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BIBLE STUDY

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“GLAD TO BE IN THE NUMBER**

**ONE MORE TIME”**

**Numbers 26:1-37**

***Numbers 26:1 "And it came to pass after the plague, that the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying,"***

***Numbers 26:2 "Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel."***

***Numbers 26:3 "And Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab by Jordan [near] Jericho, saying,"***

***Numbers 26:4 "[Take the sum of the people], from twenty years old and upward; as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt."***

This plague, in the last lesson, had reduced the number of people by 24,000 people. This seems to be the last large reduction of the people, before they went into the promised land. They had taken a census at the beginning of the journey over 38 years ago. Now the end of the journey is near, and they will take the census again. The previous census had a military purpose: to record all those men aged 20 or over who were fit for military service, and so does this census. This was appropriate since a campaign against Midian had just been announced, and the conquest of Canaan was imminent.

***Numbers 25:9-18***

***9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.***

***10 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,***

***11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.***

***12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:***

***13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.***

***14 Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.***

***15 And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.***

***16 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,***

***17 Vex the Midianites, and smite them:***

***18 For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.***

But there was a more important reason for this census: to determine the relative size of the tribes, so they should each receive a proportionate share of territory in the Promised Land (vv. 52–56). Chapters 1 and 3 give the total number of men in each tribe, whereas chapter 26 gives these totals and lists the families or clans that make up each tribe. There are extra details supplied in this census about the clans and their forefathers to help serve as a reminder that the cause of the great multiplication of the children of Israel goes back to the promise to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

***Genesis 12:2 “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:”***

***Genesis 26:24 “And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.”***

***Genesis 46:3 “And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:”***

This count is to be taken in the very same manner as the earlier census. However, this time God speaks to Moses and Eleazar because Aaron has died and Eleazar took his place as high priest. Then Moses and Eleazar the priest calls all the leaders of the twelve tribes together. By this time most of Moses’s generation had died according to God’s decree, as Israel prepared to end their wilderness wanderings and enter the promised land. So, it was time to take a census of the new generation, counting males twenty years old or more who can serve in Israel’s army.

***Numbers 14:26-32***

***26 And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,***

***27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.***

***28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:***

***29 Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.***

***30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.***

***31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.***

***32 But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.***

Israelite soldiers would be needed to battle the inhabitants of Canaan. The census was taken on the east side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho. This is just before they go into Jericho. This was the first fortified city Israel would encounter in Canaan, and what happened there would mark Israel’s first victory in the long-anticipated conquest.

***Numbers 26:5 "Reuben, the eldest son of Israel: the children of Reuben; Hanoch, [of whom cometh] the family of the Hanochites: of Pallu, the family of the Palluites:"***

***Numbers 26:6 "Of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Carmi, the family of the Carmites."***

***Numbers 26:7 "These [are] the families of the Reubenites: and they that were numbered of them were forty and three thousand and seven hundred and thirty."***

***Numbers 26:8 "And the sons of Pallu; Eliab."***

***Numbers 26:9 "And the sons of Eliab; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. This [is that] Dathan and Abiram, [which were] famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD:"***

***Numbers 26:10 "And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign."***

***Numbers 26:11 "Notwithstanding the children of Korah died not."***

The tribe of Reuben at the end of the wilderness wanderings were 43,730 people. The earlier count had been 46,500. This is a loss of 2,770 people during the wilderness wanderings. Eliab was father of Dathan and Abiram, the leaders of the revolt against Moses. Eliab had another son named Nemuel. Dathan, and Abiram were killed with their people. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them. Therefore, the pair serves as a warning sign. They became a sign to all the people not to commit this type of sin (rebellion against leadership) again. The Korahites were specifically not killed. Korah, their father, was swallowed up with Dathan and Abiram but the fact that the sons of Korah did not die acknowledges that grace had been extended, allowing Korah’s family line to continue. The sons that did not follow his rebellion would have an inheritance in the promised land. The other leaders of the 250 revolters were burned with fire.

***Numbers 16:28-32***

***28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.***

***29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the Lord hath not sent me.***

***30 But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord.***

***31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:***

***32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.***

***Numbers 26:12 "The sons of Simeon after their families: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites: of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites: of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites:"***

***Numbers 26:13 " Of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites: of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites."***

***Numbers 26:14 "These [are] the families of the Simeonites, twenty and two thousand and two hundred."***

In the first count of the tribe of Simeon, there were counted 59,300. The count here is 22,200. There is a loss of 37,100 since the first count. This, possibly, is because so many of them were swallowed up when the earth opened.

***Numbers 26:15 "The children of Gad after their families: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites: of Haggi, the family of the Haggites: of Shuni, the family of the Shunites:"***

***Numbers 26:16 "Of Ozni, the family of the Oznites: of Eri, the family of the Erites:"***

***Numbers 26:17 "Of Arod, the family of the Arodites: of Areli, the family of the Arelites."***

***Numbers 26:18 "These [are] the families of the children of Gad according to those that were numbered of them, forty thousand and five hundred."***

The children of Gad at this second counting were numbered 40,500. The earlier count of the tribe of Gad was 45,650. Again, we see a reduction of them by 5,150.

***Numbers 26:19 "The sons of Judah [were] Er and Onan: and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan."***

***Numbers 26:20 "And the sons of Judah after their families were; of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites: of Pharez, the family of the Pharzites: of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites."***

***Numbers 26:21 "And the sons of Pharez were; of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites."***

***Numbers 26:22 "These [are] the families of Judah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred."***

Sadly, both sons of Judah were slain by the Lord and died without leaving an heir. Zerah and Pharez were the sons of Judah by his daughter-in-law Tamar. The others mentioned are grandsons. The descendants of Judah at this count were 76,500. At the earlier count, there were 74,600. This means there was an increase in the number of 1,900 people.

***Genesis 38:7-10***

***7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him.***

***8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.***

***9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.***

***10 And the thing which he did displeased the Lord: wherefore he slew him also.***

***Numbers 26:23 "[Of] the sons of Issachar after their families: [of] Tola, the family of the Tolaites: of Pua, the family of the Punites:"***

***Numbers 26:24 "Of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites: of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites."***

***Numbers 26:25 "These [are] the families of Issachar according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and four thousand and three hundred."***

At this count there were 64,300. In the earlier count, there had been 54,400 people. We see there was an increase of the descendants of Issachar of 9,900 people.

***Numbers 26:26 "[Of] the sons of Zebulun after their families: of Sered, the family of the Sardites: of Elon, the family of the Elonites: of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites."***

***Numbers 26:27 "These [are] the families of the Zebulunites according to those that were numbered of them, threescore thousand and five hundred."***

The tribe of Zebulun, at this count, was 60,500. At the beginning of the march, they were numbered 57,400. We see there was an increase of 3,100 people.

***Numbers 26:28 "The sons of Joseph after their families [were] Manasseh and Ephraim."***

***Numbers 26:29 "Of the sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites: and Machir begat Gilead: of Gilead [come] the family of the Gileadites."***

***Numbers 26:30 "These [are] the sons of Gilead: [of] Jeezer, the family of the Jeezerites: of Helek, the family of the Helekites:"***

***Numbers 26:31 "And [of] Asriel, the family of the Asrielites: and [of] Shechem, the family of the Shechemites:"***

***Numbers 26:32 "And [of] Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites: and [of] Hepher, the family of the Hepherites."***

***Numbers 26:33 "And Zelophehad the son of Hepher had no sons, but daughters: and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad [were] Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah."***

***Numbers 26:34 "These [are] the families of Manasseh, and those that were numbered of them, fifty and two thousand and seven hundred."***

Manasseh's and Ephraim's tribes had been counted separate earlier. Zelophehad had no sons, so his daughters are listed here. These are not just Manasseh's sons, but grandsons, as well. The count of Manasseh's descendents at this count were 52,700. In the first count, they were numbered 32,200. They had increased greatly by 20,500 people.

***Numbers 26:35 "These [are] the sons of Ephraim after their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites: of Becher, the family of the Bachrites: of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites."***

***Numbers 26:36 "And these [are] the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites."***

***Numbers 26:37 "These [are] the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those that were numbered of them, thirty and two thousand and five hundred. These [are] the sons of Joseph after their families."***

Ephraim's descendants were numbered 32,500 at this count. At the earlier count, there had been 40,500. We see that Ephraim's descendants had reduced in number from the first count by 8,000. The census records continued until the total of fighting men was calculated: 601,730 (26:51). This figure was quite close to the original count of “603,550,” taken almost four decades earlier (1:46). So even though the exodus generation died off and Israel suffered a number of severe judgments on their way to Canaan, God prospered his people, and they were ready to cross the Jordan at full strength. This serves to remind the believer that “all things” (good and bad) are used by God to accomplish His purpose and prepare us for His glory.

***Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”***

***2 Timothy 1:8-9***

***8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;***

***9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who did God speak to after the plague?
2. Why is Eleazar mentioned in place of Aaron?
3. How many years ago had they taken a census?
4. They camped near \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at this time.
5. Who was the oldest son of Jacob {Israel}?
6. Who was Eliab the father of?
7. What terrible thing had they done?
8. How many prices were opposed to Moses?
9. What happened to them?
10. What happened to Korah's children?
11. What happened to Er and Onan?
12. Who was their father?
13. Zerah and Pharez were sons of whom?
14. Manasseh and Ephraim were from what tribe?
15. Zelophehad had no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so they listed his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.