

**Second Census of Israel (September–December 1407 BC)****Numbers 26****Census Instructions**

- 1 And it happened after the plague, Yahweh said to Moses and to Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saying,  
2 “Take a census of the community of the Israelites from those twenty years old and above, according to their families, all who are able to go out to war in Israel.”  
3 So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them on the desert-plateau of Moab by *the Jordan across from* Jericho, saying,  
4 “Take a census of the community from those twenty years old and above, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.” The Israelites who went out from the land of Egypt *were*:

**Reuben’s Descendants**

- 5 Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, the descendants of Reuben: *of* Hanoch, the clan of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the clan of the Palluites;  
6 of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the clan of the Carmites.  
7 These *are* the clans of the Reubenites, and the ones counted of them were forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty.  
8 The children of Pallu: Eliab.  
9 The children of Eliab: Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These *are the same* Dathan and Abiram who *were* appointed of the community, who rebelled against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they rebelled against Yahweh,  
10 and the land opened its mouth and swallowed them with Korah, when that company died, when the fire consumed two hundred and fifty men, and they were a sign.  
11 The children of Korah, however, did not die.

**Simeon’s Descendants**

- 12 The descendants of Simeon, according to their clans: of Nemuel, the clan of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the clan of the Jaminites; of Jakin, the clan of the Jakinites;  
13 of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the clan of the Shaulites.  
14 These *were* the clans of the Simeonites, twenty-two thousand two hundred.

**Gad’s Descendants**

- 15 The descendants of Gad according to their clans: of Zephon, the clan of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the clan of the Haggites; of Shuni, the clan of the Shunites;  
16 of Ozni, the clan of the Oznites; of Eri, the clan of the Erites;  
17 of Arod, the clan of the Arodites; of Areli, the clan of the Arelites;  
18 These *were* the clans of the descendants of Gad according to the ones counted of them, forty thousand five hundred.

**Judah’s Descendants**

- 19 The sons of Judah: Er and Onan; but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.  
20 The descendants of Judah according to their clans *were*: of Shelah, the clan of the Shelanites; of Perez, the clan of the Perezites; of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites.  
21 The children of Perez were: of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the clan of the Hamulites.  
22 These *were* the clans of Judah according to the ones counted of them, seventy-six thousand five hundred.

**Issachar’s Descendants**

- 23 The descendants of Issachar according to their clans: *of* Tola, the clan of the Tolaites; of Puvah, the clan of the Punites;  
24 of Jashub, the clans of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the clan of the Shimronites.  
25 These *were* the clans of Issachar according to the ones counted of them, sixty-four thousand three hundred.

**Zebulun’s Descendants**

- 26 The descendants of Zebulun according to their clans: of Sered, the clan of the Seredites; of Elon, the clan of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the clan of the Jahleelites.  
27 These *were* the clans of the Zebulunites according to the ones counted of them, sixty thousand five hundred.

**Joseph—Manasseh’s Descendants**

- 28 The descendants of Joseph according to their clans: Manasseh and Ephraim.  
29 The descendants of Manasseh: of Makir, the clan of the Makirites. And Makir fathered Gilead; of Gilead, the clan of the Gileadites.  
30 These *were* the descendants of Gilead: *of* Iezer, the clan of the Iezerites; of Helek, the clan of the Helekites;  
31 and *of* Asriel, the clan of the Asrielites; and *of* Shechem, the clan of the Shechemites;  
32 and *of* Shemida, the clan of the Shemidaites; and *of* Hopher, the clan of the Hopherites.  
33 Zelophehad son of Hopher did not have sons, but only daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad *were* Mahlah,

Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

34 These *were* the clans of Manasseh, and the ones counted of them *were* fifty-two thousand seven hundred.

#### **Joseph—Ephraim's Descendants**

35 These *were* the descendants of Ephraim according to their clans: of Shuthelah, the clan of the Shuthelahites; of Beker, the clan of the Bekerites; of Tahan, the clan of the Tahanites.

36 And these *were* the descendants of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

37 These *were* the clans of the descendants of Ephraim according to the ones counted of them, thirty-two thousand five hundred. These *were* the descendants of Joseph according to their clans.

#### **Benjamin's Descendants**

38 The descendants of Benjamin according to their clans: of Bela, the clan of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the clan of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the clan of the Ahiramites;

39 of Shephupham, the clan of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the clan of the Huphamites.

40 The sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: *of Ard*, the clan of the Ardites; of Naaman, the clan of the Naamites.

41 These *were* the descendants of Benjamin according to their clans. And the ones counted of them *were* forty-five thousand six hundred.

#### **Dan's Descendants**

42 These *were* the descendants of Dan according to their clans: of Shuham, the clan of the Shuhamites. These *were* the clans of Dan according to their clans.

43 All the clans of the Shuhamites, according to the ones counted of them, *were* sixty-four thousand four hundred.

#### **Asher's Descendants**

44 The descendants of Asher according to their clans: of Imnah, the clan of the Imnahites; of Ishvi, the clan of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the clan of the Beriahites.

45 The descendants of Beriah: of Heber, the clan of the Heberites; of Malkiel, the clan of the Malkielites.

46 The name of the daughter of Asher *was* Serah.

47 These *were* the clans of the descendants of Asher according to the ones counted of them, fifty-three thousand four hundred.

#### **Naphtali's Descendants**

48 The descendants of Naphtali according to their clans: of Jahzeel, the clan of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the clan of the Gunites;

49 of Jezer, the clan of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the clan of the Shillemites.

50 These *were* the clans of Naphtali according to their clans, the ones counted of them, forty-five thousand four hundred.

#### **Total (net decline of 1,820 or around 0.3%)**

51 These *were* the ones counted of the Israelites, six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty.

#### **Instructions for the Division of the Land**

52 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

53 "For these the land must be divided as an inheritance according to the number of names.

54 For the larger group you must increase their inheritance, and for the smaller group you must make smaller their inheritance; each must be given their inheritance according to the number of the ones counted of them.

55 Surely the land will be divided by lot. They will inherit according to the names of the tribes of their ancestors.

56 Their inheritance must be divided according to the lot between the larger and smaller *groups*."

#### **Levi's Descendants**

57 These *are* the ones counted of the Levites according to their clans: of Gershon, the clan of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the clan of the Kohathites; of Merari, the clan of the Merarites.

58 These *are* the clans of Levi: the clan of the Libnites, the clan of the Hebronites, the clan of the Mahlites, the clan of the Mushites, the clan of the Korahites. Kohath fathered Amram.

59 The name of the wife of Amram *was* Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whose *mother* bore her for Levi in Egypt; she bore to Amram: Aaron and Moses and their sister Miriam.

60 To Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

61 But Nadab and Abihu died when they presented strange fire before Yahweh.

#### **Conclusion of the Second Census**

62 The ones counted were twenty-three thousand, every male from a month old and above, because they were not counted in the midst of the Israelites since no inheritance was given to them in the midst of the Israelites.

63 These *were* the ones counted by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who counted the Israelites on the desert-plateau of Moab on *the*

Jordan *across* Jericho.

64 And among these there was not a man of those counted by Moses and Aaron the priest, who counted the Israelites in the desert of Sinai.

65 For Yahweh said to them, “They will surely die in the desert.” And not a man was left over from them, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

### Case Law—Daughters of Zelophehad (September–December 1407 BC)

Numbers 27:1–11

#### The Case Presented

1 Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, of the clan of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came near; and these *were* the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, and Tirzah.

2 They stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the leaders of the entire community *at* the doorway of the tent of assembly, saying,

3 “Our father died in the desert; he was not in the midst of the company of those who banded together against Yahweh in the company of Korah, but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons.

4 Why should the name of our father disappear from the midst of his clan because he does not have a son? Give us property in the midst of the brothers of our father.”

5 So Moses brought their case before Yahweh.

#### Case Decision and Derived Principles

6 And Yahweh said to Moses, saying,

7 “The statements of the daughters of Zelophehad are right. You must surely give them *the* property of an inheritance in the midst of their father’s brothers, and you must transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

8 And you must speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘If a man dies and has no son, you must transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

9 And if he has no daughter, you must give his inheritance to his brothers.

10 If he has no brothers, then you must give his inheritance to his father’s brothers.

11 If his father has no brothers, then you must give his inheritance to his nearest relative from his own clan, and he will take possession of it. It will be as a decree of stipulation for the Israelites, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.”

### Moses Commissions Joshua as His Successor (September–December 1407 BC)

Numbers 27:12–23

#### Yahweh Foretells Moses’ Approaching Death

12 Yahweh said to Moses, “Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land that I have given to the Israelites.

13 When you see it, you will be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother was gathered,

14 because you rebelled against my word in the desert of Zin when the community quarreled regarding my holiness at the waters.” (These *are* the waters of Meribah-Kadesh *in* the desert of Zin.)

#### Moses, Concerned for the People, Entreats Yahweh to Appoint a New Leader

15 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

16 “Let Yahweh, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the community [cf. [Heb 12:9](#)]

17 who will go out before them and will come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so the community of Yahweh will not be like a flock that does not have a shepherd.”

#### Yahweh’s Instructions for Moses’ Successor

18 Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is *the* spirit, and place your hand on him.

19 Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the entire community, and commission him in their sight.

20 You will give to him from your authority so that the entire community of Israel will obey him.

21 He will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will ask for him by the decision of the Urim before Yahweh. On his command they will go out, and at his command they will come in, *both* he and all of the Israelites with him, the entire community.”

#### Moses Commissions Joshua to Lead the People After His Death

22 Moses did just as Yahweh commanded him, and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before the entire community.

23 And he placed his hands on him and commissioned him just as Yahweh spoke by the hand of Moses.