

First Census of the Twelve Tribes (1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 1

Historical/Chronological Setting

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, in the tent of assembly, on *the* first of the month, in the second year after they came out of the land of Egypt, saying,

Instructions for the Military Conscription Census

2 “Take a census of the entire community of the Israelites according to their clans and their families, according to *the* number of names, every male individually

3 from twenty years old and above, everyone in Israel who *is able* to go to war. You and Aaron must muster them for their wars.

4 A man from each tribe will be with you, each man the head of his family.

5 And these *are* the names of the men who will assist you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;

6 from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;

7 from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;

8 from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;

9 from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon.

10 From the descendants of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

11 From Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni;

12 from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;

13 from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran;

14 from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;

15 *and* from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.”

16 These *are* the ones summoned from the community, the leaders of their ancestors’ tribes; they *are* the heads of Israel’s clans.

Moses Directs the Census

17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name,

18 and they summoned the entire community on *the* first day of the second month. And they registered themselves among their clans according to their families, according to *the* number of names from those twenty years old and above individually,

19 just as Yahweh commanded Moses. And he counted them in the desert of Sinai.

Census Results by Tribe (excluding Levi)

20 The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, every male individually from twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

21 those who were counted from the tribe of Reuben were forty-six thousand five hundred.

22 From the descendants of Simeon, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, those who were counted according to *the* number of their names, every individual male from twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

23 those who were counted from the tribe of Simeon were fifty-nine thousand three hundred.

24 From the descendants of Gad, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

25 those who were counted from the tribe of Gad were forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty.

26 From the descendants of Judah, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

27 those who were counted from the tribe of Judah were seventy-four thousand six hundred.

28 From the descendants of Issachar, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

29 those who were counted from the tribe of Issachar were fifty-four thousand four hundred.

30 From the descendants of Zebulun, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

31 those who were counted from the tribe of Zebulun were fifty-seven thousand four hundred.

32 From the descendants of Joseph: from the descendants of Ephraim, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

33 those who were counted from the tribe of Ephraim were forty thousand five hundred.

34 From the descendants of Manasseh, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

35 those who were counted from the tribe of Manasseh were thirty-two thousand two hundred.

36 From the descendants of Benjamin, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

37 those who were counted from the tribe of Benjamin were thirty-five thousand four hundred.

- 38 From the descendants of Dan, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:
 39 those who were counted from the tribe of Dan were sixty-two thousand seven hundred.
 40 From the descendants of Asher, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:
 41 those who were counted from the tribe of Asher were forty-one thousand five hundred.
 42 From the descendants of Naphtali, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:
 43 those who were counted from the tribe of Naphtali were fifty-three thousand four hundred.

Census Summary and Total

- 44 These *are* the ones counted whom Moses and Aaron mustered, with the twelve leaders of Israel, each one from his family.
 45 So all those who were counted from the Israelites according to their families, from those twenty years old and above, everyone in Israel who *is able* to go to war.
 46 All of the ones counted were six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty.

Uncounted Levites Dedicated to Tabernacle Service

- 47 The Levites from their ancestors' tribe were not mustered in their midst.
 48 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 49 "You will not muster the tribe of Levi, and you will not take a census of them in the midst of the Israelites.
 50 You will appoint them over the tabernacle of the testimony, over all its vessels, and over all that belongs to it. They will carry the tabernacle and all its vessels, and they will care for it; and they will camp around the tabernacle.
 51 And when the tabernacle is set out, the Levites will take it down, and when encamping the tabernacle the Levites will set it up; the stranger that approaches *it* will be put to death.
 52 The Israelites will encamp, each in their own camp, and each by their own banner according to their divisions.
 53 But the Levites will encamp around the tabernacle of the testimony, and there will not be wrath on the community of the Israelites; and the Levites will keep the requirements of the tabernacle of the testimony."

Census Conclusion: Faithful Obedience

- 54 And the Israelites did thus; they did everything that Yahweh commanded Moses.

Organization of the Camp (c. 1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 2

Introduction

- 1 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
 2 "The Israelites will encamp each with his standard, with a banner according to their families; they will encamp around the tent of assembly.

East Side—Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

- 3 The ones who encamp on the eastern side, toward the sunrise, *will be* of the standard of the camp of Judah according to their divisions; and the leader of the descendants of Judah *will be* Nahshon son of Amminadab,
 4 and his division and the ones counted *are* seventy-four thousand six hundred.
 5 And the ones who encamp next to him *will be* the tribe of Issachar. And the leader of the descendants of Issachar *will be* Nethanel son of Zuar,
 6 and his division *are* fifty-four thousand four hundred.
 7 For the tribe of Zebulun: the leader of the descendants of Zebulun *will be* Eliab son of Helon,
 8 and his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-seven thousand four hundred.
 9 All those counted from the camp of Judah *are* one hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred. They will set out first according to their divisions.

South Side—Reuben, Simeon, Gad

- 10 "The standard of the camp of Reuben *will be* to the south according to their divisions. The leader of the descendants *will be* Elizur son of Shedeur.
 11 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-six thousand five hundred.
 12 Those encamped next to him *will be* the tribe of Simeon. The leader of the descendants of Simeon *will be* Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.
 13 And his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-nine thousand three hundred.

14 For the tribe of Gad: the leader of the descendants of Gad *will be* Eliasaph son of Reuel.

15 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty.

16 All those counted from the camp of Reuben *are* one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and fifty. They will set out second according to their divisions.

The Tabernacle

17 “The tent of assembly the camp of the Levites will set out in the midst of the camps; they will set out just as they encamped, each according to their standards.

West Side—Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin

18 “The standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their divisions *will be* to the west. The leader of the descendants of Ephraim *will be* Elishama son of Ammihud.

19 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty thousand five hundred.

20 The tribe of Manasseh *will be* next to him. The leader of the descendants of the tribe of Manasseh *will be* Camaliel son of Pedahzur.

21 And his division and the ones counted *are* thirty-two thousand two hundred.

22 For the tribe of Benjamin: the leader of the descendants of Benjamin *will be* Abidan son of Gideoni.

23 And his division and the ones counted *are* thirty-five thousand four hundred.

24 All those counted from the camp of Ephraim *are* one hundred and eighty thousand one hundred. They will set out third according to their divisions.

North Side—Dan, Asher, Naphtali

25 “The standard of the camp of Dan according to their divisions *will be* to the west. The leader of the descendants of Dan *will be* Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

26 And his division and the ones counted *are* sixty-two thousand seven hundred.

27 Those encamped next to him *will be* the tribe of Asher. The leader of the descendants of Asher *will be* Pagiel son of Ocran.

28 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-one thousand five hundred.

29 For the tribe of Naphtali: the leader of the descendants of Naphtali *will be* Ahira son of Enan.

30 And his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-three thousand four hundred.

31 All the ones counted from the camp of Dan *are* one hundred and fifty-seven thousand six hundred. They will set out last according to their divisions.”

Summary and Total

32 These *were* the ones counted of the Israelites according to their families; all those counted from the camps according to their divisions *were* six hundred and three thousand five hundred.

33 The Levites were not counted in the midst of the Israelites, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

Conclusion: Faithful Obedience

34 And the Israelites did everything that Yahweh commanded Moses. They encamped according to their standards, and they set out each one according to their clans among their families.

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