

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NUMBERS
"Counting the Population"

Numbers 1:1-54

"A warfare"

COMPARISONS

1. Genesis - Beginnings
2. Exodus - Redemption
3. Leviticus - Worship
4. Numbers - Warfare

OUTLINE

1. Preparing for the Land 1-10:10
2. Enroute to the Land 10:11-21
3. Facing toward the Land 22-36

CHRONOLOGY

1. Exodus 40:17--1st day, 1st month, 2nd year - *Tabernacle raised up.*
2. Leviticus 1:1--God spoke out of Tabernacle
3. Numbers 1:1--1st day, 2nd month, 2nd year

INSTRUCTIONS

a. About Men

1. To count

- a. Moses--God)
- b. Aaron--Priest) v.3
- c. Heads--Leaders v. 4

2. The counted

- a. Five facts v. 2
- b. Twelve names vv. 5-16

RENOWNED

- (1. Reuben--Elizur (My God is rock)
- (2. Simeon--Shelumiel (At peace with God)
- (3. Judah--Nahshon (A diviner)

PRINCES

- (4. Issachar--Nathaniel (Gift of God)
- (5. Zebulun--Eliab (My God is Father)
- (6. Joseph has a double portion

HEADS

- (a) Ephraim--Elishama (My God has heard)
- (b) Manasseh--Gamaliel (My God is a rewarder)

v. 16

- (7. Benjamin--Abidan (My Father is judge)
- (8. Dan--Aliezer (Brother of help)
- (9. Asher--Pagiel (Event of God)
- (10. God--Eliasaph (God adds)
- (11. Naphtali--Ahira (Brother is evil)

3. The count vv. 17-46

Reuben (46,500); Simeon (59,300); Gad (45,650);
Judah (74,600); Issachar (54,400); Zebulun (57,400);
Manasseh (32,200); Ephraim (40,500); Benjamin (35,400);
Dan (62,700); Asher (41,500); Naphtali (54,400); Total
603,550.

*Leviticus - 1 yr
Leviticus not Numbers
Every male
over 20 years
Heads of
house of his
fathers*

B. About Levites vv. 47-53

1. Their work vv. 50, 51
 - a. Over Tabernacle and things.
 - b. Bear Tabernacle and things
 - c. Minister to Tabernacle and things
 - d. Encamp around Tabernacle and things
 - e. Pitch Tabernacle and things
2. Their purpose v. 53.
 - a. Withhold wrath
 - b. Keep Tabernacle

POINTS TO PONDER

1. Chosen Men

They were:

- a. Mature
- b. Satisfactory to Moses, Aaron, Leaders
- c. Able for war
- d. Set to defend the Tabernacle
- e. Sure of their pedigree

2. Try This For Size

- a. Fighting men 603,550
- b. Fighting wives 603,550
- c. Children (4 to a family 2,414,200)

TOTAL: 3,621,300. This would be a parade of forty miles. To cross Red Sea with 50 abreast would take two days. To feed the people would take 160 boxcars of food and 1000 tank cars of water daily, a train 9½ miles long. Exaggerated? Miracle? Faith?

3. Distinctions

Levites were separate from the general population (cf. vv. 1-46 with vv. 47-53). Note the "but" (v. 47).

Levites were inside; the people outside. The outside was for defense and warfare; the inside for worship and service. N.T. believers operate both (cf. Jude).

THE BOTTOM LINE v. 54

The diagram is simple: God --> Moses --> Israel. Israel did it all. That's obedience. That's all God wants from His people. It's not a lot, it's all!