

Numbers 3:1-51 The Priests and The Levites

YeHoVaH instructed that all the **Tribes, except the Levites, be numbered**, according to their ability to go to battle. He established the **Tribal Camp Formation** around the Tabernacle.

The Levites and Priests were not numbered according to their ability to go to battle. YeHoVaH had a different role for them as revealed in this portion of the Book of the Law of YeHoVaH.

Nu 3:1 These also *are* the generations of Aaron and Moses in the day *that* the LORD spake with Moses in mount Sinai.

Nu 3:2 And these *are* the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

Ex 28:1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me **in the priest's office**, *even* Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

Nu 3:3 These *are* the names of the sons of Aaron, **the priests which were anointed**, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office.

Nu 3:4 And **Nadab and Abihu died** before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.

In Exodus 30, YeHoVaH had commanded Aaron to put incense on the Altar of Incense.

Ex 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

Ex 30:8 And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Ex 30:9 Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.

Nadab and Abihu did what Aaron had been commanded by YeHoVaH to do and YeHoVaH killed them.

Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Lev 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Nu 3:5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH spoke, Moses wrote!

The Levites served the Priests, but they were not Priests.
All of the Priests were Levites, but not all the Levites were Priests.

ONLY Aaron and his sons served in the Priesthood.

Hebrews 7:11 is misleading for it mentions Levitical Priesthood but identifies Aaron as the Priest.

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Nu 3:6 Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

The Levites were to minister to Aaron.

Nu 3:7 And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle.

The Levites were the replacements of the firstborn sons of the Israelites. They were to minister unto Aaron and the Priests on behalf of the congregation to do the service of the Tabernacle.

Nu 3:8 And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle.

The Levites were given to Aaron and his sons from out of the Children of Israel.

Nu 3:9 And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they *are* wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.

Nu 3:10 And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Nu 3:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH spoke, Moses wrote!

Nu 3:12 And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine;

Nu 3:13 Because all the firstborn *are* mine; *for* on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I *am* the LORD.

The firstborn of Egypt was killed as the last plague (Passover) of Egypt before the Children of Israel were commanded to leave Egypt by Pharaoh.

Passover – **06453** נֹחַדּוּן
{peh'-sakh}

Meaning: 1) passover 1a) sacrifice of passover 1b) animal victim of the passover 1c) festival of the passover

Usage: AV - passover 46, passover offerings 3; 49

Ex 11:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague *more* upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let *you* go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether.

Ex 11:2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.

Ex 11:3 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

Ex 11:4 And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt:

Ex 11:5 And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that *is* behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

Ex 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD.

Ex 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Pass through – **05674** עָבַר `abar {aw-bar'}

Meaning: 1) to pass over or by or through, alienate, bring, carry, do away, take, take away, transgress 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to pass over, cross, cross over, pass over, march over, overflow, go over 1a2) to pass beyond

Usage: AV - (pass, went,...) over 174, pass 108, (pass, etc...) through 58, pass by 27, go 26, (put, pass, etc...) away 24, pass on 19, misc 123; 559

Pass – **06452** פָּסַח pacach {paw-sakh'}

Meaning: 1) to pass over, spring over 1a) (Qal) to pass over 1b) (Piel) to skip, pass over 2) to limp 2a) (Qal) to limp 2b) (Niphal) to be lame 2c) (Piel) to limp

Usage: AV - pass over 4, halt 1, become lame 1, leap 1; 7

Ex 12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

That same day, after they left Egypt, the firstborn of Israel were sanctified.

Ex 13:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Ex 13:2 Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and of beast: it *is* mine.

Ex 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this *place*: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Ex 13:4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.

Nu 3:14 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,

YeHoVaH spoke, Moses wrote!

Nu 3:15 Number the children of Levi after the house of their fathers, by their families: every male from a month old and upward shalt thou number them.

Nu 3:16 And Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

Nu 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi by their names; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari.

Gershonites = 7500

Nu 3:18 And these *are* the names of the sons of Gershon by their families; Libni, and Shimei.

Nu 3:19 And the sons of Kohath by their families; Amram, and Izehar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

Nu 3:20 And the sons of Merari by their families; Mahli, and Mushi. These *are* the families of the Levites according to the house of their fathers.

Nu 3:21 Of Gershon *was* the family of the Libnites, and the family of the Shimites: these *are* the families of the Gershonites.

Nu 3:22 Those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, *even* those that were numbered of them *were* seven thousand and five hundred.

Nu 3:23 The families of the Gershonites shall pitch behind the tabernacle **westward**.

Nu 3:24 And the chief of the house of the father of the Gershonites *shall be* Eliasaph the son of Lael.

Nu 3:25 And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation *shall be* the tabernacle, and the tent, the covering thereof, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Nu 3:26 And the hangings of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which *is* by the tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords of it for all the service thereof.

Kohathites = 8600

Nu 3:27 And of Kohath *was* the family of the Amramites, and the family of the Izeharites, and the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites: these *are* the families of the Kohathites.

Nu 3:28 In the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, *were* eight thousand and six hundred, keeping the charge of the sanctuary.

Nu 3:29 The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle **southward**.

Nu 3:30 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of the Kohathites *shall be* Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

Nu 3:31 And their charge *shall be* the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof.

Nu 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest *shall be* chief over the chief of the Levites, *and have* the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary.

Merarites = 6200

Nu 3:33 Of Merari *was* the family of the Mahlites, and the family of the Mushites: these *are* the families of Merari.

Nu 3:34 And those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, *were* six thousand and two hundred.

Nu 3:35 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari *was* Zuriel the son of Abihail: *these* shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle **northward**.

Nu 3:36 And *under* the custody and charge of the sons of Merari *shall be* the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto,

Nu 3:37 And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords.

Nu 3:38 But those that encamp before the tabernacle toward the east, *even* before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, *shall be* Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

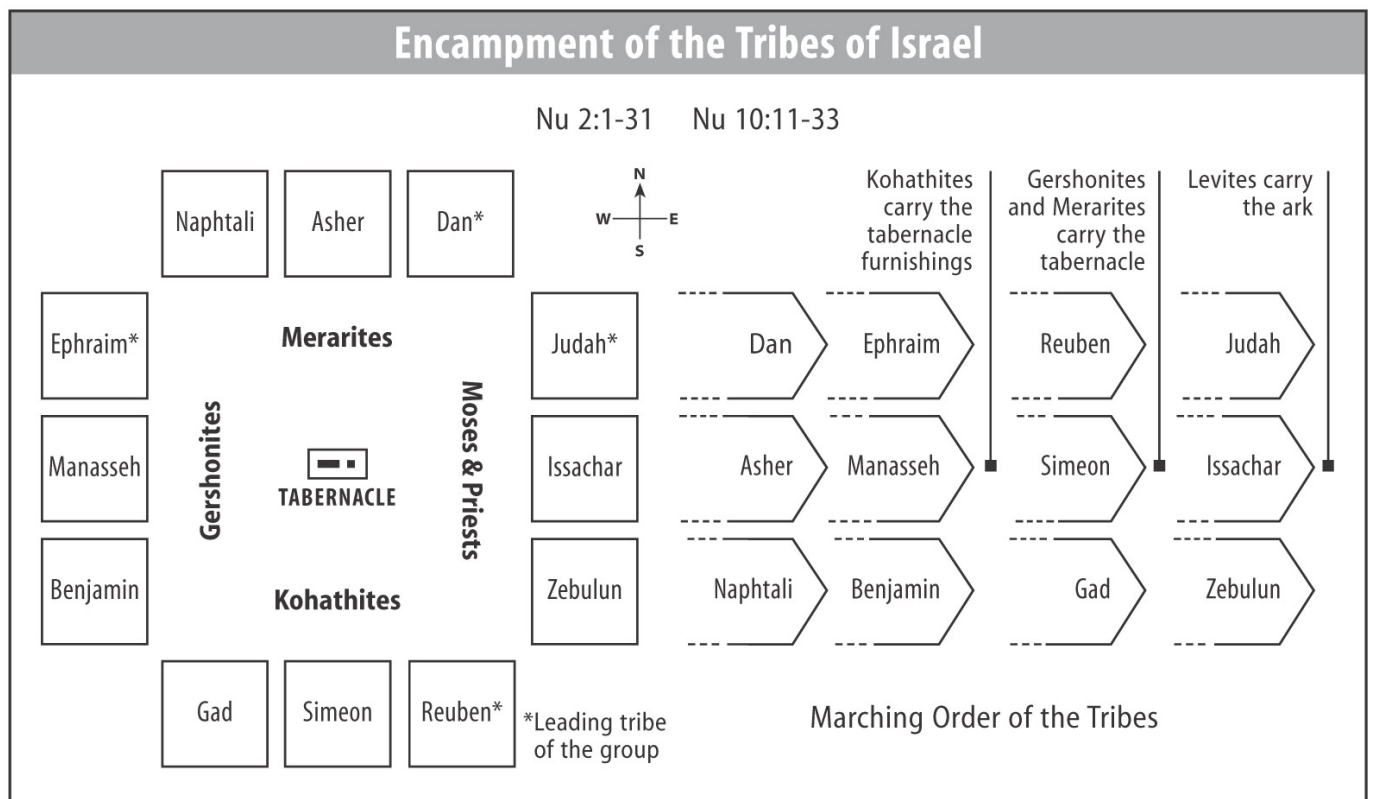
Merarites

Gershonites



Moses & Priests

Kohathites



Nu 3:39 All that were numbered of the Levites, which Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, throughout their families, all the males from a month old and upward, were twenty and two thousand.

Nu 3:40 And **the LORD said** unto Moses, Number all the firstborn of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names.

Nu 3:41 And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I *am* the LORD) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel.

Nu 3:42 And Moses numbered, as the LORD commanded him, all the firstborn among the children of Israel.

Nu 3:43 And all the firstborn males by the number of names, from a month old and upward, of those that were numbered of them, were twenty and two thousand two hundred and threescore and thirteen.

Nu 3:44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH spoke, Moses wrote!

Nu 3:45 Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I *am* the LORD.

Nu 3:46 And for those that are to be redeemed of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites;

Nu 3:47 Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take *them*: (the shekel *is* twenty *gerahs*:)

Nu 3:48 And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons.

Nu 3:49 And Moses took the redemption money of them that were over and above them that were redeemed by the Levites:

Nu 3:50 Of the firstborn of the children of Israel took he the money; a thousand three hundred and threescore and five *shekels*, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

22,000 Levites, a month old and upward

22,273 Israelite firstborn sons, a month old and upward

273 x 5 = 1,365 shekels in Redemption money given to Aaron and his sons

Nu 3:51 And Moses gave the money of them that were redeemed unto Aaron and to his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

In response to the question and dialogue last week at the end of the teaching on Numbers 2, about Saul.

Saul was the first king of Israel.

YeHoVaH told Moses what the people would want when they entered The Land.

The people wanted to be like the nations around them.

Dt 17:14 When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that *are* about me;

Dt 17:15 Thou shalt in any wise set *him* king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: *one* from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which *is* not thy brother.

The people wanted a human king and rejected YeHoVaH as their king.

1st Samuel 8:7 & 10:18 & 19

^{1Sa 8:7} And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

^{1Sa 10:18} And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, *and* of them that oppressed you:

^{1Sa 10:19} And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

YeHoVaH chose and gave Israel Saul as king.

^{1Sa 10:24} And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

YeHoVaH rejected Saul as Israel's king.

^{1st Samuel 15:23}

^{1Sa 15:23} For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.