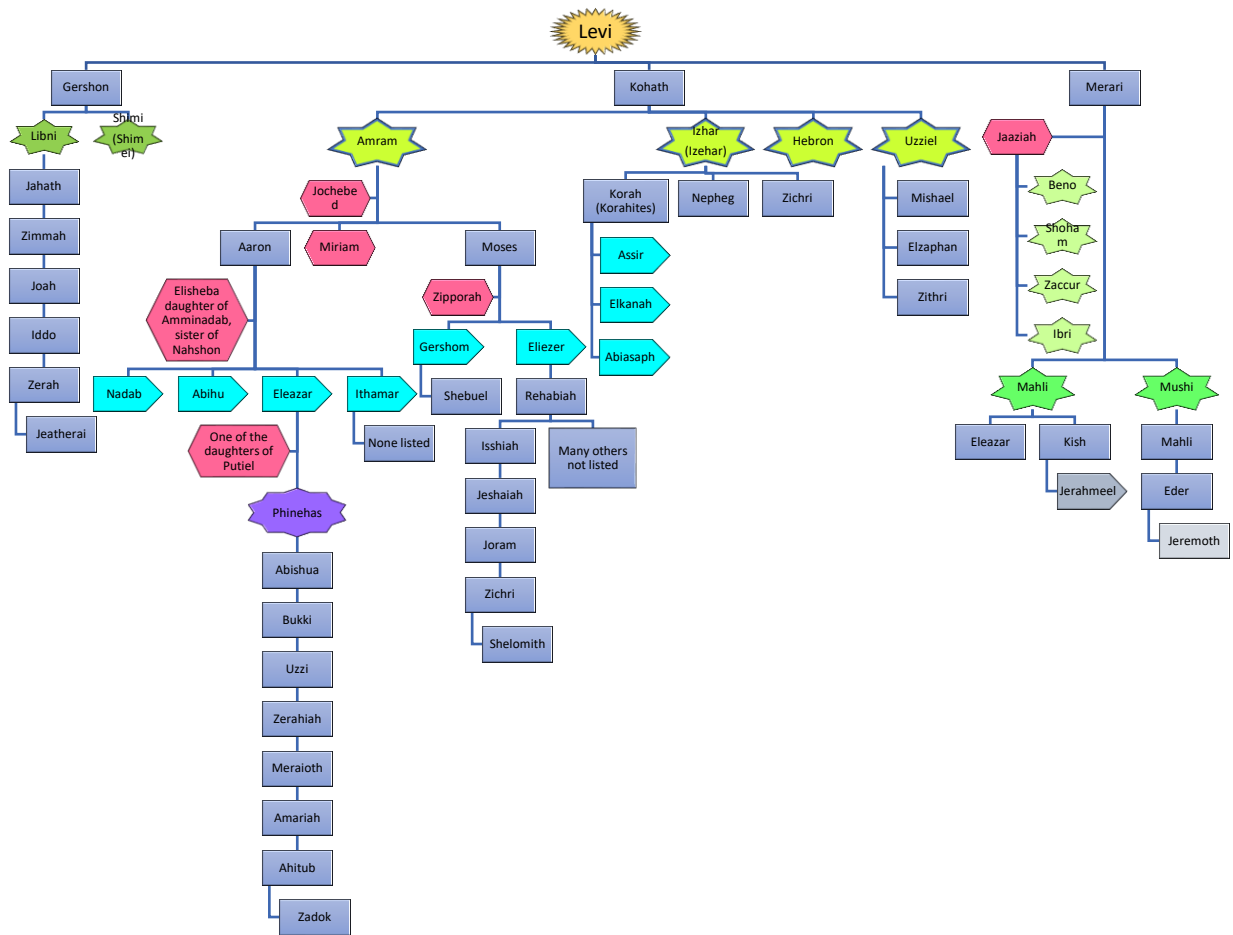
(# is the birth order [1-12], L = Leah, Z/L = Zilpah/Leah, R = Rachel, B/R = Bilhah/Rachel)

The Armies of Israel Camped and Traveled By Their Own Standards				
Location	Tribe - Leader	Army Size	Total of Force	Order When Breaking Camp
East	Judah (4-L) – Nashon, son of Amminadab	74,600		First
	Issachar (9-L) – Nethanel, son of Zuar	54,400		
	Zebulun (10-L) – Eliab, son of Helon	57,400		
			186,400 (31%)	
South	Reuben (1-L) – Elizur, son of Shedeur	46,500		Second
	Simeon (2-L) – Shelumiel, son of Zurishaddai	59,300		
	Gad (7-Z/L) – Eliasaph, son of Deuel	45,650		
			151,450 (25%)	
Middle	Levites (Levi 3-L)			
			Not counted	
West	Ephraim – Elishama, son of Ammihud	40,500		Third
	Manasseh – Gamaliel, son of Pedahzur	32,200		
	Benjamin (12-R) – Abidan, son of Gideoni	35,400		
			108,100 (18%)	
North	Dan (5-B/R) – Ahiezer, son of Ammishaddai	62,700		Fourth (Last)
	Asher (8-Z/L) – Pagiel, son of Ocran	41,500		
	Naphtali (6-B/R) – Ahira, son of Enan	53,400		
			157,600 (26%)	
	Total	603,550	603,550	

(# is the birth order (1-12), L = Leah, Z/L = Zilpah/Leah, R= Rachel, B/R = Bilhah/Rachel)



Records of Aaron and Moses			
Levi	1 st Generation	2 nd Generation	Comments
	Gershon	Libni, Shimei (Exodus 6:17, Numbers 3:18)	
	Kohath	Amram , Izhar, Hebron, Uzziel (Exodus 6:18)	Korah, son of Izhar, leads rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16)
	Merari	Mahli, Mushi (Exodus 6:19, Numbers 3:20)	
Aaron and Moses were descendants of Levi > Kohath > Amram			
Moses	1 st Generation	2 nd Generation	Comments
	Gershon	Shebuel and others not mentioned (1 Chronicles 23:15-17)	Shebuel was overseer of the treasuries (1 Chronicles 26:24)
	Eliezer	Rehabiah was an only son (1 Chronicles 23:15-17)	Rehabiah's sons were numerous (1 Chronicles 23:16)
The sons of Moses were reckoned to the tribe of Levi (1 Chronicles 13:14).			
Aaron	1 st Generation	2 nd or Later Generation	Comments
	Nadab	No children	Died in Wilderness of Sinai.
	Abihu	No children	Died in Wilderness of Sinai.
	Eleazar	Phinehas (Numbers 25; he was given everlasting priesthood and covenant of peace.)	Eleazar was chief over the leaders of the Levites, with oversight of those who kept charge of the sanctuary.
	Ithamar	Daniel (Ezra 8:1-2; the one who went into Babylon.)	Ithamar was the authority over the sons of Gershon and Merari.
Aaron and his sons attended to their priesthood; an outsider (זֵר) who came near was to be put to death.			



Census of Levites			
Male Levites 1 month old and above.			
Levites	Duties	Number	Camp Location
Gershonites' leader: Eliasaph, son of Lael Includes: Libnites, Shimites	The tabernacle, the tent with its covering; screen for the door of the tabernacle; screen for the door of the court; hangings of the court, their cords, according to all work relating to them.	7,500 (34%)	Camped westward behind the tabernacle
Kohathites' leader: Elizaphan, son of Uzziel Includes: Amramites, Izharites, Hebronites, Uzzielites	The ark, table, lampstand, altars, utensils of the sanctuary, screen, and all work relating to them.	8,300* (38%) *Septuagint (MT = 8,600; but doesn't add up correctly to total)	Camped to the south side of the tabernacle.
Merari's leader: Zuriel, son of Abihail Includes: Mahlites, Mushites	The boards of the tabernacle, its bars, pillars, sockets, utensils, all work relating to them; pillars of the courts, their sockets, pegs, and cords.	6,200 (28%)	Camped to the north side of the tabernacle.
Total Levites 1 month old and above		22,000	
Moses Aaron and his sons	Kept charge of the sanctuary, to meet the needs of the children of Israel.		Camped to the east of the tabernacle
YHWH told Moses to take all the Levites and their livestock for Him instead of all the firstborn sons of the children of Israel and their livestock. Previously, firstborn sons were usually priests. They lost that privilege because of the sin with the golden calf.			
Moses numbered Israel's firstborn males who were 1 month old and above.			22,273
Total Levites			22,000
Difference (overage of Israelis)			273
Redemption price of 5 shekels each (total of 100 gerahs) was given to Aaron and his sons for the overage/difference.			1,365 shekels

The theme of redemption is throughout the scriptures. It parallels various things on various levels. These parallels are pictures given for our understanding. Look for a separate teaching on this in the future.

Census of the Sons of Kohath	
Census of Kohathites between the ages of 30 and 50.	2,750
<p>The sons of Aaron will take down and cover the sanctuary and all of its furnishings whenever it is time to travel. They were responsible to do this so that the Kohathites would not die when they approached the holy things.</p> <p>Numbers 4:5-13</p> <p><i>When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall come, and they shall take down the covering veil and cover the ark of the Testimony with it. 6 Then they shall put on it a covering of badger skins, and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue; and they shall insert its poles.</i></p> <p><i>7 "On the table of showbread they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pitchers for pouring; and the showbread shall be on it. 8 They shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover the same with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles. 9 And they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it. 10 Then they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of badger skins, and put it on a carrying beam.</i></p> <p><i>11 "Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles. 12 Then they shall take all the utensils of service with which they minister in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with a covering of badger skins, and put them on a carrying beam. 13 Also they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. 14 They shall put on it all its implements with which they minister there — the firepans, the forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar — and they shall spread on it a covering of badger skins, and insert its poles.</i></p> <p>The Kohathites were to carry these things, without touching a holy thing, once they were covered by Aaron and his sons.</p>	
Census of the Sons of Gershon	
Census of Gershonites between the ages of 30 and 50.	2,630
<p>Numbers 4:25-26</p> <p><i>25 They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of meeting with its covering, the covering of badger skins that is on it, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, 26 the screen for the door of the gate of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and altar, and their cords, all the furnishings for their service and all that is made for these things: so shall they serve.</i></p>	
Census of the Sons of Merari	
Census of sons of Merari between the ages of 30 and 50.	3,200
<p>Numbers 4:31-32</p> <p><i>31 And this is what they must carry as all their service for the tabernacle of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, 32 and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs, and cords, with all their furnishings and all their service; and you shall assign to each man by name the items he must carry.</i></p>	
Total Number of Levites between the ages of 30 and 50	8,550