

NUMBERS (Counting Israelites) – An Overview

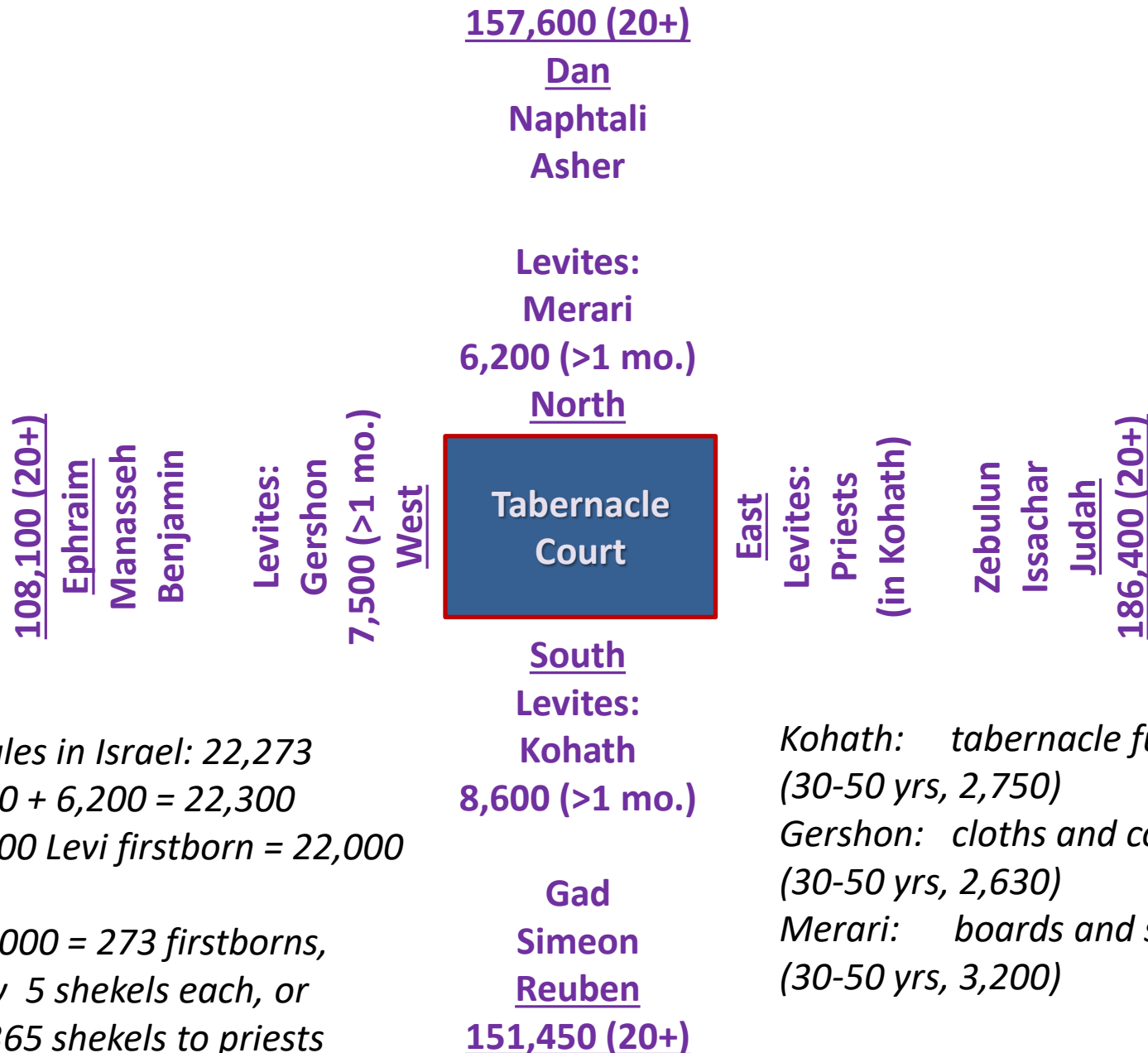
About 40 years covered, from Mt. Sinai to the plains of Moab

1. The number of Israelite men of war around Mt. Sinai (Num 1)
2. Where each tribe must camp while traveling to Canaan (Num 2)
3. Number and duties of the families of the tribe of Levi (Num 3-4)
4. The law of jealousies (Num 5)
5. The law of the Nazarite vow, and the blessing of the priest (Num 6)
6. The offering of the princes of the tribes of Israel (Num 7)
7. The consecration and term of service for the Levites (Num 8)
8. The second Passover (Num 9)
9. The silver trumpets, and Israel departs Mt. Sinai (Num 10)
10. Complaints about manna, and about Moses' wife (Num 11-12)
11. Israelites spy out Canaan, refuse to enter because of unbelief, and wander for 40 years (Num 13-14)
12. Offering when Canaan is reached; sabbath-breaker killed (Num 15)
13. Rebellion against Moses (Num 16)
14. Aaron's rod buds (Num 17)
15. Priests' portion, and the water of separation (Num 18-19)
16. Moses rebels; Aaron dies (Num 20)
17. Israel defeats 3 kings (Num 21)
18. Balaam tries cursing Israel, but God blesses them (Num 22-24)
19. Many Israelites die for idolatry and fornication (Num 25)
20. Men of war re-counted (Num 26)
21. Inheritances for women; Joshua chosen to succeed Moses (Num 27)
22. Periodic sacrifices (Num 28-29)
23. Vows and annulments (Num 30)
24. Spoiling the Midianites (Num 31)
25. Claims east of Jordan (Num 32)
26. Journeys and borders (Num 33-34)
27. Cities and marriages (Num 35-36)

Numbers 1: Israelite Men of War (20+)

Book of Numbers	Chapter 1	Chapter 26	
	At Mt. Sinai	After 40 Yrs.	Change
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-2,770
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-37,100
Levi	-	-	-
Judah	74,600	76,500	1,900
Dan	62,700	64,400	1,700
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,150
Asher	41,500	53,400	11,900
Isaachar	54,400	64,300	9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	10,200
Joseph	72,700	85,200	12,500
<i>Mannaseh</i>	<i>32,200</i>	<i>52,700</i>	<i>20,500</i>
<i>Ephraim</i>	<i>40,500</i>	<i>32,500</i>	<i>-8,000</i>
Men of War in Israel	603,550	601,730	-1,820

Numbers 2-4: How the Tribes Camped



Firstborn males in Israel: 22,273
 $8,600 + 7,500 + 6,200 = 22,300$
 Take away 300 Levi firstborn = 22,000

$22,273 - 22,000 = 273$ firstborns,
 ransomed by 5 shekels each, or
 $5 \times 273 = 1,365$ shekels to priests

Kohath: *tabernacle furniture*
 (30-50 yrs, 2,750)
 Gershon: *cloths and coverings*
 (30-50 yrs, 2,630)
 Merari: *boards and sockets*
 (30-50 yrs, 3,200)

Numbers 5: The Trial of Jealousy

- If a husband was jealous regarding his wife, with no proof of her wrongdoing, he brought her to the priest.
- His offering was a tenth of an ephah of barley meal, plain.
- The priest took holy water in an earthen vessel, and added a little dust from the tabernacle floor.
- The woman was to sit before the Lord with her head uncovered, holding the offering of meal.
- The priest would say this curse, *“If no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness with another instead of thy husband, be thou free from this bitter water that causeth the curse: But if thou hast gone aside to another instead of thy husband, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband: The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell. And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot.”*
- He would write this curse into a book, and then blot it with the water.
- The woman would drink some of the water.
- If she were guilty, the curse would come to pass.
- If the curse did not come to pass, she would be free.

Numbers 6: The Nazarite Vow

- A man could dedicate a portion of his life to the Lord as a Nazarite unto God.
- During this period, he must not:
 - Touch any dead body.
 - Eat or drink anything from the grape vine.
 - Cut his hair.
- At the end of the period of his vow, the Nazarite shaved his head and it was burned unto the Lord. He also brought an offering to the Lord.
- Then his vow was complete.
- This was the blessing the priest was to speak unto Israel:
“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

Numbers 7: The Offerings of the Princes

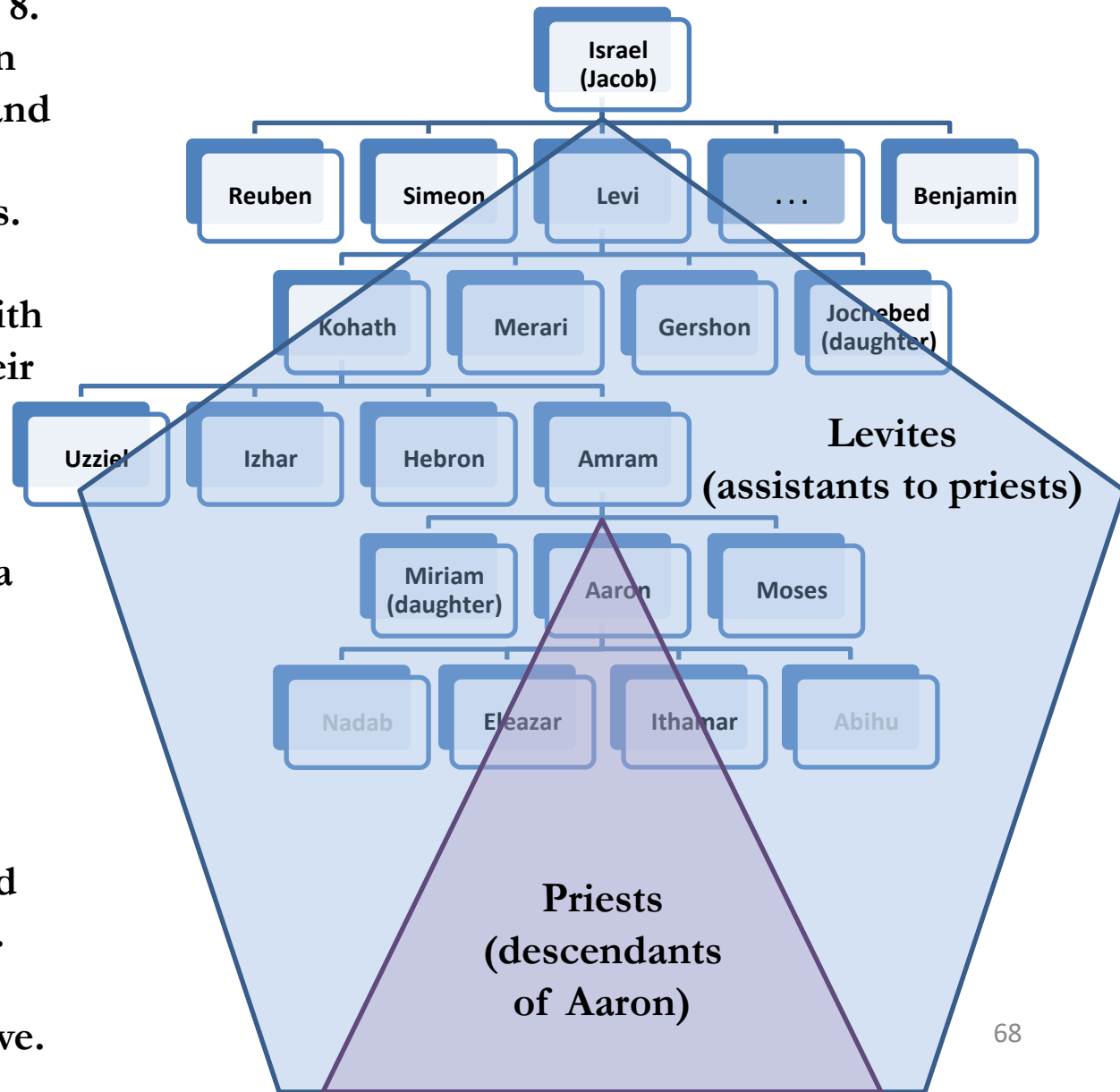


Day	Tribe	Prince	Son of:
1	Judah	Nahshon	Amminidab
2	Isaachar	Nethaneel	Zuar
3	Zebulun	Eliab	Helon
4	Reuben	Elizur	Shedeur
5	Simeon	Shelumiel	Zurishaddai
6	Gad	Eliasaph	Deuel
7	Ephraim	Elishama	Ammihud
8	Mannaseh	Gamaliel	Pedahzur
9	Benjamin	Abidan	Gideoni
10	Dan	Ahiezer	Ammishaddai
11	Asher	Pagiel	Ocran
12	Naphtali	Ahira	Enan

- When the tabernacle was completely built and sanctified, the princes of Israel brought offerings.
- They gave 12 oxen and 6 covered wagons; 2 wagons went to the Levitical family of Gershon, to transport tabernacle cloths, and 4 wagons went to the family of Merari, to transport tabernacle hardware.
- Each prince of the tribes offered:
 - A silver charger and bowl full of fine flour mingled with oil.
 - A gold spoon full of incense.
 - Burnt: 1 bullock, 1 ram and 1 lamb.
 - Sin: 1 kid of the goats
 - Peace: 2 oxen, 5 rams, 5 goats, 5 lambs.
- Then God spoke to Moses from the mercy seat.

Numbers 8-9: Consecrating Levites, Second Passover

- The priests, Aaron and his sons, were consecrated in Leviticus 8.
- The Levites are consecrated in this chapter, to assist priests and to be taken by the Lord in the place of Israel's firstborn sons.
- Aaron lit the candlesticks.
- The Levites were sprinkled with water, shaved, and washed their clothes.
- Aaron offered a bullock as a burnt offering, with a meat offering of flour, and offered a bullock as a sin offering.
- The Levites were to actively serve from age 25 to age 50.
- A year had passed, and Israel kept second passover at Sinai.
- God said even the unclean and stranger was to keep passover.
- God gave a cloud to tell Israel when to rest, and when to move.



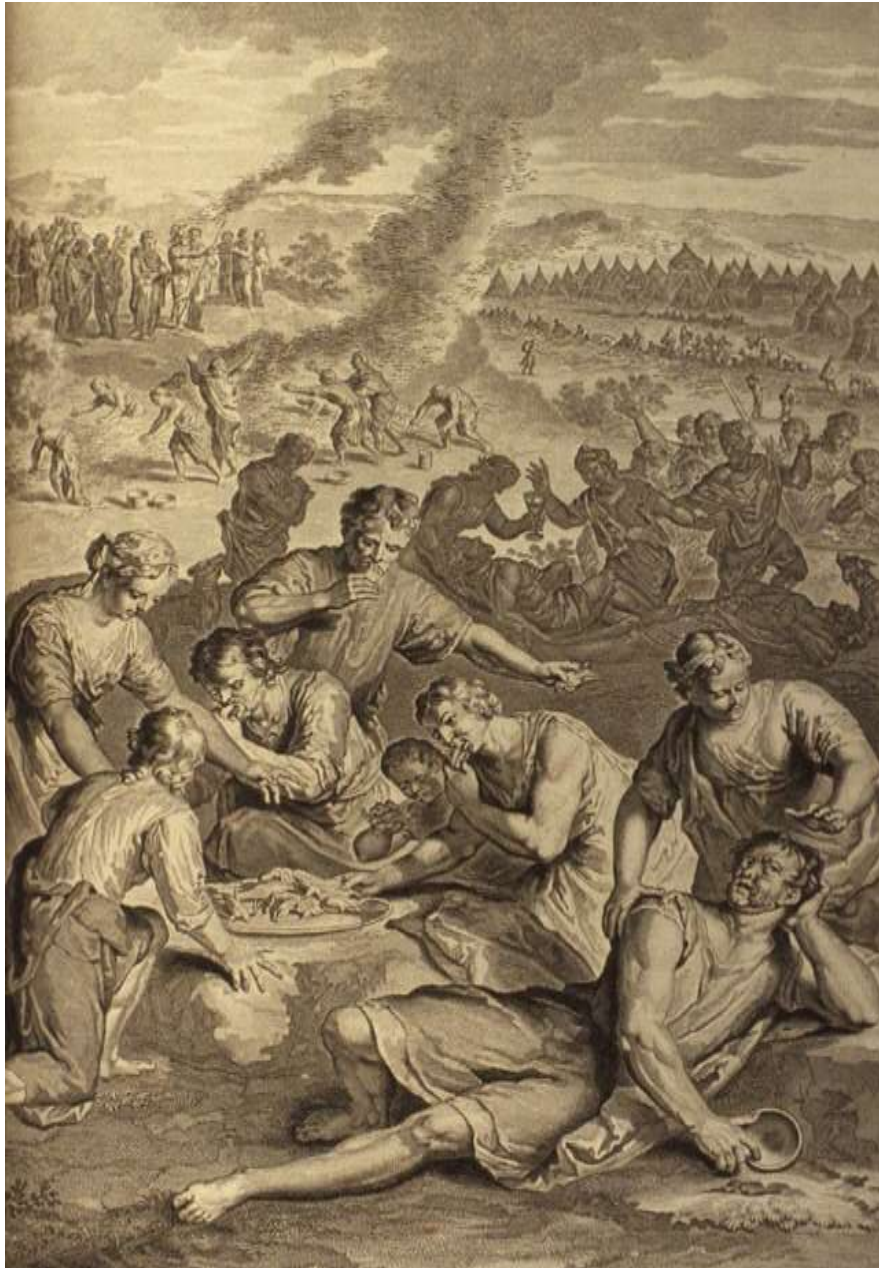
Numbers 10: Silver Trumpets; Leaving Sinai

- God told Moses to tell Israel to make two silver trumpets from a single piece of silver.
 - One trumpet blown (non-alarm) was to assemble the princes of Israel.
 - Both trumpets blown (non-alarm) was to assemble the whole congregation.
 - A first alarm sounded caused the tribes camping east of the tabernacle to go forward; a second alarm sound cause the tribes south of the tabernacle to mobilize, and God would remember Israel.
 - Trumpets also sounded the beginning of months, and holy days.



- On year 2, month 2, day 20, God lifted the cloud from the tabernacle, and journeyed from Sinai to go to the promised land of Canaan. They had come to Sinai in month 3 after leaving Egypt (Exo 19:1), and had been there almost 1 year.
- They travelled by tribe, with Levites interspersed: Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Gershon & Merari families of Levites, Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Kohath family of Levites, Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin, Dan, Asher, and Naphtali.
- Moses asked his brother-in-law to go with them, and they journeyed on.

Numbers 11: Bored with Manna; Help for Moses



- People began to complain, so God killed some of them with fire.
- Then they wept because they were tired of having daily manna to eat.
- Moses was miserable, wanting to die.
- God told him to set aside 70 men of leadership, and God blessed them with his spirit, to help Moses.
- God sent a great flock of quails, and the people fell upon them and gathered them and ate them to satisfy their longing for flesh.
- The people were then smitten with a plague, and many died there.
- They named that location “The Graves of Lust” and they travelled on.

Numbers 12: Moses' Siblings Speak Against Him

- Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman.
- They mentioned in their charge that they were also prophets themselves.
- The Lord heard this, and was displeased, and called them all into the tabernacle.
- God told Miriam and Aaron that he spoke to prophets by visions and dreams, but spoke to Moses “mouth to mouth”.
- God left Miriam covered with leprosy.
- Aaron repented, and begged Moses to intercede for their sister, to be healed.
- Moses went to God, and God told him she must stay outside the camp 7 days.
- She did this, and she rejoined the congregation, and they journeyed.



Numbers 13: On Canaan's Southern Border

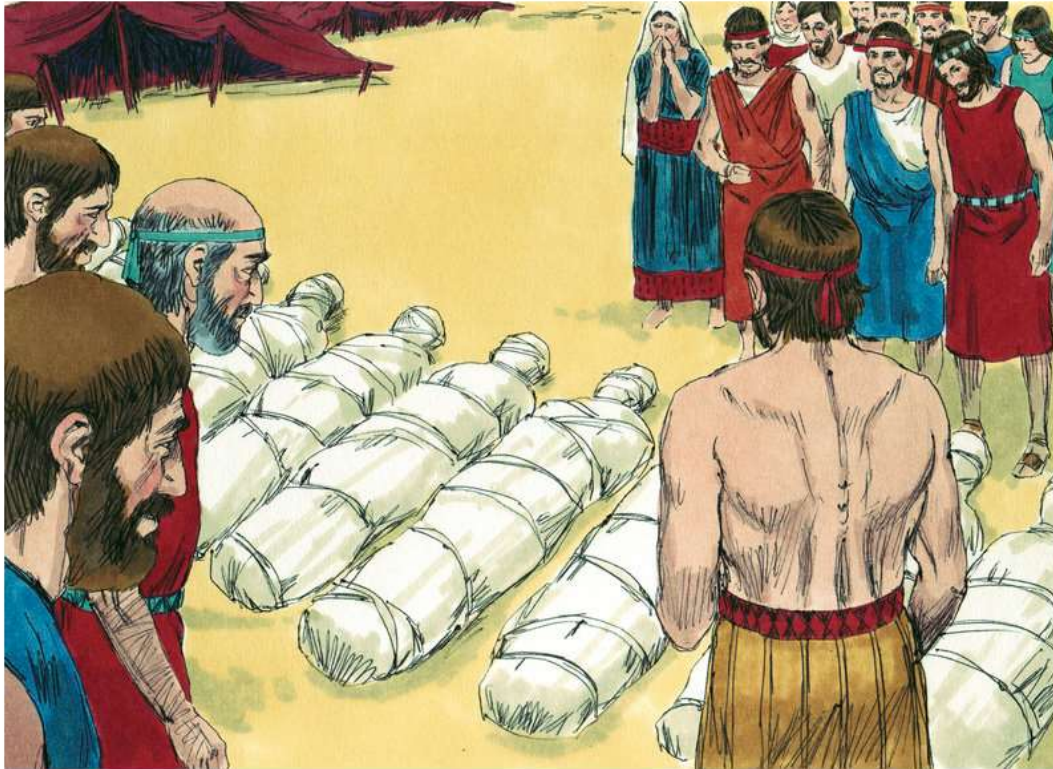
- When the children of Israel reached Kadesh, south of Canaan, they selected 12 spies to see the land, and to bring back a report. They explored for 40 days.

- The spies reported the land to be rich. But 10 of the spies said it could not be taken, and only 2 of them said it could.

Tribe	Spy	Son of:
Judah	<u>Caleb</u>	Jephunneh
Isaachar	Igal	Joseph
Zebulun	Gadiel	Sodi
Reuben	Shammua	Zaccur
Simeon	Shaphat	Hori
Gad	Geuel	Machi
Ephraim	<u>Oshea</u> (Joshua)	Nun
Mannaseh	Gadi	Susi
Benjamin	Palti	Raphu
Dan	Ammiel	Gemalli
Asher	Sethur	Michael
Naphtali	Nahbi	Vophsi



Numbers 14: A Time of Unbelief



- When the children of Israel heard the 10 spies, they wanted to choose another leader than Moses, and go back to Egypt.
 - They used their wives and children as an excuse for their rebellion.
 - Joshua and Caleb spoke in favor of taking Canaan, and were threatened with stoning.
 - God told Moses that He considered destroying the Israelites, and making Moses the head of another nation.
 - Moses pleaded for Israel, and the Lord was merciful.
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- The 10 spies who gave a negative report died of the plague, but not Joshua and Caleb.
 - God said the children of Israel must wander in the wilderness for 40 years, and that all of the men of war older than 20 would die in the wilderness.
 - The children of Israel decided to enter Canaan anyway, although Moses warned them not to try it.
 - When they tried to enter, the Amalekites came forth and defeated them in a battle.
 - Israel began their 40 years of wandering. Moses and Joshua and Caleb had to go, too.

Numbers 15: Additional Offering Laws

Reason for Offering	Animal Offered	Amount of Flour	Amount of Oil	Amount of Wine
Burnt, Vow, Freewill, Solemn Feast	Goat or Lamb	1/10 Deal	1/4 Hin	1/4 Hin
"	Ram	2/10 Deal	1/3 Hin	1/3 Hin
"	Bullock	3/10 Deal	1/2 Hin	1/2 Hin
Eating the first bread of Canaan, 1 st Dough Heave Offering	-	1 Cake	-	-
Congregational Sin of Ignorance	Bullock & Goat	4/10 Deal	3/4 Hin	3/4 Hin
Individual in of Ignorance	She Goat	-	-	-

- If a sin were presumptuous, and not of ignorance, then the person who committed it was to be cut off from the congregation of Israel.
- God stated that these commandments about offerings applied to Israelites as well as to strangers dwelling within Israel
- During this time, a man was picking up sticks on the sabbath. God told Moses that he was to be stoned to death, and the children of Israel did so.
- God commanded that the children of Israel were to make borders of blue upon all of their garments.

Numbers 16: Rebellion!



- Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 well-known princes of Israel publicly rejected the leadership of Moses and the priesthood of Aaron.
 - They stated that Moses had led them out of a land of milk and honey, and not into one.
 - Moses told them to appear before the congregation with censers of incense. They did.
 - The earth swallowed up Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their families.
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- The fire from the censers consumed the other 250 princes. God told them to make broad plates of the censers, to cover the altar as a memorial.
 - Then, the children of Israel murmured because of the deaths, and God sent a plague among them. Aaron filled a censer with incense and ran among them. The plague was stayed, but 14,700 had already died.

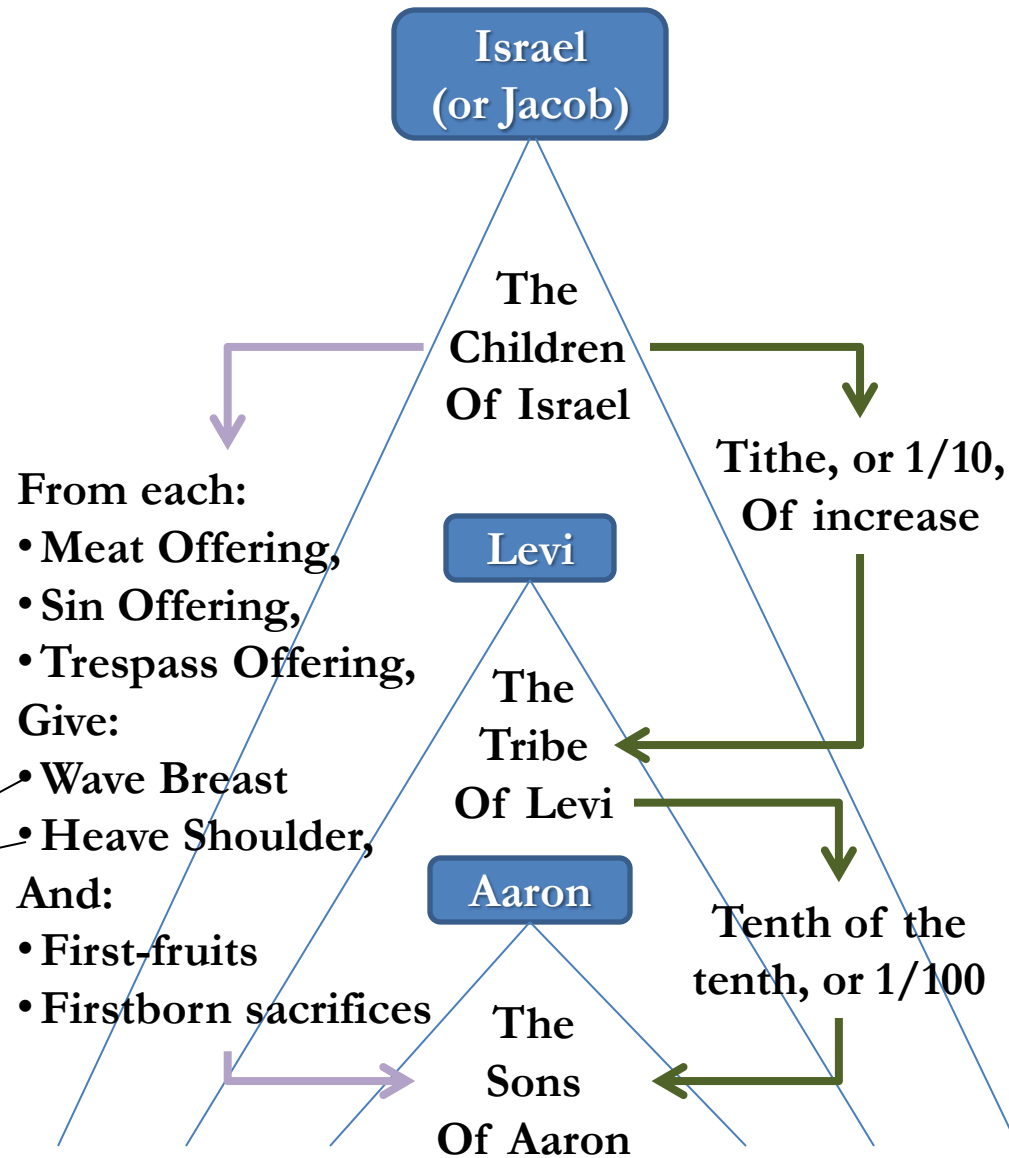
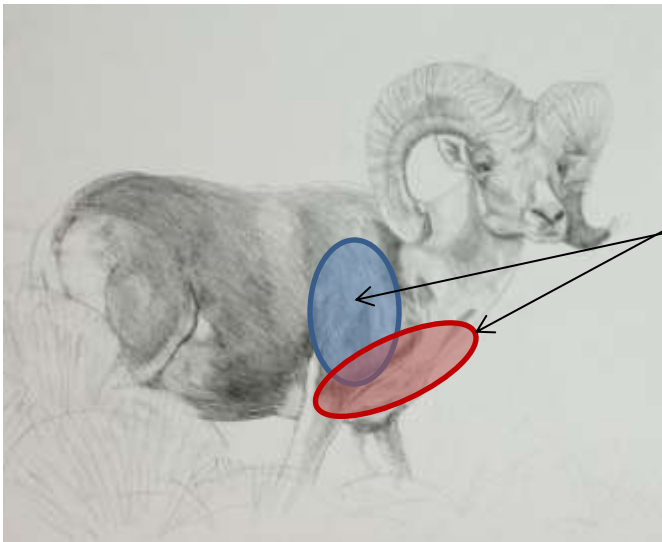
Numbers 17: God Confirms Aaron's Priesthood

- God told Moses to tell Israel for the princes of each tribe to bring their rod before the tabernacle. Aaron was to bring his rod for the tribe of Levi.
- Moses was to write each man's name on each rod, and lay all the rods in the tabernacle before the ark.
- On the following day, each rod was unchanged, except for Aaron's, which had blossomed and brought forth almonds!
- God stated that this was his sign that he had chosen Aaron and his house to stand before him as priests, and that the rest of Israel should cease to murmur against His choice,
- God also instructed Moses to put the budded rod into the ark of the covenant, along with the golden pot of manna, and the two tablets with the ten commandments.



Numbers 18: The Sons of Aaron and the Levites

- God commanded the sons of Aaron to serve in the tabernacle – to “bear the iniquity of the sanctuary”.
- The whole tribe of Levi was to assist the sons of Aaron.
- The sons of Aaron were to have no inheritance of land in Canaan; God was to be their part and inheritance.



Numbers 19: The Water of Separation

- God told Israel to slay a red heifer (a cow which has not born a calf), sprinkle its blood 7 times before the tabernacle, and to burn the heifer to ashes together with cedar, hyssop, and scarlet.
- The priest, the man who performs the sacrifice, and the clean man that takes the ashes to a clean place without the camp, shall all wash, and be unclean unto the evening.
- The ashes shall be mixed with running water to make the “water of separation”.
- Whoever touched a dead body was unclean, and must be purified on the third day.
- The purification was to be done by dipping hyssop into the water of purification, and sprinkling the person, any tent he had been in, and any open vessels in these tents.
- On the seventh day, the person was to wash his flesh and clothes in order to be clean.



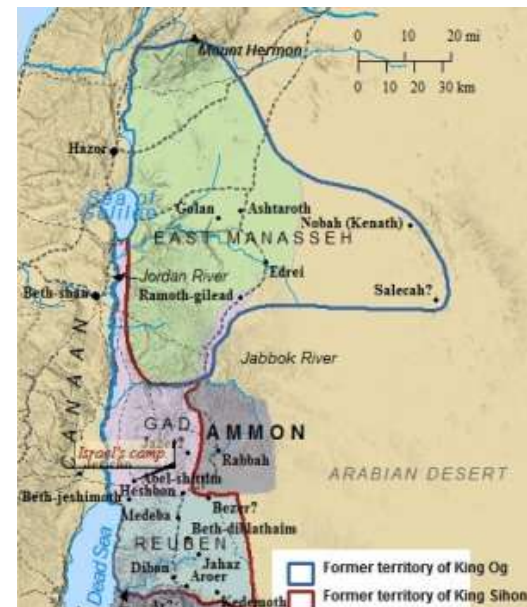
Numbers 20: Miriam Dies, Moses Sins, Aaron Dies



- The Israelites traveled in the desert of Zin, in the area of Kadesh.
- Moses and Aaron's big sister, Miriam, died.
- The people criticized Moses for lack of water.
- Moses went to the Lord, who told him to speak unto the rock, and God would send forth water.
- Moses and Aaron gathered Israel, and stood before the rock, and smote it with the rod.
- God sent forth water for Israel, but was angry with Moses and Aaron, and said they would not enter into the promised land, for they had not sanctified him.
- They drew near to the land of Edom (or Esau) and asked permission to pass through peaceably. The Edomites refused, and so Israel went around Edom.
- God called Aaron to die. He gave his high priest garments to his son, Eleazar, he and Moses went up into Mt. Hor, and Aaron died. The children of Israel mourned him thirty days.

Numbers 21: Snakebites, and Three Victories

- King Arad, a Canaanite, took some of the children of Israel as prisoners. The Israelites went to God to ask for victory, and completely defeated Arad (1).
- As they journeyed, the children of Israel became discouraged and began to murmur against God.
- God sent poison serpents, and some of the children of Israel died.
- They cried unto God, and God had Moses make a brass serpent to put on a pole.
- Whoever was bitten and looked upon the brass serpent was healed.
- God had the princes of Israel to dig with their staffs, and he cause water to spring up from the ground to refresh the children of Israel.
- Israel asked to go peacefully through the land of Sihon, king of the Amorites, and he came out against them to war. They won, and possessed his land (2).
- Og, the giant king of Bashan, acted likewise, and the children of Israel took his land (3). Thus, except for the nations of Moab and Ammon, they took the lands east of the Jordan River next to Canaan.



Numbers 22-24: Moab & Midian vs. Israel



- After Israel's victories, they encamped in the plains of Moab, and Balak, king of Moab, was afraid of them. He talked with the Midianites.
- Balak hired a soothsayer named Balaam to curse Israel. God first told Balaam not to do it, but then said he could go with Balak's servant if they called for him.
- He decided to disobey God and go to Balak anyway. And angel stood against him, and three times Balaam's donkey saved him from death by the angel, until God showed him the angel, and told him to go to Balak, but say words from God.
- Three times Balak made preparation for Balaam to curse Israel, but Balaam was forced by God to bless them.
- Balak sent Balaam away, but Balaam consulted with the Midianites.

Numbers 25: Israel Brings Plague Upon Themselves

- Balaam's advice to the Midianites was to send their women in among the Israelites to entice them to fornication and the worship of idols.
- The Midianites did this, and the Israelites committed fornication and idolatry.
- God told Moses that the Israelites which had committed idolatry must be slain.
- Plague broke out among the people of Israel.
- A son of an Israelite prince from the tribe of Simeon openly brought the daughter of a Midianite chief before the congregation.
- Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, took a javelin and slew both of them.
- God commended the zeal of Phinehas, and stopped the plague because of it.



Numbers 26-29: Numbers Again, Daughters' Inheritances, Joshua's Charge, & Sacrifices



- The 40 years of wandering the wilderness were drawing near an end. God commanded Moses to number the Israelite men of war again.
- Over a 40 year period, Israel had lost 1,820 men, from the tribes of Simeon, Naphtali, Gad, and Reuben (see chart for Numbers 1).
- A man named Zelophehad had died in the 40 years without sons, and his daughters asked Moses why he should have no inheritance within Israel.
- Moses took the matter to God, who said that inheritances should pass to sons, then daughters, then to nearest of kin otherwise.
- God told Moses it was nearly time to die, so Moses asked God to appoint another leader in his place.
- God appointed Joshua, and told Moses to charge him with his upcoming duties.
- God gave the commands for daily sacrifices in the morning and the evening, and sacrifices for the sabbath.
- God reminded Moses and Israel of holy feasts throughout the year.

Numbers 30-31: Vows and Vengeance

- God commanded Moses to speak to the Israelites regarding vows.
- A man making a vow had to keep it.
- A widow or divorcee making a vow had to keep it.
- If a daughter at home made a vow, her father must disallow it during the day he hears of it, or else she must keep the vow.
- If a wife made a vow, her husband must disallow it during the day he hears of it, or else she must keep the vow.
- God commanded Moses to send one thousand soldiers from each tribe to bring vengeance upon the Midianites for tempting Israel to sin.
- The Israelites defeated them, and slew Balaam the soothsayer.
- God gave instructions on what spoils could be kept from the victory, how it was to be purified, and how it was to be divided.



Numbers 32: An Early Inheritance for 2 ½ Tribes



- The tribes of Reuben and Gad told Moses they wanted to settle in the lands they had conquered east of Jordan, outside of Canaan, because the land was good for cattle. Half of the tribe of Manasseh wanted to do this, also.
- Moses did not like the idea of them leaving the future battles to the other tribes.
- They said they would build shelter for their families and cattle, and cross Jordan to fight with the rest of Israel, and then return when they had conquered Canaan.
- Moses agreed to this, and so they received their inheritance east of Jordan, built places for their families, and prepared to go with the other tribes to fight.

Numbers 33-34: The Travels Of Israel

Tribe	Prince	Son of:
Judah	Caleb	Jephunneh
Isaachar	Paltiel	Azzan
Zebulon	Elizaphan	Parnach
Reuben	Elizur	Shedeur
Simeon	Shemuel	Ammihud
Gad	Eliasaph	Deuel
Ephraim	Kemuel	Shiphtan
Mannaseh	Hanniel	Ephod
Benjamin	Elidad	Chislon
Dan	Bukki	Jogli
Asher	Ahihud	Shelomi
Naphtali	Pedahel	Ammihud

- In Numbers chapter 33, Moses gives the list of locations the children of Israel travelled, from Egypt, to the Red Sea, to Mt. Sinai, to Kadesh-Barnea, to the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, to the place they were in the plains of Moab.
- Moses warned the children to drive out all of the inhabitants of Canaan when they came into the land, or else they would become snares to them.
- In Numbers 34, Moses described the borders of the land of Canaan, and that the 9 ½ tribes should divide that land by lot. This was because 2 ½ tribes received their land east of Canaan.
- Moses listed the princes of each tribe, which would lead the children of Israel when they received their land, and that list is shown here.

Numbers 35-36: The Cities of Refuge, and the Inheritance of Daughters

- In Numbers 35, the Lord commanded Moses that the children of Israel should give certain cities in the land of Canaan to the Levites, and the suburbs of the cities.
- A suburb was from the city wall to 1000 cubits outward all around.
- The Lord also commanded that they set aside six cities for cities of refuge: 3 east of Canaan, and 3 in Canaan.
- A city of refuge was so that if one person slew another accidentally, he could flee to one of those cities and be free from vengeance. He must abide there until the death of the high priest if he wished to remain safe.
- If a murder was premeditated, the killer must be executed according to God's law.
- After God spoke in Numbers 27 that daughters could inherit land in Canaan if their father had no sons, the people of Israel had a concern: what if they inherited the land, but married a man from another tribe – would that land not pass from one tribe to another?
- Moses spoke according to the word of the Lord: if a woman in such a case wished, she could marry whom she pleased, but only within the same tribe as her father.

