

Numbers 2:1-34 Tribal Camps and the Tabernacle

YeHoVaH brought the tribes of Israel out of Egypt as armies. He established Israel as a nation, gave Israel Laws to govern themselves as a people, and established His Presence amongst them. YeHoVaH had the Priests minister unto Him in the Tabernacle on behalf of the people.

YeHoVaH instructed that the **tribes be numbered**, according to their ability to go to battle, and established their **tribal camp formation** around the Tabernacle.

Nu 2:1 And the **LORD spake** unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

YeHoVaH SPOKE Moses Wrote

What Moses wrote came out of the mouth of God.

Mt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Nu 2:2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.

Each tribe had its standard and ensign; each triad or group of tribes marched after the standard and ensign of the lead tribe.

Standard – **01714** דֶּגֶל degel {deh'-gel}

Meaning: 1) banner, standard

Usage: AV - standard 13, banner

Ensign – **0226** אוֹת 'owth {oth}

Meaning: 1) sign, signal 1a) a distinguishing mark 1b) banner 1c) remembrance 1d) miraculous sign 1e) omen 1f) warning 2) token, ensign, standard, miracle, proof

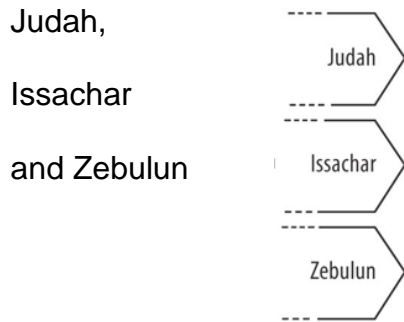
Usage: AV - sign(s) 60, token(s) 14, ensign(s) 2, miracles 2, mark 1; 79

The tribes were structured in formation according to the listing, not according to the birth order.

The Birth Order



East Rank



Judah would set forth first.

Israel's prophecy over each of his sons appear to be taken into consideration in the formation.

Ge 49:1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you *that* which shall befall you in the last days.

Ge 49:2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

Ge 49:3 Reuben, thou *art* my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

Ge 49:4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou *it*: he went up to my couch.

Ge 49:5 Simeon and Levi *are* brethren; instruments of cruelty *are in* their habitations.

Simeon and Levi brought trouble to Israel's house.

Ge 34:24 And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

Ge 34:25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

Ge 34:26 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.

Ge 34:27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

Ge 34:28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field,

Ge 34:29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house.

Ge 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I *being* few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Ge 49:6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.

Ge 49:7 Cursed *be* their anger, for *it was* fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

Ge 49:8 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

Judah's brothers shall praise him.

Judah does not mean praise.

Judah means "praised".

Judah – **03063** יהודה Yehuwdah {yeh-hoo-daw'}

Meaning: Judah = "praised" 1) the son of Jacob by Leah 2) the tribe descended from Judah the son of Jacob 3) the territory occupied by the tribe of Judah 4) the kingdom comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin which occupied the southern part of Canaan after the nation split upon the death of Solomon **Usage:** AV - Judah 809,

His mother gave praise to YeHoVaH when she gave birth to Judah.

Ge 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

Ge 49:9 Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

Ge 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

The kings of Israel would come from the House of David and the Tribe of Judah.

Ge 49:11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

Ge 49:12 His eyes *shall be* red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Nu 2:3 And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab *shall be* captain of the children of Judah.

Nu 2:4 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

Nu 2:5 And those that do pitch next unto him *shall be* the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar *shall be* captain of the children of Issachar.

Nu 2:6 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, *were* fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

Nu 2:7 *Then* the tribe of Zebulun: and Eliab the son of Helon *shall be* captain of the children of Zebulun.

Nu 2:8 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, *were* fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

Nu 2:9 All that were numbered in the camp of Judah *were* an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

Host – **06635** צבא tsaba' {tsaw-baw'} or (fem.) צבאה 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

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

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

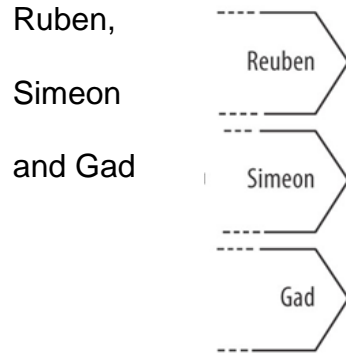
Meaning: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host 1a) army, host 1a1) host (of organised army) 1a2) host (of angels) 1a3) of sun, moon, and stars 1a4) of whole

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

Ruben would lead the second rank.

Ruben was the firstborn but lost his status as firstborn.

South Rank



Nu 2:10 On the south side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben *shall be* Elizur the son of Shedeur.

Nu 2:11 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, *were* forty and six thousand and five hundred.

Nu 2:12 And those which pitch by him *shall be* the tribe of Simeon: and the captain of the children of Simeon *shall be* Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

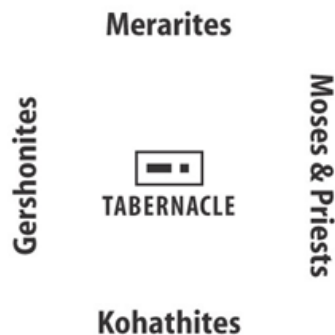
Nu 2:13 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

Nu 2:14 Then the tribe of Gad: and the captain of the sons of Gad *shall be* Eliasaph the son of Reuel.

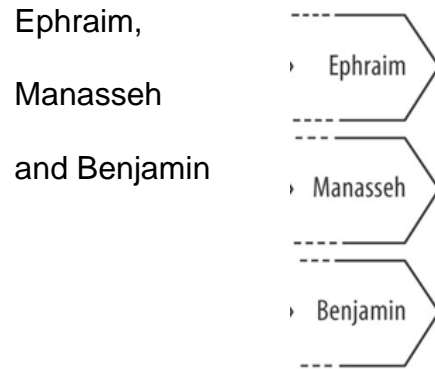
Nu 2:15 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* forty and five thousand and six hundred and fifty.

Nu 2:16 All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben *were* an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

Nu 2:17 Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.



West Rank



Ephraim would lead the third rank.

Ephraim was the second-born son of Joseph.

Israel adopted Joseph's sons and placed Ephraim over Manasseh.

Ge 48:1 And it came to pass after these things, that *one* told Joseph, Behold, thy father *is* sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Ge 48:2 And *one* told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

Ge 48:3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

Ge 48:4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee *for* an everlasting possession.

Ge 48:5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

Ge 48:6 And thy issue, which thou begettest after them, shall be thine, *and* shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance.

Ge 48:7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet *there was* but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same *is* Bethlehem.

Ge 48:8 And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who *are* these?

Ge 48:9 And Joseph said unto his father, They *are* my sons, whom God hath given me in this *place*. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.

Ge 48:10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, *so that* he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

Ge 48:11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shown me also thy seed.

Ge 48:12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

Ge 48:13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought *them* near unto him.

Ge 48:14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid *it* upon Ephraim's head, who *was* the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh *was* the firstborn.

Ge 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

Ge 48:16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Ge 48:17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

Ge 48:18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this *is* the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

Ge 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know *it*, my son, I know *it*: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

Ge 48:20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Nu 2:18 On the west side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim *shall be* Elishama the son of Ammihud.

Nu 2:19 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* forty thousand and five hundred.

Nu 2:20 And by him *shall be* the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh *shall be* Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Nu 2:21 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

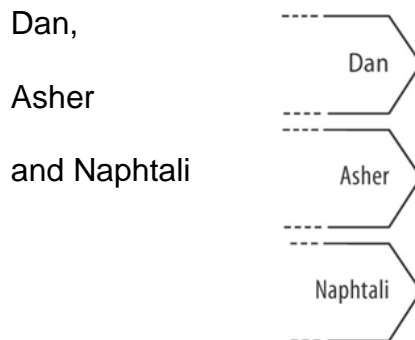
Nu 2:22 Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin *shall be* Abidan the son of Gideoni.

Nu 2:23 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

Nu 2:24 All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim *were* an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank.

Dan led the fourth rank.

North Rank



Nu 2:25 The standard of the camp of Dan *shall be* on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan *shall be* Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

Nu 2:26 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

Nu 2:27 And those that encamp by him *shall be* the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher *shall be* Pagiel the son of Ocran.

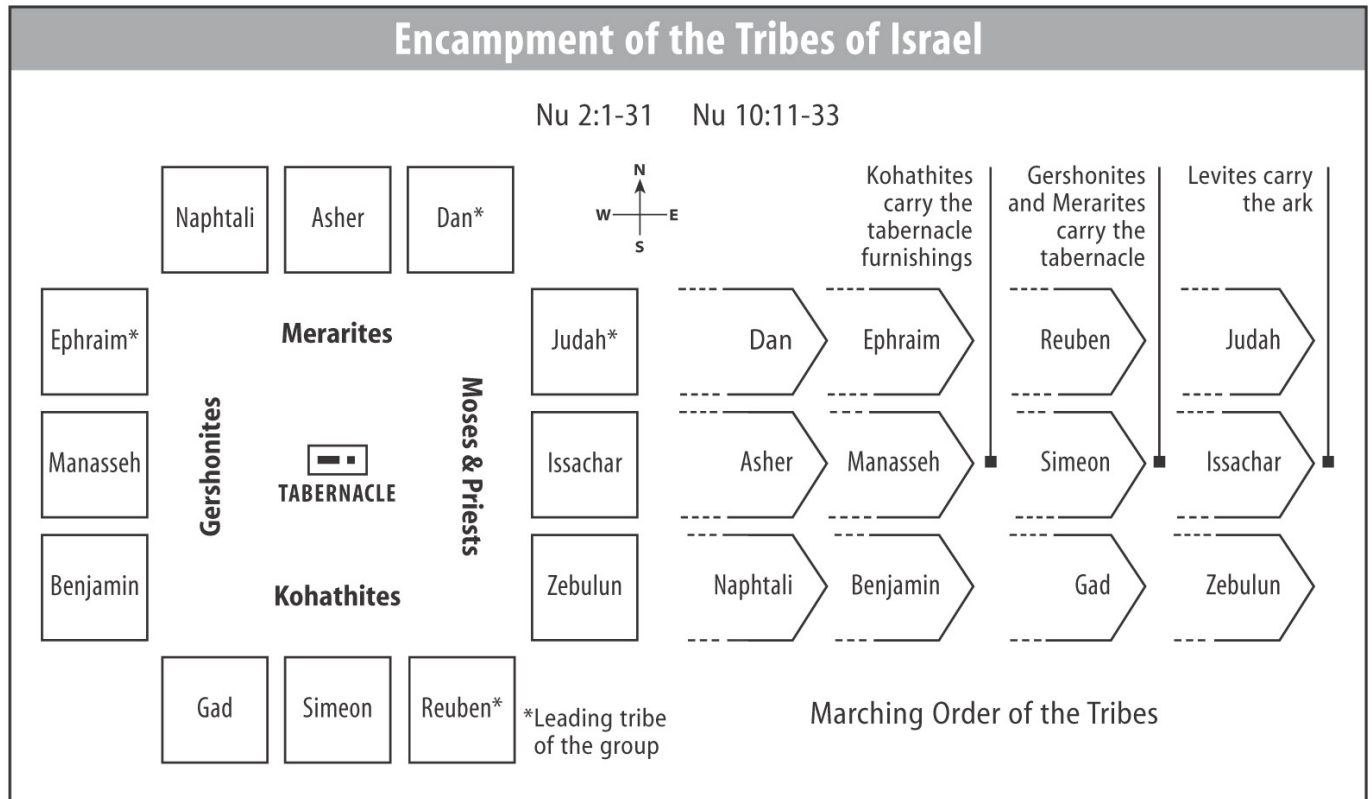
Nu 2:28 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* forty and one thousand and five hundred.

Nu 2:29 Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali *shall be* Ahira the son of Enan.

Nu 2:30 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, *were* fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

Nu 2:31 All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan *were* an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards.

Nu 2:32 These *are* those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts *were* six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.



Nu 2:33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Nu 2:34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.