

BAMIDBAR



ALIYA-BY-ALIYA SEDRA SUMMARY



Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Director of
RCA Israel Region



1st aliya (Bamidbar 1:1-19) On Rosh Chodesh Iyar of the second year since leaving Egypt,

Moshe and Aharon are to take a census of all men over the age of 20. The leaders of each tribe are to assist. These leaders are named. Moshe, Aharon and the leaders gather the people who establish to which tribe each person belongs.

Sefer Bamidbar is the march to the Land of Israel. Truly the march to the Promised Land. The Promise of the Land was made to Avraham. And Yitzchak. And Yaakov. And to Moshe at the burning bush. Moshe was told at the burning bush that G-d would take the people out of Egypt because of the promise He made. To give them the Land of Israel. That has been the goal from the time of Avraham.

Now, living in the Land comes with a rich landscape. You are to settle the Land. But overlaid with an intimate connection to Me. I, G-d says, will dwell in the Mikdash. You will approach me. And you will settle this Land, my Land, proximate to Me. Sefer Vayikra laid out this landscape, this overlay of holiness, of nearness to G-d.

Now it is time for it to happen. And the

move from the idyllic, the theoretical, to the real world of human beings is oh so tricky. We know the end of the story – but at this point we are merely one year from Egypt and preparing to march to the Land. Bamidbar is the dawn of the march to the Land.



2nd aliya (1:20-54) The census, by tribe, of all men over the age of 20, the age of army service is

presented. The tribe of Reuven: 46,500. Shimon: 59,300. Gad: 46,500. Yehuda: 74,600. Yissachar: 54,400. Zevulun: 57,400. Ephraim: 40,500. Menashe: 32,200. Bin-yamin: 35,400. Dan: 62,700. Asher: 41,500. Naftali: 53,400. The total of this census done by Moshe and Aharon and the 12 leaders of the tribes was 603,550. However, the tribe of Levi is not included. They are to safeguard the Mishkan: camping around the Mishkan, transporting it, dismantling and assembling it. The tribes camp in distinct groups, while the Leviim encamp around the Mishkan.

This is the accountants parsha. Lots of numbers. While there were 12 sons of Yaakov, Levi is not a part of this census. That leaves 11 tribes. There is no tribe of Yosef; his 2 sons, Ephraim and Menashe take their place alongside their uncles as full tribes. Hence, 12 tribes even without Levi.

While this book is called Bamidbar, in the desert, in English it is called Numbers. Apt. Somewhat. But I like the Talmud's appellation: Pekudim. Which can be translated as Numbers. Or, as in modern Hebrew, Pakid, the person with the designated job. The count and the numbers is preparation for the armed march into Israel. All have a role to play. But the accountants will notice that the tribes vary significantly in size.

They all started out at the same time, sons of Yaakov. This is a hint at the prominent theme of differences. The tribes are different in name. In size. Later we will see, in encampment. While marching to the same destination, the Jewish people will always enjoy variation. Managing the variation is one of the themes of this book.



3rd aliya (2:1-34) The tribes are to camp in a designated manner. For each of the tribes the

name of their Nasi, the number of their tribe and the place in the formation is given. On the east side, the front, is Yehuda, Yissachar and Zevulun. Their combined number is 186,400. On the south side is Reuven, Shimon and Gad. Their combined number is 151,450. The Ohel Moed, surrounded by Levi, both camps and travels in the middle. On the west side is Ephraim, Menashe and Binyamin. Their combined number is 108,100. On the north side is Dan, Asher and Naftali. Their combined number is 157,600. The total count of the army age men is 603,550 without the tribe of Levi.

The people travel and camp with the Mishkan in their midst. Physically and metaphorically. We travel our history with G-d in our midst. The distinct feeling you get in the detailed description of where

The OU Israel Family
sends its heartfelt condolences to
Cindy Wiesel and family

(Camp Dror, Coordinator)
on the passing of her

FATHER z"l

ממקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Jeff Mor
DIAMONDS & JEWELRY

TRUE WHOLESALE FROM THE DIAMOND
BOURSA WITH OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MEMBER DIAMOND DEALERS CLUB

ENGAGEMENT RINGS • STUD EARRINGS
PENDANTS • TENNIS BRACELETS

☎ 050-573-9061 ✉ jeffmor36@gmail.com
🌐 www.JeffMorDiamondJewelry.com

**BROTHERS
MOVING CO.**

THE STRONGEST... THE MOST GENTLE

054-216-0087 • brothersmovingisrael@gmail.com

PolarAir

Air Conditioning & Heating
Sales & installation of
Inverter | Multi | VRF | Central

- ✓ Plenty of references
- ✓ Professional & reliable
- ✓ Only Jewish labor

www.polarair.biz | polarairbiz@gmail.com | ☎ 052-240-5063



KEEP YOUR MONEY IN GOOD HEALTH

EARN REGULAR, OFFSHORE INCOME WITH CAPITAL GROWTH.

OrbVest is a global investment firm sourcing, acquiring and managing medical real estate in the United States, so you can earn great returns investing alongside us.

We take the hassle out of owning real estate and make it simple, quick and easy to be a landlord in this category, previously the domain of institutions.



Scan to Learn More or Schedule an Appointment +972 050 914 6138
www.orbvest.co.il



each tribe encamped is the feeling of an army encampment. Regimented. Specific. Detailed. Organized. But an army for which purpose? To fight the anticipated foes in the Land of Israel? Or to be the army of Hashem? A fighting army? Or a people with its G-d in its midst? Or both?



4th aliya (3:1-13) Aharon's son's names were Nadav, Avihu, Elazar and Itamar. Nadav and

Avihu died without children. Elazar and Itamar serve as Kohanim with Aharon. Take the Leviim: they are to serve Aharon. The Leviim are responsible for the Mishkan: to support the Kohanim and the people, to facilitate the running of the Mishkan. The Leviim shall take the place of the first-born, who became obligated to me when saved in Egypt.

There are 2 groups mentioned here: Kohanim and Leviim. The lineage of the kohanim is given. It just doesn't take much room. Because Aharon is a kohen and his sons. But he only has 2. So the entire lineage of the kohanim is 3 people. The Leviim, on the other hand, are an entire tribe, descendants of Levi, son of Yaakov. Their lineage, at quite some length, is given in the next aliya.



5th aliya (3:14-39) Count the tribe of Levi by households, from 1 month and older: the

households of Gershon, Kehat and Merari, the sons of Levi. The sons of Gershon, Kehat and Merari are listed. Gershon's family, from a month and above, is 7,500. They camp to the west of the Mishkan. Their task was to transport and be responsible for the curtains and coverings. Kehat numbered 8,600, camping to the south. They were responsible for the vessels: Aron, Menorah,

30+ styles - all sizes
for women & girls



MarSea Modest Swim & Casualwear Marci Rapp

www.MarSeaModest.com (\$USD) 050-424-8359



28" Pencil Skirts
3/4 Tees/Tops
& more



KEREN MALKI

קרן מלכי לזכרה של מלכי חוה הי"ד
THE MALKI FOUNDATION

www.kerenmalki.org

02-567-0602

Keren Malki empowers families of children with special needs in Israel to choose home care. Donations are tax-approved in Israel, US and UK.

Honoring the memory of
Malka Chana Roth ז"ל
1985-2001, killed in the
Sbarro bombing.

Table, altars. Merari numbered 6,200, camping to the north. Responsible for the structure of the Mishkan; the walls, supports and beams. The total of the tribe of Levi is 22,000. On the front side, the east of the Mishkan, Moshe and Aharon and families camped.

The encampment around the Mishkan had 2 layers. The Leviim were in close, on 3 of the 4 sides of the Mishkan. The 4th side, the leading side, had Moshe and Aharon. The entire 12 tribes were farther removed on all 4 sides.

The 3 sons of Levi were family groups; Gershon, Kehat and Merari. They had full responsibility for the Mishkan. Their tasks fell in categories. Gershon, textiles. Kehat, furniture. Merari, building. Gershon took care of the curtains and coverings. Kehat, the important main vessels of the Mishkan. And Merari the structure of the building.



6th aliya (3:40-51) Count all the firstborn of the age of a month and above. The Leviim are to replace the firstborn. There were 273 more firstborn than Leviim; these were redeemed.

The previous aliya, continuing here, assumes that the firstborn will be dedicated public servants because they were spared in the plague of the firstborn. This is a theme of reciprocity: God says, I saved you, you serve Me. The showering of good upon us demands reciprocity – we become indebted to G-d. The notion that the firstborn shall be the public servants has great

**Refuah Shleima to our granddaughter
Hallel Miriam Chana
bat Rivka Nechman Tziona**

**Last week we had 3 happy clients who bought apartments, and ultimately 4 disappointed ones who were too slow in deciding...
DON'T MISS THE BOAT!**



Ashkelon Properties
LIVE OPPOSITE THE SEA
call David at 054-433-2621
davidz@AshkelonProperties.com
www.ashkelonproperties.com

CHANA WAYSMAN
SPECIALIST DIETITIAN
BFS&Nutr, MDiet, APD, AN, RD



Wolfson Medical Center
9a Diskin St, Rehavia, Jerusalem
M 0587 525 916
E chana.waysman@gmail.com
W www.slimplicity.wix.com/diet

**Jerusalem
Physiotherapy
& Pilates**

Ryan Green

MA Physiotherapist
Exercise Physiologist
Pilates Instructor

A touch of care.

052-608-5262



appeal; every home becomes infused with public service by virtue of the firstborn dedicated to holy work. But, as appealing as that is, it is not implemented. The firstborn are switched off for the Leviim. Perhaps because it would be an inequitable burden. The poor families rely on their firstborn to work, to be the first to contribute to the family wellbeing. The replacement of the firstborn by the Leviim recognizes the inequity that would inevitably result in requiring the firstborn of every family to leave their home for public service.



7th aliya (4:1-20) Take from Kehat, all men from the age of 30 to 50 to do their work of the holy of holies. But since Kehat was to carry the vessels of the Mishkan, Aharon and his sons covered each vessel, to prevent Kehat from touching them. The Aron was covered by: the Parochet (curtain), then leather, then techelet covering. The Shulchan: techelet, then the extra utensils, then red, then the tachash skin. Menorah: techelet, then tachash. Incense altar: techelet, then tachash. Outer altar: purple, then tachash. In this way, calamity will not befall Kehat

in transporting the holy things.

There are 3 different age surveys. The tribes are surveyed to count all males above 20. For army service. The Leviim were surveyed to count all males above 1 month. For they assume Levi status pretty much from birth. And here, the Leviim who will actually do public service are those from age 30-50. Though their service in our parsha is to transport the Mishkan, their service in the Temple will be as musicians. Later the Torah will say the Leviim begin public service at age 25. The Talmud resolves this: it takes 5 years of training, from 25-30. Then they can play the music in the Temple or sing. 5 years of musical training; the music of the Temple must have been quite sophisticated.

HAFTORAH BAMIDBAR

HOSHEA 2:1-22

The background and deeper meaning regarding this week's haftarah can be found in the Talmud (Pesachim 87a): When God conveys to Hoshea the seriousness of the sins of Israel the prophet makes

A SHORT VORT | BY RABBI CHANUCH YERES

Rav, Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

כל פקודי הלוויים....שנים ועשרים אלף (ג:לט)

"And all that were numbered of the Levites...were twenty-two thousand." (3:29)

The great commentator Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman (Ramban) asked a simple question. Why is it that the population of the tribe of Levi was the smallest number of all other tribes?

Ramban answers that all other tribes suffered under the oppression in Egypt. Those tribes who endured such great pain and suffering, G-d responded by enabling them to become fruitful and multiply at an unnatural accelerated rate.

However, the tribe of Levi did not experience the difficult working conditions in Egypt, according to the Rabbis. Therefore, Levi's birth rate continued only at the natural pace. At the time of the people's counting in this Parsha, their numbers were a bare minimum compared to the other tribes.

As Yom Yerushalayim approaches, we can appreciate this message. Only through the great toil and harsh sacrifices we made did we merit the grand miracle of reuniting Yerushalayim in an almost supernatural historical event. Shabbat Shalom and Yom Yerushalayim Sameach

the suggestion that perhaps God should exchange these sinful people with a nation that will show true allegiance and loyalty.

Hoshea realizes that he had transgressed by speaking evil of the Jewish people. He then offers blessing to the nation likening them to the uncountable sand of the sea.

It is at this point that we note the connection of our haftorah to the sidra of Bamidbar. Both speak of the numbers that make up the nation and the blessing of growth and her purpose and presence in this world.

Hoshea does go further, however, and warns the people that if they act like a harlot and are disloyal to the Holy One, they will be severely punished. The haftorah ends with the soaring words of love and commitment that God shares with his beloved people: "I shall marry you to Me forever; I shall marry you to Me with righteousness, and with justice, and with kindness, and with mercy." ■



STATS

34th sedra of 54; first of 10 in Bamidbar
Written on 263 lines, ranks 3rd
30 parshiyot; 23 open, 7 closed, 4th
159 p'sukim - rank 3 (3rd in Bamidbar)
1823 words - rank 13 (4th in Bamidbar)
7393 letters - rank 9 (3rd in Bamidbar)



MITZVOT

None of Taryag in Bamidbar - it is the largest of the 17 sedras without mitzvot

We♥Mr Ashkelon

054-731-2118

**It's not only how you LOOK
It's how you SEE**



Excellence in eye care
EYE WORLD
עולם העין
העיניים שלכם זו המומחיות שלנו

RAMAT ESHKOL Shopping Center (Above Waffle Bar)
ARNONA/TALPIOT - Beit Hanatziv, Derech Hevron 101A
(02) 674-3888

Lenny Davidman

**Professional
Planning & Production**

**English Speaking
Pesach Program
at the Dead Sea**

**Events, Congresses &
Tours in Israel**

**pesach.LDevents.com
www.LDevents.com
054-557-3101
Lenny@LDevents.com**

Over 1600 audio and video shiurim
for listening and downloading
plus written articles
www.rabbisholomgold.com