

Numbers 1:1-54 The Armies of YeHoVaH

In Exodus, YeHoVaH identified Israel as His Armies long before they were delivered from their bondage in Egypt. YeHoVaH established Israel as a nation in Exodus, gave Israel Laws to govern themselves as a people at Mount Sinai, and established His presence amongst them in Leviticus. In Numbers, YeHoVaH begins to train Israel for battle to take them into the Land of Promise.

In this portion of the Book of the Law, YeHoVaH begins the process of preparing Israel as a military force to be reckoned with. This reveals a title of YeHoVaH which is identified in Moses' Song.

The events in Numbers cover a period of 38 years and nine or ten months. Approximately thirteen months after the exodus, Numbers begins. Israel had spent the previous year in the region of Mount Sinai receiving the Law from YeHoVaH and erecting the Tabernacle per His Instructions.

YeHoVaH gives Instructions in Numbers for Israel to go forth as a military force.

Nu 1:1 And **the LORD spake** unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first *day* of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

One of the Hebrew names for the Book is *wayedabber* ("And he (**YeHoVaH**) spoke"), from the first word in the Hebrew text.

YeHoVaH revealed Himself to Moses by the Name YeHoVaH.

Ex 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by (the name of) God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

The **LORD** – **03068** יהוה Yehovah {yeh-ho-vaw'}

Meaning: Jehovah = "the existing One" 1) the proper name of the one true God 1a) unpronounced except with the vowel pointings of 0136

Usage: AV - LORD 6510, GOD 4, JEHOVAH 4, variant 1;

YeHoVaH as LORD Used 6519

Abraham referred to YeHoVaH as Adonay.

Ge 15:2 And Abram said, **Lord** GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is* this Eliezer of Damascus?

Lord – **0136** אֲדֹנָי Adonay {ad-o-noy'}

Meaning: 1) my lord, lord 1a) of men 1b) of God 2) Lord - title, spoken in place of Yahweh in Jewish display of reverence

Usage: AV - Lord 431, lord 2, God 1;

Adonay as Lord used 434

Spoke – **01696** דַּבַּר dabar {daw-bar'}

Meaning: 1) to speak, declare, converse, command, promise, warn, threaten, sing 1a) (Qal) to speak 1b) (Niphal) to speak with one another, talk 1c) (Piel) 1c1) to speak 1c2) to promise 1d) (Pual) to be spoken 1e) (Hithpael) to speak 1f) (Hiphil) to lead away, put to flight

Usage: AV - speak 840, say 118, talk 46, promise 31, tell 25, commune 20, pronounce 14, utter 7, command 4 misc 38; 1143

The Hebrew title of the Book is *bemidbar*, "in the desert" or "in the wilderness".

Wilderness – **04057** מִדְבָּר midbar {mid-bawr'}

Meaning: 1) wilderness 1a) pasture 1b) uninhabited land, wilderness 1c) large tracts of wilderness (around cities) 1d) wilderness (fig.) 2) mouth 2a) mouth (as organ of speech)

Usage: AV - wilderness 255, desert 13, south 1, speech 1, wilderness + 0776 1; 271

Ex 40:17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first *day* of the month, *that* the tabernacle was reared up.

Ex 40:18 And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and fastened his sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up his pillars.

Nu 1:2 Take ye the **sum** of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of *their* names, every male by their **polls**;

Sum – **07218** ראש ro'sh {roshe}

Meaning: 1) head, top, summit, upper part, chief, total, sum, height, front, beginning 1a) head (of man, animals) 1b) top, tip (of mountain) 1c) height (of stars) 1d) chief, head (of man, city, nation, place, family, priest) 1e) head, front, beginning 1f) chief, choicest, best 1g) head, division, company, band 1h) sum

Usage: AV - head 349, chief 91, top 73, beginning 14, company 12, captain 10, sum 9, first 6, principal 5, chapters 4, rulers 2, misc 23; 598

Polls – **01538** גִּלְגֹּלֶת gulgoleth {gul-go'-leth}

Meaning: 1) head, poll, skull 1a) skull 1b) head, poll (of census)

Usage: AV - poll 7, scull 2, every man 2, head 1; 12

Nu 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able **to go forth to war in Israel:** thou and Aaron shall **number them by their armies.**

Armies - **06635** צְבָאָה tsaba' {tsaw-baw'} or (fem.) צְבָאָה tseba'ah {tseb-aw-aw'}

Meaning: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host 1a) army, host 1a1) host (of organised army) 1a2) host (of angels) 1a3) of sun, moon, and stars 1a4) of whole creation 1b) war, warfare, service, go out to war 1c) service

Usage: AV - host 393, war 41, army 29, battle 5, service 5, appointed time 3, warfare 2, soldiers 1, company 1, misc 5; 485

The first time this Hebrew word is used is during Creation.

Ge 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Jacob/Israel, speaking of the angels of Elohim, identified them as the Host of Elohim.

Ge 32:1 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

Ge 32:2 And when Jacob saw them, he said, This *is* God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim (two camps).

YeHoVaH is called the LORD of Hosts from Samuel to Malachi.

1Sa 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there.

YeHoVaH calls Himself YeHoVaH of Hosts.

Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this*, saith the LORD of hosts.

In Exodus 6, YeHoVaH identified Israel as His armies.

Ex 6:26 These *are* that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said, Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies.

Ex 12:51 And it came to pass the selfsame day, *that* the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Moses sung a song in Exodus 15 after YeHoVaH delivered Israel out of Egypt.

Ex 15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Ex 15:2 The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Ex 15:3 The LORD *is* **a man of war**: the LORD *is* his name.

Moses called **YeHoVaH a Man of War**.

YeHoVaH did battle on behalf of Israel.

Here in Numbers, YeHoVaH begins to set apart the warriors of Israel to prepare His armies for battle.

Eventually, when each tribe occupies their tribal lands in the Land of Israel, they will have a standing army based on the Instructions in these passages.

Each tribe of Israel had an army of men twenty years and older.

Nu 1:4 And with you there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers.

Reuben

Simeon

Judah

Issachar

Zebulun

Ephraim (*Joseph's son*)

Manasseh (*Joseph's son*)

Benjamin

Dan

Asher

Gad

Naphtali

The total of 12 tribes is without Levi; add Levi and you would have a grand total of 13 tribes.

Moses lists the tribes first by their tribal heads.

The sons of Leah are mentioned first.

Nu 1:5 And these *are* the names of the men that shall stand with you: of *the tribe of* Reuben; Elizur the son of Shedeur.

Nu 1:6 Of Simeon; Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

Nu 1:7 Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

Nu 1:8 Of Issachar; Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

Nu 1:9 Of Zebulun; Eliab the son of Helon.

Next mentioned are the sons of Rachael.

Nu 1:10 **Of the children of Joseph:** of Ephraim; Elishama the son of Ammihud: of Manasseh; Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Nu 1:11 Of Benjamin; Abidan the son of Gideoni.

Third mentioned are the sons of Zilpar, Leah's handmaiden.

Nu 1:12 Of Dan; Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

Nu 1:13 Of Asher; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

Fourth mentioned are the sons of Bilhar, Rachael's handmaiden.

Nu 1:14 Of Gad; Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

Nu 1:15 Of Naphtali; Ahira the son of Enan.

Nu 1:16 These *were* the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel.

The next list has the tribes in a different order, with Gad mentioned after Simeon, and the total numbers of each tribe.

Nu 1:17 And Moses and Aaron took these men which are expressed by *their* names:

Nu 1:18 And they assembled all the congregation together on the first *day* of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls.

Nu 1:19 As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

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

Nu 1:20 And the children of Reuben, Israel's eldest son, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:21 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Reuben, *were* forty and six thousand and five hundred.

Nu 1:22 Of the children of Simeon, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, those that were numbered of them, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:23 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Simeon, *were* fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

Nu 1:24 Of the children of Gad, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:25 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Gad, *were* forty and five thousand six hundred and fifty.

Nu 1:26 Of the children of Judah, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:27 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Judah, *were* threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

Nu 1:28 Of the children of Issachar, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:29 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Issachar, *were* fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

Nu 1:30 Of the children of Zebulun, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:31 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Zebulun, *were* fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

Nu 1:32 Of the children of Joseph, *namely*, of the children of Ephraim, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:33 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Ephraim, *were* forty thousand and five hundred.

Nu 1:34 Of the children of Manasseh, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:35 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Manasseh, *were* thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

Nu 1:36 Of the children of Benjamin, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:37 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Benjamin, *were* thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

Nu 1:38 Of the children of Dan, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:39 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Dan, *were* threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

Nu 1:40 Of the children of Asher, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Nu 1:41 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Asher, *were* forty and one thousand and five hundred.

Nu 1:42 Of the children of Naphtali, throughout their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, **all that were able to go forth to war**;

Nu 1:43 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of Naphtali, *were* fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

Nu 1:44 These *are* those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, *being* twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers.

Nu 1:45 So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel;

The total number of the Children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel, was 603,550.

Nu 1:46 Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

The Levites were not numbered.

Nu 1:47 But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.

Nu 1:48 For the **LORD had spoken unto Moses**, saying,

Nu 1:49 Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

Nu 1:50 But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that *belong* to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

The Levites were not numbered.

The Levites' service was to the Tabernacle.

The Levites transported the Tabernacle but were forbidden to touch the Holy things used in the service of the Tabernacle.

The Priests' service was in the Tabernacle unto YeHoVaH on behalf of the people.

Nu 1:51 And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Stranger – **02114** זָרוּר {zoor}

Meaning: 1) to be strange, be a stranger 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to become estranged 1a2) strange, another, stranger, foreigner, an enemy (participle) 1a3) loathsome (of breath) (participle) 1a4) strange woman, prostitute, harlot (meton) 1b) (Niphal) to be estranged 1c) (Hophal) to be a stranger, be one alienated

Usage: AV - stranger 45, strange 18, estranged 4, stranger + 0376 3, another 2, strange woman 2, gone away 1, fanners 1, another place 1; 77

The stranger in this passage appears to be a non-Levite Israelite.

The first time this Hebrew word for stranger is used or mentioned is in Exodus.

Ex 29:33 And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate *and* to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat *thereof*, because they *are* holy.

Nu 1:52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.

Nu 1:53 But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

Nu 1:54 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.