

Numbers 1

Verses 1- 3

Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, ² **“Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head** ³ **from twenty years old and upward, whoever *is able to go out to war* in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their armies.**

Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

The tent of meeting here refers to the tent which was outside the camp where God often talked with Moses (Not the Tabernacle).

Chapter 1 of Numbers begins on 02-01-02 (1445)

See Chart 105 Timeline

| End of Exodus and all of Leviticus | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Scripture | Event | Year 2 - 1445 | Place |
| Exodus 40:1 | Set up the Tabernacle | 1-1 | The Desert of Sinai |
| Leviticus | The whole book | 1-1 thru 1-30 | The Desert of Sinai |

| Numbers time line | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Numbers | Event | Year 2 - 1445 | Place |
| 1:1 | Census | 2-1 | The Desert of Sinai |
| 9 | Passover | 1-14 | The Desert of Sinai |
| 10:11 | At Sinai for almost a year | 2-20 | Leave Sinai |
| 11 | Quail / 70 Elders | | Kibroth-hattaavah |
| 12 | Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses | | Hazereth |
| 12:16 | Arrive at Kadesh-barnea | 3-2 | At Kadesh |
| 13 | Explore Canaan | 40 days | At Kadesh |
| 14 | The people rebel | 4th month | At Kadesh |
| 14:44-45 | Defeated by Amorites | 4th month | Hill country |
| | | | |

² **“Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head ³from twenty years old and upward, whoever *is able to go out to war* in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their armies.**

From the time Abraham offered Isaac to God, but was stopped, until the Exodus was 430 years. During that time the family of Abraham increased into a nation of about 2.5 million people. The 2.5 million is an estimate based on the number of fighting men that would be available to go to war. (That census will be discussed shortly)

God wanted this group of people to destroy the 7 nation states in the land of Canaan. However, during the last 160 years none of the Hebrew slaves had seen war and their faith was not strong enough to trust God.

See chart 110 They were in slavery for 160 years

| Time of slavery | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Genesis 15:16 | In the 4th generation | | Levi - Kohath - Amram - Moses |
| | | | |
| Genesis 22 | 1876 | Abraham is 120 | Abraham offers Isaac |
| | | Isaac is 20 | |
| | | | |
| Genesis 47:9 | 1706 | Jacob is 130 | 70 go to Egypt |
| | | Joseph is 39 | |
| | | | |
| Exodus 1:6-11 | 1635 | Joseph is 110 | Joseph dies |
| | 1606 | 30 years later | slavery begins |
| | | | |
| Exodus 12 | 1446 | Moses is 80 | The Exodus |
| Exodus 12:40-41 should read 430 years in Egypt and Canaan (Footnote in most bibles) | | | |

The prophesies concerning the slavery of the Jews can be confusing for several reasons so even though we covered this issue back in Genesis 15, it may be helpful to refresh our memories with this topic again.

See pic 115 The prophesy issue

Explaining Genesis 15:13

In Exodus 12:40-41 we learn that the exact period of time was 430 years. God simply rounded it off to "four hundred" when he spoke to Abram. Stephen did the same thing in Acts 7:6 when he spoke before the council. Rounding off dates that cover long periods of time is not uncommon.

There is one other issue that is important to understand about verse 40. The text in Exodus 12:40 should read in Canaan and Egypt. Some versions leave Canaan out but mention it in a footnote. Knowing this explains the other so called contradiction in the text.

| Scripture | Event | Person | year |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------|
| Genesis 22 | Abraham offers Isaac | Abraham is 120 | 1876 |
| Genesis 47:9 | 70 go to Egypt | Jacob is 130 | 1706 |
| Exodus 1:6-11 | Joseph dies | Joseph is 110 | 1635 |
| Exodus 1:6-11 | slavery begins | 30 years later | 1606 |
| Exodus 12 | The Exodus | Moses is 80 | 1446 |

Using the dates above we can determine the following

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----|
| Years in Canaan | 1876-1706 | 170 |
| Years in Egypt | 1706-1446 | 260 |
| Total | 1876-1446 | 430 |
| Years in slavery | 1606-1446 | 160 |

Once the 430 vs. 400 years is resolved and the Egypt vs. Canaan & Egypt issue is understood, the prophecies become much clearer.

As slaves the men were probably in good shape but they had not experienced war in 160 years.

See Exodus 13:17

¹⁷ Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, "The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt."

Verses 4 - 16

⁴ With you, moreover, there shall be a man of each tribe, each one head of his father's household. These then are the names of the men who shall stand with you:

**of Reuben, Elizur the son of Shedeur;
of Simeon, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai;
of Judah, Nahshon the son of Amminadab;
of Issachar, Nethanel the son of Zuar;
of Zebulun, Eliab the son of Helon; ¹⁰
of Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud;
of Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur;
of Benjamin, Abidan the son of Gideoni;
of Dan, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai;
of Asher, Pagiel the son of Ochrán;
of Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel;
of Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan.**

These are they who were called of the congregation, the leaders of their fathers' tribes; they were the heads of divisions of Israel."

These 12 princes were the military commanders of the 12 tribes. The tribe of Levi is omitted because they are responsible for the Tabernacle but the tribe of Joseph has become two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, keeping Israel as a nation of 12 tribes.

Verses 17 – 44

¹⁷ So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name, ¹⁸ and they assembled all the congregation together on the first of the second month. Then they registered by ancestry in their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, head by head, ¹⁹ just as the Lord had commanded Moses. So he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

²⁰ Now the sons of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ²¹ their numbered men of the tribe of Reuben *were* 46,500.

²² Of the sons of Simeon, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, their numbered men, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ²³ their numbered men of the tribe of Simeon *were* 59,300.

²⁴ Of the sons of Gad, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ²⁵ their numbered men of the tribe of Gad *were* 45,650.

²⁶ Of the sons of Judah, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ²⁷ their numbered men of the tribe of Judah *were* 74,600.

²⁸ Of the sons of Issachar, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ²⁹ their numbered men of the tribe of Issachar *were* 54,400.

³⁰ Of the sons of Zebulun, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ³¹ their numbered men of the tribe of Zebulun *were* 57,400.

³² Of the sons of Joseph, *namely*, of the sons of Ephraim, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to* go out to war, ³³ their numbered men of the tribe of Ephraim *were* 40,500.

³⁴ Of the sons of Manasseh, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war*, ³⁵ their numbered men of the tribe of Manasseh *were 32,200*.

³⁶ Of the sons of Benjamin, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war*, ³⁷ their numbered men of the tribe of Benjamin *were 35,400*.

³⁸ Of the sons of Dan, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war*, ³⁹ their numbered men of the tribe of Dan *were 62,700*.

⁴⁰ Of the sons of Asher, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war*, ⁴¹ their numbered men of the tribe of Asher *were 41,500*.

⁴² Of the sons of Naphtali, their genealogical registration by their families, by their fathers' households, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war*, ⁴³ their numbered men of the tribe of Naphtali *were 53,400*.

⁴⁴ These are the ones who were numbered, whom Moses and Aaron numbered, with the leaders of Israel, twelve men, each of whom was of his father's household. ⁴⁵ So all the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households, from twenty years old and upward, whoever *was able to go out to war in Israel*, ⁴⁶ even all the numbered men were 603,550.

Verses 17 thru 44 are summarized in the following chart.

See Chart 120 The 1st Census

1st and 2nd Census

| | Chapter 1 | Chapter 26 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tribe | 1ST Census | 2ND Census |
| Reuben | 46,500 | |
| Simeon | 59,300 | |
| Gad | 45,650 | |
| Judah | 74,600 | |
| Issachar | 54,400 | |
| Zebulun | 57,400 | |
| Ephraim | 40,500 | |
| Manasseh | 32,200 | |
| Benjamin | 35,400 | |
| Dan | 62,700 | |
| Asher | 41,500 | |
| Naphtali | 53,400 | |
| Total | 603,550 | |

Units of less than fifty were not included

Verses 47 - 54

⁴⁷ The Levites, however, were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe.

⁴⁸ For the Lord had spoken to Moses, saying, ⁴⁹ "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor shall you take their census among the sons of Israel. ⁵⁰ But you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings and over all that belongs to it. They shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it; they shall also camp around the tabernacle. ⁵¹ So when the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the Levites shall set it up. But the layman who comes near shall be put to death. ⁵² The sons of Israel shall camp, each man by his own camp, and each man by his own standard, according to their armies.

⁵³ But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there will be no wrath on the congregation of the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the testimony." ⁵⁴ Thus the sons of Israel did; according to all which the Lord had commanded Moses, so they did.

⁴⁷ **The Levites, however, were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe.**

The tribe of Levi was not numbered among those prepared to go to war. Their sole task was to serve as the priesthood and oversee the tabernacle. Their numbers were 22,270 in the first census.