

## Numbers 26:1-51 **Numbering the Army after 40 years in Wilderness**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, after the plague, that the LORD spoke to Moses and Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying: <sup>2</sup> "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel from twenty years old and above, by their fathers' houses, all who are able to go to war in Israel." <sup>3</sup> So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying: <sup>4</sup> "Take a census of the people from twenty years old and above, just as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt."

### Reuben = 43,730

<sup>5</sup> Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. The children of Reuben were: of Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the family of the Palluites; <sup>6</sup> of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the family of the Carmites. <sup>7</sup> These are the families of the Reubenites: those who were numbered of them were forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty. <sup>8</sup> And the son of Pallu was Eliab. <sup>9</sup> The sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, representatives of the congregation, who contended against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they contended against the LORD; <sup>10</sup> and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign. <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.

### Simeon = 22,200

<sup>12</sup> The sons of Simeon according to their families were: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites; <sup>13</sup> of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites; of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites. <sup>14</sup> These are the families of the Simeonites: twenty-two thousand two hundred.

### Gad = 40,500

<sup>15</sup> The sons of Gad according to their families were: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the family of the Haggites; of Shuni, the family of the Shunites; <sup>16</sup> of Ozni, the family of the Oznites; of Eri, the family of the Erites; <sup>17</sup> of Arod, the family of the Arodites; of Areli, the family of the Arelites. <sup>18</sup> These are the families of the sons of Gad according to those who were numbered of them: forty thousand five hundred.

### Judah = 76,500

<sup>19</sup> The sons of Judah were Er and Onan; and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. <sup>20</sup> And the sons of Judah according to their families were: of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites; of Perez, the family of the Parzites; of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites. <sup>21</sup> And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites. <sup>22</sup> These are the families of Judah according to those who were numbered of them: seventy-six thousand five hundred.

### Issachar = 64,300

<sup>23</sup> The sons of Issachar according to their families were: of Tola, the family of the Tolaites; of Puah, the family of the Punites; <sup>24</sup> of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites. <sup>25</sup> These are the families of Issachar according to those who were numbered of them: sixty-four thousand three hundred.

### Zebulun = 60,500

<sup>26</sup> The sons of Zebulun according to their families were: of Sered, the family of the Sardites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites. <sup>27</sup> These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those who were numbered of them: sixty thousand five hundred.

#### Manasseh = 52,700

<sup>28</sup> The sons of Joseph according to their families, by Manasseh and Ephraim, were: <sup>29</sup> The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir begot Gilead; of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites. <sup>30</sup> These are the sons of Gilead: of Jeezer, the family of the Jeezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites; <sup>31</sup> of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites; <sup>32</sup> of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites. <sup>33</sup> Now Zelophehad the son of Hephher had no sons, but daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. <sup>34</sup> These are the families of Manasseh; and those who were numbered of them were fifty-two thousand seven hundred.

#### Ephraim = 32,500

<sup>35</sup> These are the sons of Ephraim according to their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites; of Becher, the family of the Bachrites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites. <sup>36</sup> And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites. <sup>37</sup> These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those who were numbered of them: thirty-two thousand five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph according to their families.

#### Benjamin = 45,600

<sup>38</sup> The sons of Benjamin according to their families were: of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites; <sup>39</sup> of Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites. <sup>40</sup> And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites. <sup>41</sup> These are the sons of Benjamin according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand six hundred.

#### Dan = 64,600

<sup>42</sup> These are the sons of Dan according to their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan according to their families. <sup>43</sup> All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those who were numbered of them, were sixty-four thousand four hundred.

#### Asher = 53,400

<sup>44</sup> The sons of Asher according to their families were: of Jimna, the family of the Jimnites; of Jesui, the family of the Jesuites; of Beriah, the family of the Beriites. <sup>45</sup> Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites. <sup>46</sup> And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah. <sup>47</sup> These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those who were numbered of them: fifty-three thousand four hundred.

#### Naphtali = 45,400

<sup>48</sup> The sons of Naphtali according to their families were: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites; <sup>49</sup> of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites. <sup>50</sup> These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand four hundred.

#### Total Army Numbered = 601,730

51 These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel: six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ After Israel had been tested through the counsel of Balaam, when the women of Moab and Midian invited them to the sacrifices of their pagan gods, the people of Israel ate the things sacrificed to their gods and bowed down to their gods, which resulted in the plague that left Israel with 24,000 dead. [Numbers 25:1-9, 31:16, 2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11, Revelation 2:14]
- ✧ Now before they are to enter the Promised Land to inherit it, God stops to number the army, as a contrast with the number 40 years earlier when God first commanded them to enter the land and inherit it.
- ✧ At the first numbering, the count for the army was 603,550 men able to go to war. [Numbers 1:1-46]
- ✧ Now at the point of actually entering the land for inheritance the army numbers 601,730 men able to go to war. [Numbers 26:1-51]
- ✧ The complaint of the People when they refused the first command to inherit the Promised Land was:
  - ◇ "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." [Numbers 14:1-4]
- ✧ Now the very children they feared should become victims, are the ones who make up the army that numbers 1,820 fewer than the first numbering, and yet they are strong enough and believing God enough and actually conquer the land.
- ✧ God thus demonstrated that it is not the doing of man, but of God that gains the victory in battle.

The first numbering compared to the second numbering

First Numbering	Second Numbering
Reuben 46,500	Reuben 43,730
Simeon 59,300	Simeon 22,200
Gad 45,650	Gad 40,500
Judah 74,600	Judah 76,500
Issachar 54,400	Issachar 64,300
Zebulun 57,400	Zebulun 60,500
Ephraim 40,500	Ephraim 32,500
Manasseh 32,200	Manasseh 52,700
Benjamin 35,400	Benjamin 45,600
Dan 62,700	Dan 64,400
Asher 41,500	Asher 53,400
Naphtali 53,400	Naphtali 45,400
Total 603,550	Total 601,730

- ✧ The Abiram and Dathan, who joined Korah in his rebellion against Moses and Aaron when the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them alive, were leaders and representatives from the tribe of Reuben. [Numbers 16:1-40, 26:5-11] Korah was from the tribe of Levi, descendant from the Levite tribe of Kohath. [Numbers 16:1] The fire of Yehowah devoured the 250 men who were with Korah in his rebellion. However the children of Korah did not die.

- ✧ The sons of Judah who died in the land of Canaan were Er and Onan. [[Genesis 38:1-11, 46:12](#)]
- ✧ Zelophehad from the tribe of Manasseh had no sons, so special arrangements had to be made for his inheritance in the Promised Land. [[Numbers 26:33, 27:1-11, 36:1-12, Joshua 17:1-6](#)]