

200122-4 Nu 1, 2, Census of the Warriors & Order of the Camp—CThurman

The Book of Numbers

In the Hebrew Bible this book is entitled, **בְּמִדְבָּר**, b^e-mid-bar.’ In Nu.1.1 **בְּמִדְבָּר**, b^e-mid-bar is translated (tss.) ‘*in the Wilderness of*’ & literally could be tss. ‘*in a wilderness of Sinai*’.

Nu 1:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of (בְּמִדְבָּר) Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying ...

In the Greek version of the OT, called the Septuagint (LXX), this book is called **ἀριθμοί**. **ἀριθμοί** is a plural noun tss. *numbers*.

In the NT the verb **ἀριθμέω**, is always tss. *to number*, and the noun **ἀριθμός**, *the number*. As you can see our English word arithmetic is derived this this Greek verb.

Now bear with me as I share some tedious details that defines the scope of the book of Numbers. This Gr. noun & verb are used in this book more than in any other Septuagint OT book. In Nu.1.2 is the accusative, singular noun **ἀριθμόν**. It is tss. *number*, ‘... *according to their number by their names ...*’. In the Hebrew Bible the word used in the place of this Gr. word **ἀριθμόν** is **בְּמִסְפָּר**, b^e-mis-par. **בְּמִסְפָּר**, b^e-mis-par is a noun with a prefixed preposition, so the noun itself is **מִסְפָּר**, mis-par. **מִסְפָּר**, mis-par is tss. in the KJV Bible with the words *number, sum, tale, abundance, & account*; the verb, **סָפַר**, sa-phar, is tss. *to number, tell, count, account, reckon, declare*, and the noun, **סֵפֶר**, sa-pher, is tss. *book, bill, letter, scroll, evidence*. So, the book of Numbers has much to do with numbering. It is a book which gives an account of the wanderings of the nation of Israel through the wilderness until they come to the brink of entering into land of Canaan. Among other things, it gives us these particular accounts:

- Accounts for the number of Israeli men that were above 20 and fit for battle in the beginning of their wilderness experience and at the end (Numbers chs. 1 & 26),

- Accounts for the number of all of the male Levites in the nation,
- Accounts for twelve of the twenty-one rebellious acts of Israel against the LORD,
- Gives the dedication of the tabernacle,
- Specifies the arrangement of the tribes as they encompass the tabernacle,
- Tells them of the manner in which they shall take their journey,
- Specifies the Levite's service,
- Provides a number of other offerings, and,
- Accounts for the 42 journeys of Israel through the wilderness from Sinai to the plains of Moab over the course of nearly 42 years from the Exodus (Nu. 9.1; 33.38, or 39 yrs. after the beginning of the history of the book of Numbers),
- Informs Israel who shall succeed Moses as leader to bring them into the land of Canaan.

The book of Numbers is the fourth of five books commonly referred to as the Pentateuch, Gr. πεντάτευχος, fr. πέντα five + τεῦχος, a tool, implement, utensil. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Therefore the Pentateuch refers to *the five instruments of Moses*.

The first five books of the Bible are referred to in other places of Scriptures as the *book of the law* (Deu.30.10; 31.26; Jos.1.8), *book of the Law of Moses* (Jos.8.31; 23.6), the *book of Moses* (2Chr.35.12; Neh.13.1; Mk.12.26), the *law of Moses* (1Ki.2.3; Mal.4.4; Lk.2.22; Acts 28.23), *the Law* (Deu.4.44; 29.21; Jos.1.7; He.10.1), or simply *Moses* (Mt.8.4; 19.7; 22.24; Lk.5.14; 16.29).

The human author of this book is Moses.

Nu 33:2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out.

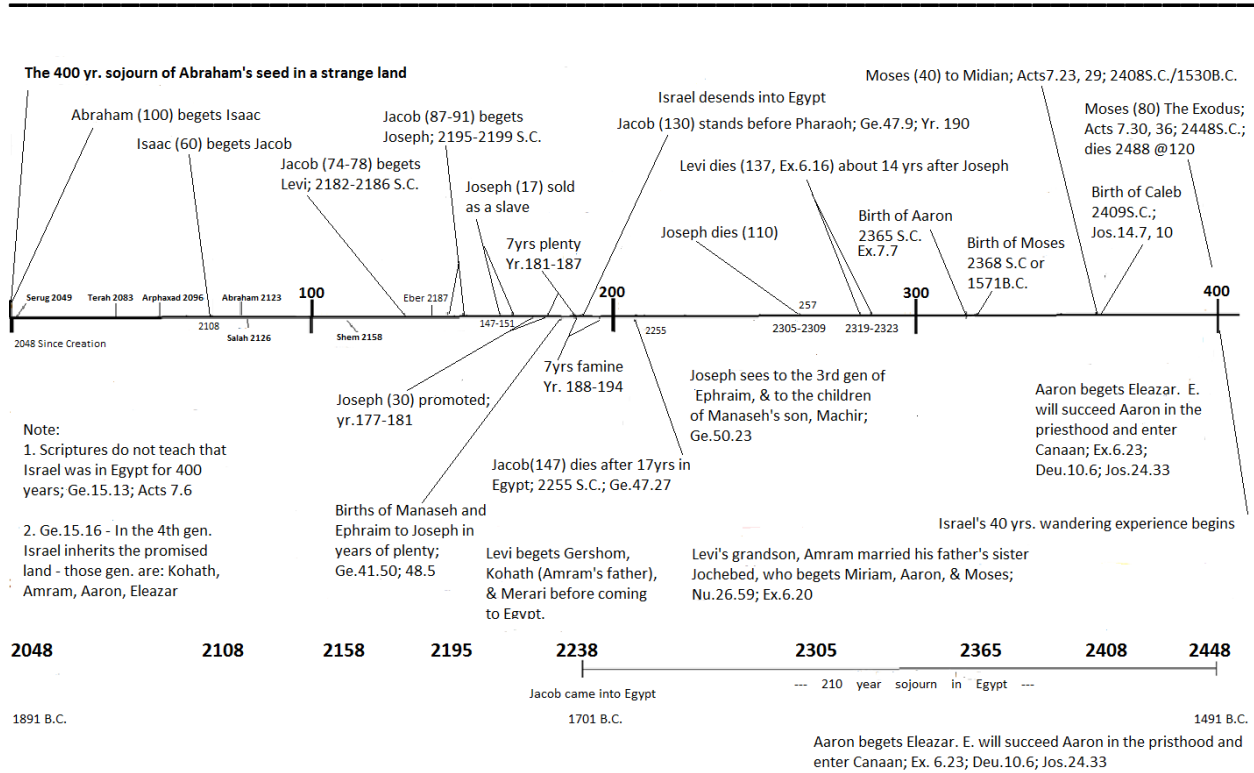
Both testaments, the Old & the New refer to the book of Numbers. It is the word of God with the others 65 books of the Bible.

In the Old Testament:

2Ki.18.4 [Nu.21.8, 9]; Jos.14.7 [Nu.13.6, 26; 14.6];

In the New Testament:
 Jn.3.14 [Nu.21.9]; He.3.2, 5 [Nu.12.7]

Israel had been 210 years in Egypt.



A common misconception of the texts of Ge.15.13; Ac.7.6 is that Israel was in Egypt for 400 years. Please refer to notes 1 & 2 in the lower left hand corner of the above chart and prayerfully consider all of the facts which supports a 210 year sojourn of Israel in Egypt.

During their time in Egypt they had come into cruel bondage, without hope of deliverance. But the LORD saved them with a mighty hand by the symbol of the blood of the Passover lamb, which represents the shed blood of Jesus Christ dying to deliver His people sin's bondage. Israel followed Moses out to the Red Sea where there they were baptized unto Moses (1Co.10.2). This parallels that experience of the child of God which follows Christ by receiving Baptist baptism. Then Israel spent the next year learning of the commandments of the LORD at Sinai, which is the very next step for the baptized believer, whose desire is to drink up all that he can of God's word to be properly suited for a walk of faith.

And here in Numbers the Lord sets up their government all, accounts for their fitness to battle, appoints their place in the camp and gives them their service, all in preparation for going forward as conquerors. Like this Christians learn the importance of the church of Jesus Christ, their relationship to it, and their service in it. All of this is in preparation to coming to the land of Canaan. The wilderness experience is preparatory to entering into Canaan. This is what the first generation of Israel never arrived to because they failed to believe God, take God at His word, trust Him, make personal application, putting away the sins of the flesh. To be clear, Canaan is a land of rest in that the Christian lives experimentally by grace rather than being under the dominion of the lusts of the flesh. Otherwise, at this time Canaan is a land of conflict. As Israel was to possess the land while driving out the old inhabitants, so the Christian is to put on the new man and put off the old.

Chapter 1

1 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

Here we notice that the Book of Nu.1.1 begins one month after the book Exodus ended, when the tabernacle was erected in the midst of the camp of Israel (Ex.40.1, 2, **17**).

*Ex.40.1 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
2 On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.*

...

17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up.

There is at ch.9 a recapitulation of the events from Exodus ch.40 to the present, shortly after which Israel begins their sojourn in the wilderness. (cf. 10.11)

2 Take ye the sum [heads] of all the congregation of the children [sons] of Israel, after their families,

take ye, וְאַיִן, Qal imper. pl. masc. of נָשָׂא; the imperative [1.2; 3.40; 11.12; 26.2; 31.26] is tss. *to lift up, take, forgive, carry, bring, suffer, set up, bear*; cf. v.49.

the sum of, אֶת־רֵאשִׁי; lit. *the heads of*; a masc. noun and tss. *head, top, sum, principal, chapters, beginning, chief, company*.

all the congregation, כָּל־עֵדוּת, כָּל for *all*, and the fem. noun עֵדוּת, tss. *congregation, assembly, company, a swarm, a multitude*.

families, לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם, (v.18 without he prefixed lamed-shewa, לְ)

by the house of their fathers, with the number (מִסְפָּר, account) of their names, every male by their polls (skull);

with the number of, מִסְפָּר, tss. *number, sum, tale, abundance, account, [in]finite, all*; מִסְפָּר, v.2, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, & 42.

also see the verb סָפַר, for *to number, tell, count*, and the noun סֵפֶר, for *book*.

by their polls, לְגִלְגֹּלְתָם, fem. pl. noun with the prefixed preposition לְ, of גִּלְגֹּלֶת, tss. *for every man, [by, or to, לְ] their polls, scull, head*; from this we have Golgotha, interpreted in Scripture, *the place of a scull* (Mk.15.22); cf. 1.2, 18, 20, 22, 3.47

3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number (פָּקַד, count, v.3, 19, 49) them by their armies.

by their armies, לְצִבְאוֹתָם, the masc. noun צֵבָא; often tss. *host, army, war, service, battle, warfare*. Probably used more than 16 times in this one chapter.

to war, אָרָבָה, tsa-vah, masc. noun tss. *host, army, war, service, warfare, to battle.*

4 And with you there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers.

head, רֹשׁ, rōsh, tss. head, top, sum, principal, chapters [of a column), beginning, chief.

(vss.5-15 list the names of the heads of Israel that shall help Moses & Aaron take a count of the people) These are described in Nu.7.1 as princes of Israel, heads of the house of their fathers, princes of the tribes.

Leah's children (5-9)

5 And these are the names of the men that shall stand with you: of the tribe of Reuben; Elizur the son of Shedeur.

6 Of Simeon; Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

7 Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

8 Of Issachar; Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

9 Of Zebulun; Eliab the son of Helon.

Rachel's children (10, 11)

10 Of the children of Joseph: of Ephraim; Elishama the son of Ammihud: of Manasseh; Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

11 Of Benjamin; Abidan the son of Gideon.

Bilhah's child

12 Of Dan; Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

Zilpah's children

13 Of Asher; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

14 Of Gad; Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

The names of the 12 tribes, as they are given in chs. 1 & 13 divide into three groups of four:

1. The four eldest sons of Jacob through Leah (excepting Levi) (R, S, J, I),
2. The four youngest sons of Jacob last four births (Z, E, M, B), and,
3. The four sons of Jacob born to his handmaids. (D, A, G, N)

Deuel, 2.14, or *Reuel*. The difference in the Hebrew character is ד, daleth and ר, resh.

Bilhah's child

15 *Of Naphtali; Ahira the son of Enan.*

16 *These were the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel.*

renowned, קריאי, masc. adg., קריא; three times in the O.T. and tss. *renowned* (1) and *famous* (2, Nu.16.9; 26.9, both of these refers to Korah and his rebels).

princes, נשיאי, constr. state of נשיא; tss. *prince, ruler, captain, chief, and governor*. Found in Numbers more than any other book. Next to Numbers usage is Ezekiel.

The LORD commanded Moses, with Aaron his brother (v.44), that a count be made of all of the males that were 20+ years of that were able to go to war. The LORD appointed a chief of every tribe to assist him. These were called by name.

Twelve names are cited and so twelve tribes represented. The twelve sons of Jacob included Levi & Joseph, but their names are not included here. Levi is counted differently and separately from the other tribes because the LORD appoints them to another service. (cf. v.47-51) Joseph has two sons representing him, Manasseh & Ephraim are counted.

Joseph was born of Rachel and was Jacob's eleventh son. When Joseph was in Egypt he had two sons born to him of Asenath, Manasseh & Ephraim. When Jacob was dying he claimed his grandsons, Joseph's sons Manasseh & Ephraim, as his own sons. (Ge.47.29; 48.5, 6) Manasseh and Ephraim were counted as the sons of Jacob and as tribes in Israel. In some instances these two tribes are called *half-tribes*. (Nu.34.13, 15)

So the tribes counted in this census are the ten sons of Jacob & two grandsons.

17 ¶ *And Moses and Aaron took these [twelve] men which are expressed by their names [in vss.5-15]:*

are expressed, נִקְבוּ, Niphal (simple passive) pret. 3ppl. of נִקַּב; the verb is tss. to pierce, to strike through, to bore, to name, & to express.

18 *And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees (or, they gave their births) after their families,*

and they declared their pedigrees, Hithpael (reflexive) of יָלַד, tss. to beget, to bring forth children, to deliver.

after their families, עַל־מִשְׁפְּחֹתָם, (v.2 after their families, but without the prefixed לְ) fem. noun tss. kinds (Ge.8.19), families (Ge.10.5), kindred (Ge.24.38).

by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls (skulls; Aramaic, Golgotha).

and they declared their pedigrees, וַיִּתְיַלְדוּ, Hithpael (reflexive) fut. 3ppl. masc. of יָלַד; to bring forth children, to bear, begat, deliver.

by their polls, לְגִלְגֻלְתָּם, prefixed preposition לְ, to, for, by + a 3psm. suff. םָ; the fem. sing. root is גִּלְגַּלְתָּ, gul-go-leth, tss. for every man (Ex.16.16), by their polls (Nu.1.2), his scull (2Ki.9.35), his head (1Chr.10.10); note that this is the Aramaic in the NT, the place of a skull, Golgotha (Mk.15.22; Jn.19.17, Γολγοθα).

As these tribes had one representative head standing for them so the people of God have at Golgotha a Prince for them,

which is Jesus Christ, the Lord. There on the cross at Golgotha God counted Him as suffering in our place.

19 As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered (פָּקַד, counted, v.3, 19, 49) them in the wilderness (in a desert, בְּמִדְבָּר) of Sinai.

(Vss.20-43 is the record of each tribe and their number, and the sum total of them all. The tribes are grouped into three with a tribe appointed as head each group. Reuben is head of his camp on the south. (v.20) Under him are the tribes of Simeon & Gad. Judah is head of his camp on the east with two other tribes. (v.26) Ephraim is head of his camp on the west, and his two. (v.32) And, Dan is the head of his camp on the north, and his two. (v.38)

*20 And the children of **Reuben**, Israel's eldest (firstborn) son, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, by their polls (גִּלְגָּלֹת), every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

21 Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Reuben, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

*eldest, בְּכוֹר, masc. sing. noun, and tss. *firstling, firstborn, eldest, eldest son.**

In the order given here Reuben is first. He is Jacob's firstborn son through His wife Leah. (Ge. 29.32)

Reuben, רְאוּבֵן, a combination of רָאָה, to see a son, Ge. 29.23, See, a son.

Of Reuben there were counted – 46,500

*22 Of the children of **Simeon**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, by their polls (גִּלְגָּלֹת), every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

23 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Simeon, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.*

In the order given here Simeon is second. He was second son born to Jacob and Leah. (Ge.29.33) *Simeon, שִׁמְעוֹן*, of the verb *שָׁמַע*, tss. *to hear, obey, listen*.

Of Simeon there were counted – 59,300

24 *Of the children of **Gad**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (נָסְפָר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

25 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Gad, were forty and five thousand six hundred and fifty. (45,650)*

Levi (which is not here counted) was the third son to born to Jacob through his wife Leah. (Ge.34)

In the order given here Gad is third. He is the seventh son born to Jacob through Zilpah. Gad was her first son. She was Leah's handmaid. *Gad* means a *troop*.

Of Gad there were counted – 45,650

26 *Of the children of **Judah**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (נָסְפָר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

27 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Judah, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.*

In the order given here Judah is fourth. He was the fourth son born to Jacob and Leah. Judah, *יְהוּדָה*, means *praise*. (Ge.29.35)

Of Judah there were counted – 74,600

28 *Of the children of **Issachar**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the (נָסְפָר, account) names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

29 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקְדוּ, counted) them, even of the tribe of Issachar, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.*

In the order given here Issachar is fifth. He was Jacob's ninth son, but Leah's fifth. Issachar means 'an hire'. (Ge.30.17, 18)

Of Issachar there were counted – 54, 400

30 *Of the children of **Zebulun**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

31 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקְדוּ, counted) them, even of the tribe of Zebulun, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.*

In the order given here Zebulun is sixth. He was Jacob's tenth son, but Leah's sixth. Zebulun means 'a dwelling,' from יָבַל, to dwell.

Of Zebulun there were counted – 57,400

32 *Of the children of Joseph, namely, of the children of **Ephraim**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

33 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקְדוּ, counted) them, even of the tribe of Ephraim, were forty thousand and five hundred. (40,500)*

In the order given here Ephraim is seventh. He was the second son born to Joseph of his wife Asenath. Ephraim means *fruitful*. (Ge.41.52)

Of Ephraim there were counted – 40, 500

34 *Of the children of **Manasseh**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

35 *Those that were numbered of (פָּקְדוּ, counted) them, even of the tribe of Manasseh, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.*

In the order given here Manasseh is eighth. He was the firstborn son of Joseph through Asenath. (Ge.41.50, 51) Manasseh means 'forgetting'.

There were counted of Manasseh – 32, 200

*36 Of the children of **Benjamin**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

37 Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Benjamin, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

In the order given here Benjamin is ninth. He was the twelfth son born to Jacob, but Rachel's second son. *Benjamin* means 'son of my right hand'. (Ge.35.18)

Of Benjamin there were counted – 35, 400

*38 Of the children of **Dan**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

39 Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Dan, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred. (62,700)

In the order given here Dan is tenth. He was the fifth son born to Jacob, but Bilhah's first son. *Dan* means 'to judge'. Bilhah is Leah's handmaid. (Ge.29.4-6)

Of Dan there were counted – 62, 700

*40 Of the children of **Asher**, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*

41 Those that were numbered of (פָּקַד, counted) them, even of the tribe of Asher, were forty and one thousand and five hundred. (41,500)

In the order given here Asher is eleventh. He was the eighth son born to Jacob, but Zilpah's second son. Zilpah was Leah's handmaid. *Asher* means 'happy'.

Of Asher there were counted – 41,500

42 *Of the children of **Naphtali**, throughout their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of (מִסְפָּר, account) the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;*
 43 *Those that were numbered of (דָּקַף, counted) them, even of the tribe of Naphtali, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred. (53,400)*

In the order given here Naphtali is twelfth. He was the sixth son born to Jacob, and Bilhah’s second son. Bilhah was Rachel’s handmaid. *Naphtali* means ‘wrestlings’.

Of Naphtali there were counted – 53, 400

The sum total of the census

44 ¶ *These are those that were numbered (דָּקַף, counted), which Moses and Aaron numbered (דָּקַף, counted), and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers.*
 45 *So were all those that were numbered of (דָּקַף, counted) the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel;*
 46 *Even all they that were numbered (דָּקַף, counted) were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty. (603,550) (confirmed in 2.32)*

Census of the 12 Tribes males that were 20+ and able to go to war (Numbers chs.1 & 26)

At the beginning of the sojourning of Israel, excluding Levi, numbered 603,550.

	Jacob’s Sons Names	Paternal Birth Order	Maternal Mothers	Tribe Birth Order	Population
Reuben	1	Leah	1		46,500
Simeon	2	Leah	2		59,300
Gad	7	Zilpah	1		45,650
Judah	4	Leah	4		74,600
Issachar	9	Leah	5		54,400
Zebulun	10	Leah	6		57,400
Ephraim	Joseph’s 2 nd	Asenath	2		40,500
Manasseh	Joseph’s 1 st	Asenath	1		32,200
Benjamin	12	Rachel	2		35,400
Dan	5	Bilhah	1		62,700
Asher	8	Zilpah	2		41,500
Naphtali	6	Bilhah	2		53,400
			Total		603,550

(Interesting that in Nu.1 they are already arranged into groups of threes.
Bolding notes the tribe under which each camp is named)

At the end of the sojourn of Israel, excluding Levi, numbered 601,730.

A comparison before and after the sojourn of Israel

Before the 40 yr. (Nu.1:19-44)		After the 40 yrs. (Nu.26:7-51)	
Reuben	46500	43730	dif. -2,770
Simeon	59300	22200	-37,100
Gad	45650	40500	-5,150
Judah	74600	76500	+1,900
Issachar	54400	64300	+9,900
Zebulon	57400	60500	+3,100
Ephraim	40500	32500	-8,000
Manasseh	32200	52700	+20,500
Benjamin	35400	45600	+10,200
Dan	62700	64400	+1,700
Asher	41500	53400	+11,900
<u>Naphtali</u>	<u>53400</u>	<u>45400</u>	<u>-8,000</u>
Total	603550	601730	-1,820

The camp of Judah increased in number by +14,900 to 201,300
 The camp of Reuben decreased in number by -45,020 to 106,430
 The camp of Ephraim increased in number by +22,700 to 130,800
The camp of Dan increased in number by +5,600 to 163,200
 Diff. in population of the 12 tribes at the end: -1,820 601,730

Simeon suffered the greatest loss -37,100
 Manasseh enjoyed the greatest gain +20,500

Census of the firstborn (Numbers chs. 3, 4)

The census of Israel's firstborn from a month old and upward was at the beginning of the 40 year sojourn numbered 22, 273.

The census of the Levites firstborn from a month old and upward at the beginning of the 40 year sojourn was 22,000 (or 22,300; Nu.3.39) and ended with 23,000 (Nu.26.62).

47 ¶ *But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered (פָּקַד, counted) among them.*

were ... numbered, הִתְפַּקְדוּ, Hothpael pret. 3ppl. of פָּקַד; to visit, reckon, count, punish, to want (lack), charge.

The tribe of Levi was not numbered *among them*. (cf. 2.33)

48 *For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,*

49 Only thou shalt not number (פָּקַד, count, v.3, 19, 49) the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them (neither shall you lift up their heads, v.2) among the children of Israel:

50 But thou shalt appoint (פָּקַד, also count, number) the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

51 And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

shall be put to death, יוּמָת, Hophal (causative passive) fut. 3ps. masc. of מוֹת; to be put to death, or to be slain.

In chapters 3, 4 the Levites are appointed their places and service in the camp and a census is taken of certain of them.

52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts (or, armies).

his own standard, עַל־דָּגְלוֹ, עַל, is a part. prep. tss. upon, in, over, by, for, against, according to, after, beyond, between, above, etc.; דָּגְלוֹ is a masc. noun w/a 3psm. suffix, דָּגַל; tss. standard and banner (Cant.2.4); the verb, דָּגַל, is to set up a standard, banner, to be a standard bearer.

53 But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony. (described in Nu.3.26-37)

54 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

Chapter 2

Rather than reading chapter two I'd only like to point out a couple of things in it. The camps are assembled into groups of three, ordered under one main tribe, and appointed their positions around the outermost boundaries around the

tabernacle. The east camp is named after the tribe of Judah. They are Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. The south camp is named after the tribe of Reuben. They are Reuben, Simeon, and Gad. The west camp is named after the tribe of Ephraim. They are Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. The north camp is named after the tribe of Dan. They are Dan, Asher, and Naphtali.

The chapter also repeats the numbers of the males in each tribe that are 20+ years of age and fit for war, as well as the sum total of this part of the entire camp, which total is 603,550.

And as in chapter one, the Levites were not to be counted with Israel in this particular census. (cf. 1.47-53; 2.33, 34)

Chapter 2

1 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

*2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: **far off** about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.*

And following is the order of each of the four camps set up *far off* on the outermost borders of the entire camp around the tabernacle.

3 ¶ And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.

4 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

5 And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar.

6 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

7 Then the tribe of Zebulun: and Eliab the son of Helon shall be captain of the children of Zebulun.

8 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

9 All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

10 On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur.

11 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

12 And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon: and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

13 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

14 Then the tribe of Gad: and the captain of the sons of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel.

Reuel or Deuel (cf.1.14). The difference in the Hebrew characters is ר, resh or ד, daleth.

15 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and five thousand and six hundred and fifty.

16 All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

17 Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.

18 On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud.

19 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty thousand and five hundred.

20 And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

21 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

22 Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideon.

23 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

24 All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank.

25 The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

27 And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran.

28 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and one thousand and five hundred.

29 Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan.

30 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

31 All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards.

A confirmation of the total number tallied in this census. (cf.1.46)

32 These are those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.

Moses took a census of certain of every tribe in Israel, divided the tribes into their camp and had them take their places all in under a span of three weeks. Israel sets out on their sojourn to Canaan on the twentieth of this month. (cf. 10.11)