

March 8 Answers

- 1) The second census of Israel was taken after the plague at Peor. Thirty-eight years had passed since the first census recorded in Numbers. Just like the first, this census was taken to record all men aged twenty and over who were fit for military service (Num 26:2). Since God had just announced a campaign against Midian (Num 25:16–18), and the conquest of Canaan was imminent, a military census was appropriate. However, there was another reason for the census: to determine the relative sizes of the tribes so they could receive a territorial allotment which was proportional to their population. The total was almost the same as it was at Sinai (601,730 as opposed to 603,550), but there was not a single man left alive from the **first** census. All of them except **Caleb** and **Joshua** died in the wilderness just as God said they would (Num 26:63–65). This shows us the terrible cost of **rebellion** against God. It also teaches us that although God's promises may be delayed by sin, they will ultimately be **fulfilled**. Moses was now **120** years old, and God told him that his death was approaching quickly. Concerned for the people, Moses asked God to appoint Israel a new leader. God personally chose **Joshua** as Moses' successor, and Moses commissioned him before all the congregation. This shows us the importance of **succession** planning. Leaders would do well to follow Moses' example: **pray**, select, commission, and **train** (Joshua was **co-leader** with Moses during a transition period that ended with Moses' death).