

YOUR JOURNEY TO JESUS

Bible Study Group



He Changes the Hearts and
Minds of All Who Receive Him

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Bible Study Notes

Numbers 26: The Second Census of Israel

Good evening, welcome to our Friday Night Bible Study. Tonight we begin our study of Numbers 26. In this chapter, God commands Moses to take a second census of Israel. We will be reading and discussing the twelve tribes as they relate to this chapter; the topics in this chapter include:

- Reuben (verses 1-11)
- Simeon (verses 12-14)
- Gad (verses 15-18)
- Judah (verses 19-22)
- Issachar (verses 23-25)
- Zebulun (verses 26-27)
- Joseph (verses 28-37)
- Benjamin (verses 38-41)
- Dan (verses 42-43)
- Asher (verses 44-47)
- Nephtali (verses 48-56)
- Levi (verses 57-65)

According to Numbers 1, the first census was taken in the Wilderness of Sinai. At that time, the Lord spoke to Moses in the tabernacle of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt. The first census was taken of all the congregation of the children of Israel; by their families, by their fathers houses, according to the number of names; every male individually, from twenty years old and above, all those who were able to go to war in Israel. Moses and Aaron numbered them by their armies. The Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel. The tribe of the Levites were gathered and encamped around the tabernacle, in the rear on each side; according to their families ([Numbers 1:47-54](#); [Numbers 2:25-32](#); [Numbers 3:1-20](#); [Numbers 3:40-51](#)).

Moses did not take a census of Israel unless God commanded him to do so. We see in [1 Chronicles 21:1-30](#) where David made the mistake of calling for a census of Israel without

God's command to do so, and this displeased God; as a result, David suffered the consequences of his actions concerning the matter. In Numbers 26, at this point, many had died because of their disobedience and rebellion; therefore it was necessary to take a count. Even today, the disobedience and rebellion against the Lord our God has brought into the earth death and destruction, which has cost the lives of many ([Matthew 10:34-39](#); [Revelation 6:1-16](#)).

For the purpose of clarity in what we are reading and discussing in this chapter; we will revisit the grouping of the armies who would fight in Israel. In Numbers 2, the armies were gathered, grouped, and encamped around the tabernacle; and to each was given marching orders in preparation of the long journey ahead of them; just as we have been given marching orders in preparation of the journey ahead of us ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [John 13:34-35](#)). See the attachment for the commands given to the tribes.

Just as the Lord our God positioned His people back then, He has positioned His people in the world today. From the city of our God in His Holy mountain, we are situated within the boundaries of the North, South, East, and West; and from all of these places, God will gather His elect ([Genesis 13:14-17](#); [Psalm 107:1-3](#); [Luke 13:22-30](#); [Matthew 24:29-31](#); [Revelation 7:1-3](#); [Ephesians 1:7-14](#)).

Children of God, ready yourselves. Let us not be deceived by all the strange doctrines that have been, and are being introduced into the world today; for so many of them are not the truth of God's word ([1 Timothy 4:1-5](#); [1 John 4:1-3](#); [1 John 2:18-24](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#)). Many were sent into the earth to warn us about the coming deceptions, even God's only begotten Son Jesus Christ; but many rejected them then, and are still rejecting them today. In this world, there are many who refuse to believe and receive the truth of God's word; but do not join hands with those who stand in unbelief, come out from among them ([Matthew 21:33-44](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#); [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#); [John 8:37-47](#)).

Forfeiting Entry Into the Place God Prepared for His People

- [Numbers 14:11-25](#) (Moses intercedes on behalf of the people)
- [Numbers 14:26-38](#) (Only those who are twenty years old and above will enter into the promised land)
- [Numbers 16:1-34](#) (Some died for rebelling against Moses and Aaron)
- [Numbers 16:41-50](#) (Those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident)
- [Deuteronomy 1:34-46](#) (Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers)
- [Numbers 21:4-9](#) (God commanded Moses to make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live)

Entry Into the Place God Prepared for His People

- [John 3:1-21](#) (Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God)
- [John 12:34-36](#) (The Son of Man must be lifted up; but who is the Son of Man)
- [John 8:23-36](#) (When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He)
- [John 6:35-50](#) (I am the bread which came down from heaven)
- [John 12:34-40](#) (Although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him)
- [John 19:17-22](#) (And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him)

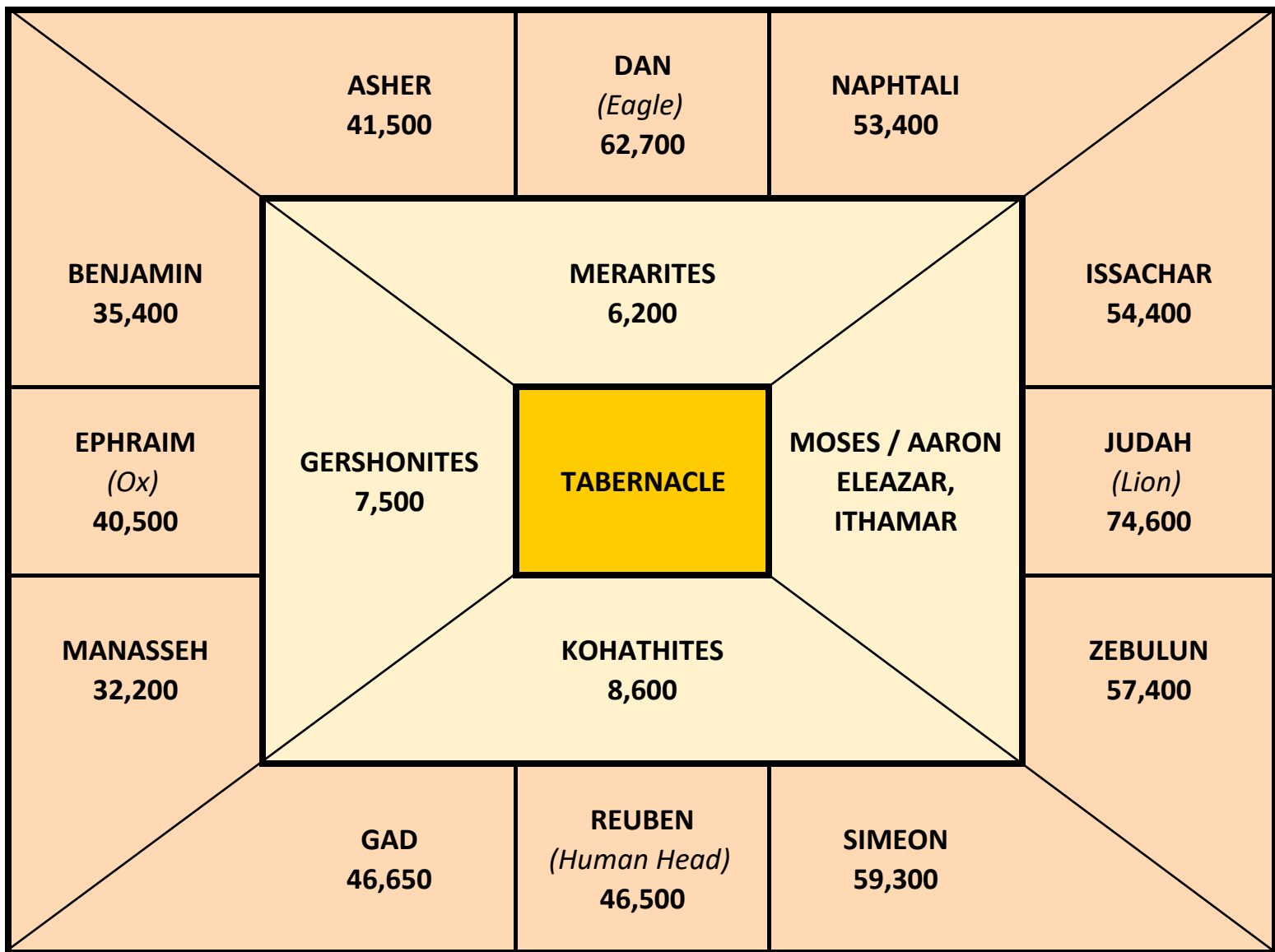
The Tribes and Armies of Israel ([Numbers 1:1-46](#))

- **On the East side of the tabernacle:** The tribes of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun (186,400); these would be the first to break camp ([Numbers 2:3-9](#)).
- **On the South side of the tabernacle:** The tribes of Gad, Reuben, and Simeon (151,450); these would be the second to break camp ([Numbers 2:10-17](#)).
- **On the West side of the tabernacle:** The tribes of Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh (108,100); these would be the third to break camp ([Numbers 2:18-24](#)).
- **On the North side of the tabernacle:** The tribes of Asher, Dan, and Naphtali (157,600); these would be the fourth to break camp ([Numbers 2:25-32](#)).

The Tribe of the Levites ([Numbers 3:1-51](#))

- **Encamped on the West side of the tabernacle:** The Gershonites (7,500 which included the families of the Libnites and Shimites). Their appointed duties included the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, the screen for the door of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords, according to all the work relating to them ([Numbers 3:21-26](#)).
- **Encamped on the South side of the tabernacle:** The Amramites (8,600 which included the families of the Kohathites, Izharites, Hebronites, and Uzzielites). Their appointed duties included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the screen, and all the work relating to them ([Numbers 3:27-32](#)).
- **Encamped on the North side of the tabernacle:** The Merarites (6,200 which included the families of the Mahlites, Mushites, Hebronites, and Uzzielites). Their appointed duties included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the screen, and all the work relating to them ([Numbers 3:33-37](#)).
- **Encamped on the East side of the tabernacle:** Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons (Ithamar and Eleazar). Their appointed duties included keeping charge of the sanctuary, to meet the needs of the children of Israel; any outsider who came near was to be put to death ([Numbers 3:38-39](#)).

TRIBES OF ISRAEL - ENCAMPMENT AROUND THE TABERNACLE NUMBERS 2, 3



604,550

Tribes of Israel

[Numbers 2:32-33;](#)

[Numbers 2:1-33](#)

22,300

[Numbers 3:14-39;](#)

[Numbers 3:40-43](#)

The tribes of Israel camped under four banners, and the standards for each tribe; and each tribe is represented on the breastplate of the high priest:

Ezekiel 1:10	The tribal banners described in Ezekiel's vision of God.
Ezekiel 10:14	
Revelation 4:7	The tribal banners described in John's vision of the throne room of heaven.
Deuteronomy 33:17	The tribal banner of Manasseh as identified by Moses as he delivers his final blessing on Israel.
Genesis 49:8-10	The tribal banner of Reuben as identified by Jacob before he died.
Exodus 28:9-12	Breastplate of the priestly garment, the stones on the breastplate that represented the tribe of Israel and the order of the tribes.
Exodus 28:17-21	
Exodus 39:10-14	
Revelation 21:19-20	The precious stones that adorned the 12 foundations in new Jerusalem
Genesis 28:10-14	God said that Jacob's seed would be spread abroad to the west, east, north and south; and in his seed the families of the earth would be blessed