

Parashah 34 B'midbar - בְּמִדְבָּר

“In the Wilderness” *



Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 1:1 – 4:20

Aliyah 1 - 1:1 - 19	Census based on military service; tribal lineage and leadership determined
Aliyah 2 - 1:20 - 54	Results of the count; L'vi'im excluded and tasked with tabernacle care
Aliyah 3 - 2:1 - 34	Camp organization by tribe/banner around tabernacle
Aliyah 4 - 3:1 - 13	L'vi'im to serve the tabernacle in place of the firstborn who still belong to God
Aliyah 5 - 3:14 - 39	L'vi'im counted and assigned specific tasks and locations around tabernacle
Aliyah 6 - 3:40 - 51	Firstborn counted, 273 more than L'vi'im; difference “redeemed”
Aliyah 7 - 4:1 - 20	Descendants of K'hat counted; instructed to cover and move holiest vessels

Haftarah: Hoshea (Hosea) 2:1(1:10) – 2:22 (20)

B'rit Hadashah: Luke 2:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

1. How long has Israel been encamped at Mount Sinai? How long has it been since the completion of the building of the tabernacle? Summarize what has happened during this time.
2. What does B'midbar mean? How does this differ from the English title? What is the significance of Adonai giving the Torah in the wilderness?
3. What was the purpose of the census? How would you describe the structure designed into the census?
4. Was this the first census taken? If not, when was the first census and what was its purpose?
5. What do you notice about the names of the tribal leaders? When were they given these names? Why is that significant?
6. The census information is repeated multiple times in this and future portions and could have been recorded more concisely. Why was it recorded this way?

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7. The L'vi'im were not counted in the census. Why? What was their assignment? Could this be viewed as a model for Israel's relationship to the nations in the future?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (1:1) Do you have a quiet place where you go to meet with God on a regular basis? (Mat 6:6, 1 Ki 19 9-14, Luk 6:12-19)
2. (1:20) Yeshua is the first-born of all creation. Does He have first place in your life? (Exo 34:20, Deu 21:15-17, Rom 8:28-29, Psa 89:20(19)-30(29), Col 1:15, 18, Luk 2:6-7, 22-23, 25-35)
3. (2:2) Do you recognize Yeshua as the banner over the Jewish people, and all nations, today? (Exo 17:15, Psa 60:4, Isa 11:12, Isa 27:13, Eze 37:15-28, Mat 24:27-31)
4. (3:1) Are there “spiritual” children whom you foster? If not, why not find one today? (Act 16:1, 1Ti 1:2, 2Ti 1:2-5, Mar 10:24, Joh 21:5, Gal 3:6-9, 1Co 4:14-17)
5. (3:15) Do you “count” in the Kingdom of God? (Num 1:3, 18:16, Deu 24:8, Deu 33:9-10, 1Ti 3:4,12, Tit 1:6, Pro 22:6, Mat 5:13-16, 2Ch 17:7-9)
6. (4:3) Thirty years old seems a good age to begin service to God. Where are you in relation to age, growing and serving? (Rom 8:29-30, 2Co 9:8, Eph 3:20-21, Phil 2:13)