

Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 1:1 – 4:20
Haftarah: Hoshea (Hosea) 2:1-22
B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu (Matthew) 4:1-17

	<i>yr. 1 25:1-38</i>	<i>yr 2 2:1-3:13</i>	<i>yr 3 3:14-4:20</i>
1	1:1 – 4	2:1 – 2:9	3:14 – 20
2	1:5 – 16	2:10 – 16	3:21 – 26
3	1:17 – 19	2:17 – 24	3:27 – 39
4	1:20 – 27	2:25 – 31	3:40 – 43
5	1:28 – 35	2:32 – 34	3:44 – 51
6	1:36 – 43	3:1 – 4	4:1 – 10
7	1:44 – 54	3:5 – 13	4:11-20

and ADONAI spoke to Moses in the Sinai wilderness / in the tent of meeting / on the first of the second month in the second year / of their coming out from the land of Egypt to say...	<p><i>va'yedaber ADONAI el Moshé b'midbar Sinái</i> <i>be-óhel mo'ed</i> <i>be'ekhád la'khódesh ha'sheni ba'shanah</i> <i>ha'shenit</i> <i>le'tzetam me'éretz Mitzráyim le'mor</i></p>	<p>וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד בַּאֲחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִית לְצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר:</p>
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This is the first parshah of the Book of *B'midbar* (in the wilderness), known in English as Numbers. The Israelites have fled Egypt, received the revelation of Torah from Mt. Sinai, erected the Tabernacle and have been instructed in its operation. They now prepare both spiritually and militarily for their travels to the land of promise. A census of the families, including a count of able-bodied adult men is ordered. The arrangement of the people in their encampments is centered on the Tabernacle, emphasizing the role of Aaron, his descendants, and the tribe of Levi.

The Haftarah predicts Israel's innumerable growth, and that one day HaShem will lead her back into the wilderness to reclaim her fidelity.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **Nu. 1:1-4** Location: The Wilderness (Ex. 19:1-2, Le. 7:38). The tent of meeting (*ohel mo'ed* – אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד), a “portable Mt. Sinai,” had been completed one month earlier (Ex. 40:17). God spoke from between the two K'ruvim above the Ark (Ex. 25:22, Nu. 7:89). The first day of the month, *Rosh Khodesh*, was a holiday, a good opportunity for making important announcements (Nu. 9:1, De. 1:3, Eze. 26:1). A head-count (lit. lifting of the head) for military conscription (2Sa 24:1-9, 2Ch 14:7) with a national goal of the conquest of the promised land. Twenty years and up (no upper age limit) able to bear arms.
2. **Nu. 1:5-16** List of 24 names, preserving the number 12, omitting Levi, in birth order grouped by mothers (Leah, Rachel, concubines). Many compounded with El (אֵל) and Shaddai (שַׁדַּי), none with Yah (יְהוָה). (See Ex. 6:3). These were the “called” decision makers, clan leaders (*nasi* – נָשִׂיא)
3. **Nu. 1:17-19** Lit. “named ones.” Repetition of the date from v.1.
4. **Nu. 1:20-27** Totals for Re'uven, Shim'on, Gad, Y'hudah
5. **Nu. 1:28-35** Totals for Yissakhar, Z'vulun, Efrayim, M'nasheh
6. **Nu. 1:36-43** Totals for Binyamin, Dan, Asher, Naftali
7. **Nu. 1:44-54** Grand total: 603,550, identical to Ex. 30:12-16, 38:26. Levitical responsibilities noted (Ex. 32:25-29) with more detail to follow (Nu. 3:15, 4:2, 22, 29, etc.). Camp setup by banner (*degel* – דֶּגֶל).

Theme

People are not numbers. Communities and nations consist of individuals who matter. Each and every person counts. To take a census is literally to “lift the head” (*se’u et-rosh* – שְׂאוּ אֶת־רֹאשׁ) which infers eye contact during the counting process. Nu. 1:3 describes this intimate interaction as a visitation, an appointment (*paqod* – פָּקַד) that emphasizes the value and importance of each person and their role in the greater community and in HaShem’s plan. (See Ge. 21:1, 39:4-5, 40:4, 41:34, 50:24-25, Ex. 3:16, 4:31, 13:19, 30:12-14, 32:34)

Daily Devotional 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)