

Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 1:1 – 4:20
Haftarah: Hoshea (Hosea) 2:1-22
B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu (Mathew) 23:34-39

	<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 HaShem spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying / each man with his standard with a banner according to the house of their fathers they shall encamp / the children of Israel from all around the tent of meeting they shall encamp	<i>va'yedaber ADONAI el Moshé ve'el-Aharón lemor ish al-dig'lo be'otot le'veyt avotam yakhanú b'ney Yis'raél mineged saviyv le'óhel mo'ed yakhanú</i>	וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: אִישׁ עַל-דִּגְלוֹ בְּאֹתוֹת לְבֵיתוֹ אֲבֹתָם יִחַנּוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִנֶּגֶד סָבִיב לְאֹהֶל-מוֹעֵד יִחַנּוּ:
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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 responsibilities 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

- Nu. 2:1-9** Those camping on the **east** set out first – Y'hudah, Yissakhar, Zvulun (186, 400). According to tradition, each tribe had a banner (*de-gel* – דִּגְלוֹ) colored according to the stones on the breastplate of the High Priest (Ex. 39:14), and each division (unit of three tribes), thousand, hundred fifty or ten had its own standard.
- Nu. 2:10-16** Those camping on the **south** set out second – Re'uven, Shim'on, Gad (151,450).
- Nu. 2:17-24** The Tabernacle and the Levitical guard, divided into the Gershonites and Merarites between the first and second divisions, with the Kohathites in the center column between the second and third divisions, are described in motion (encampment described in Ch. 3). Those camping on the **west** set out third – Efrayim, M'nasheh, Binyamin (108,100).
- Nu. 2:25-31** Those camping on the north set out last – Dan, Asher, Naftali (157,600).
- Nu. 2:32-34** The summary mirrors Nu. 1:46-48. Language here indicates a military deployment, anticipating marching orders that will be given in full (Nu. 10:11-28).
- Nu. 3:1-4** At Mt. Sinai: The descendants of Aharon echo Ex. 6:23 and Le. 10:1-2. Moshe is counted with Aharon (Nu.3:38) and not with the Levites. Of the 78 times Moshe and Aharon are mentioned together, Aharon is listed first only genealogically (Ex. 6:20, Nu. 3:1, 26:59, 1Ch. 5:29, 23:13), as he is the firstborn. To "ordain" is literally "to fill the hands" (*mi-le yadam* – מִלֵּא עָדָם).
- Nu. 3:5-13** The tribe of Levi were on guard duty (Nu. 1:53). The Levites replaced the sacred duty of the firstborn

Theme

The Wilderness bewilders – It represents barrenness, danger, death, chaos, darkness; God's absence in contrast to the Tabernacle. It belongs to no one, and to everyone. It is free of charge. It is a place of silence. It is a place of transition, where two separate identities form a third, singular identity. It is a place of revelation. A place of our youth (Je. 2:2). Openness, vulnerability. Alienation. A place of death for an entire generation. It is necessary.

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, 1Ki 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)