

## Numbers 1:1-54 **Numbering the men of War at Mount Sinai (Horeb)**

### God's command to number the men of war

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: <sup>2</sup> "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, <sup>3</sup> from twenty years old and above--all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

### Heads of each tribe of Israel appointed to assist Moses in taking the census

<sup>4</sup> And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each one the head of his father's house. <sup>5</sup> "These are the names of the men who shall stand with you: from Reuben, Elizur the son of Shedeur; <sup>6</sup> from Simeon, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai; <sup>7</sup> from Judah, Nahshon the son of Amminadab; <sup>8</sup> from Issachar, Nethanel the son of Zuar; <sup>9</sup> from Zebulun, Eliab the son of Helon; <sup>10</sup> from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur; <sup>11</sup> from Benjamin, Abidan the son of Gideoni; <sup>12</sup> from Dan, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai; <sup>13</sup> from Asher, Pagiel the son of Ocran; <sup>14</sup> from Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel; <sup>15</sup> from Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan." <sup>16</sup> These were chosen from the congregation, leaders of their fathers' tribes, heads of the divisions in Israel.

### The Numbering

<sup>17</sup> Then Moses and Aaron took these men who had been mentioned by name, <sup>18</sup> and they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month; and they recited their ancestry by families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, each one individually. <sup>19</sup> As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the Wilderness of Sinai.

### Tribe of Reuben

<sup>20</sup> Now the children of Reuben, Israel's oldest son, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: <sup>21</sup> those who were numbered of the tribe of Reuben were forty-six thousand five hundred.

### Tribe of Simeon

<sup>22</sup> From the children of Simeon, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, of those who were numbered, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: <sup>23</sup> those who were numbered of the tribe of Simeon were fifty-nine thousand three hundred.

### Tribe of Gad

<sup>24</sup> From the children of Gad, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: <sup>25</sup> those who were numbered of the tribe of Gad were forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty.

### Tribe of Judah

26 From the children of Judah, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 27 those who were numbered of the tribe of Judah were seventy-four thousand six hundred.

#### Tribe of Issachar

28 From the children of Issachar, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 29 those who were numbered of the tribe of Issachar were fifty-four thousand four hundred.

#### Tribe of Zebulun

30 From the children of Zebulun, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 31 those who were numbered of the tribe of Zebulun were fifty-seven thousand four hundred.

#### Tribe of Joseph - Ephraim

32 From the sons of Joseph, the children of Ephraim, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 33 those who were numbered of the tribe of Ephraim were forty thousand five hundred.

#### Tribe of Joseph - Manasseh

34 From the children of Manasseh, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 35 those who were numbered of the tribe of Manasseh were thirty-two thousand two hundred.

#### Tribe of Benjamin

36 From the children of Benjamin, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 37 those who were numbered of the tribe of Benjamin were thirty-five thousand four hundred.

#### Tribe of Dan

38 From the children of Dan, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 39 those who were numbered of the tribe of Dan were sixty-two thousand seven hundred.

#### Tribe of Asher

40 From the children of Asher, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 41 those who were numbered of the tribe of Asher were forty-one thousand five hundred.

#### Tribe of Naphtali

42 From the children of Naphtali, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war: 43 those who were numbered of the tribe of Naphtali were fifty-three thousand four hundred.

#### Total number of the Men of War

44 These are the ones who were numbered, whom Moses and Aaron numbered, with the leaders of Israel, twelve men, each one representing his father's house. 45 So all who were numbered of the

children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war in Israel-- 46 all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

### Levites not numbered among the Men of War, Reserved for Tabernacle Service

47 But the Levites were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe; 48 for the LORD had spoken to Moses, saying: 49 "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel; 50 but you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle. 51 And when the tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death. 52 The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies; 53 but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony." 54 Thus the children of Israel did; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they did. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ God has made Israel a new nation, has given them just and righteous laws.
- ✧ Now before they face war on their way to the Promised Land, God requires them to number their men of War. (This will be used as comparison to the numbering they will do after 40 years wandering in the Wilderness when the next generation actually goes into the land to possess it).
- ✧ Those considered qualified to be men of War were the men 20 years of age and upward.
- ✧ God appointed by name the leaders of each tribe of Israel that will assist Moses in the numbering.
- ✧ They assembled the congregation at Mount Sinai on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after they left Egypt.
  - ◇ The Children of Israel left Egypt on the day after Passover which was the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of end of 430 years after they had gone down to Egypt. [Exodus 12:1-42]  
So they left Egypt on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month
  - ◇ The Children of Israel arrived at Mount Sinai on the 15<sup>th</sup> day (on the same day) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year after they left Egypt. [Exodus 19:1-2]
  - ◇ At the time of the numbering of the men of War they had been at Mount Sinai 11 ½ months, receiving the law and building the Tabernacle of Meeting.

#### The Numbering by Tribe

- ✧ Reuben – 46,500
- ✧ Simeon – 59,300
- ✧ Gad – 45,650
- ✧ Judah – 74,600
- ✧ Issachar – 54,400
- ✧ Zebulun – 57,400
- ✧ Ephraim, of Joseph – 40,500
- ✧ Manasseh of Joseph – 32,000
- ✧ Benjamin – 35,400
- ✧ Dan – 62,700

- ✧ Asher – 41,500
- ✧ Naphtali – 53,400
- ✧ Total of army of Israel – 603,550

#### Tribe of Levi

- ✧ The Tribe of Levi was excluded from the army because they were reserved for Tabernacle Service.
- ✧ The Levites shall attend to the Tabernacle and encamp around the Tabernacle.
- ✧ An outsider who approaches the articles of the Tabernacle shall be put to death.

#### Positions of the encampment of the Children of Israel

- ✧ The tribes of Israel shall camp by their own standard around the Tabernacle and beyond the camps of the Levites.