

# The Census & Camp Locations

## Leviticus 27:34 - Numbers 3:39

### Reading Questions

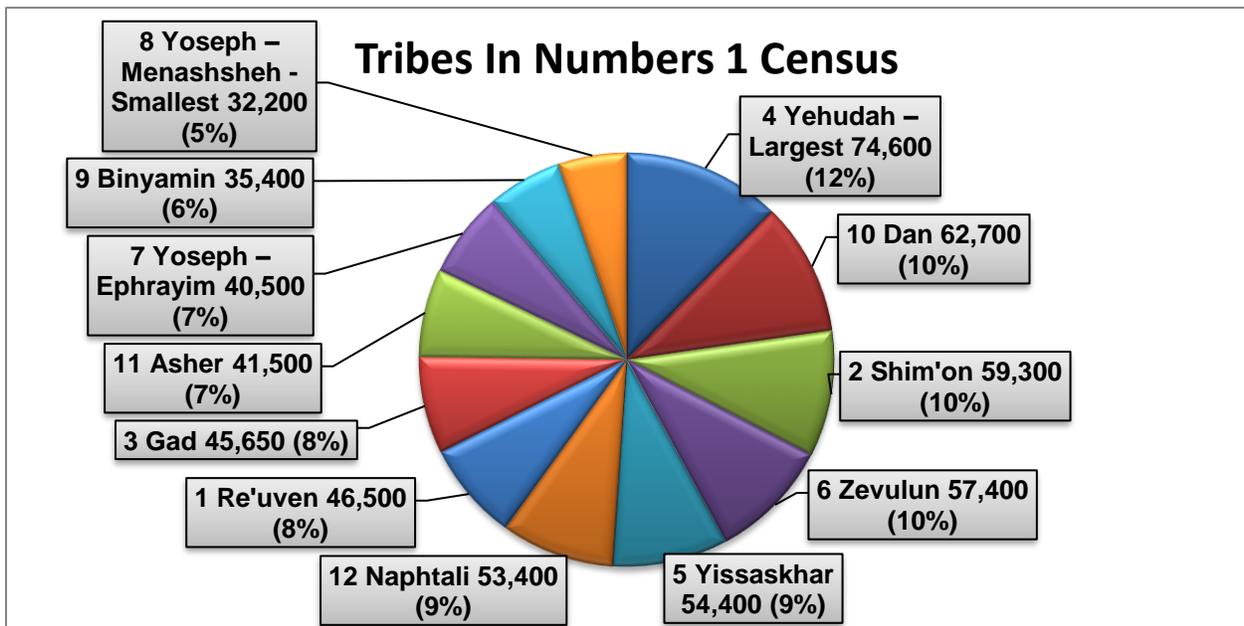
1. At what age is a man considered an independent adult?
2. Are the tribes determined by the father's lineage, or the mother's?
3. What was the largest tribe at that time, the smallest tribe, and what tribe was not registered with the rest and why?
4. Where did the tribes camp in relation to the dwelling place?
5. Who does the tribe of Lewi serve?
6. Whose are the Lewites and why?
7. What side of the Dwelling Place is considered to be "behind" the dwelling place? North, South, East, or West?
8. Were women numbered in the census?

### Reading Answers

1. 20 (Numbers 1:3). Although the USA has the age of 18 for an adult, and some other countries might have various other laws dictating when someone is an adult, the Scriptures clearly show a man is not considered a full adult until he is 20 years old. It was at this age it appears he would, under normal circumstances, be permitted to look for his own wife to start a family or join the military.
2. The father's. We always see tribes referred to as "their fathers' tribes", such as in Numbers 1:16. Also, we see in Numbers 36:6 that the daughters of Tselophchad had to marry within their **father's tribe**, not their mother's tribe. Why? Because tribes were determined by fathers, not mothers. A woman automatically becomes part of whatever tribe she marries into. If her husband dies, and she remarries someone from a different tribe, she again changes to another tribe. Even Numbers 1:18 says, "they declared their ancestry by clans, by their fathers' houses". It's very clear that lineage and ancestry is dictated by the fathers not the mothers.

3. See the below table and chart created with data from Numbers 1:

Order Listed	Tribe	Number	% of Total
4	<b>Yehudah – Largest</b>	74,600	12%
10	Dan	62,700	10%
2	Shim'on	59,300	10%
6	Zevulun	57,400	10%
5	Yissaskhar	54,400	9%
12	Naphtali	53,400	9%
1	Re'uven	46,500	8%
3	Gad	45,650	8%
11	Asher	41,500	7%
7	Yoseph – Ephrayim	40,500	7%
9	Binyamin	35,400	6%
8	<b>Yoseph – Menashsheh - Smallest</b>	32,200	5%
	<b>ALL REGISTERED ONES</b>	603,550	100%
	<b>Lewi - Not Registered</b>		



The Lewites were not registered because **יהוה** spoke to Mosheh telling him to not register them or take a census of them, but to appoint them over the Dwelling Place, its' furnishings, and all that belong to it (Numbers 1:47-51).

4. See the below table created with data from Numbers 2 and 3 and the note below it:

	<b><u>North Side – 157,600</u></b> <b><u>Last To Depart</u></b>	
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	<b><u>Camp of Dan</u></b>  Dan – 62,700 Asher – 41,500 Naphtali – 53,400				
<b><u>West Side – 108,100</u></b> <b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> To Depart</u></b> <b><u>Camp of Ephrayim</u></b>  Yoseph – Ephrayim – 40,500 Yoseph – Menashsheh – 32,200 Binyamin – 35,400	Clans of Merari – 6,200  Boards, Bars, Columns, Sockets, Utensils, and Service of Dwelling Place  Columns, Sockets, Pegs, & Cords of Courtyard	<b><u>East Side – 186,400</u></b> <b><u>1<sup>st</sup> To Depart</u></b> <b><u>Camp of Yehudah</u></b>  Yehudah – 74,600 Yissaskhar – 54,400 Zevulun – 57,400			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px;">                     Gereshonites – 7,500                       Dwelling Place, Tent, Covering of Door of Tent of Meeting, Courtyard, Covering Door of Courtyard                 </td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b><u>Middle of The Camps of The Lewites</u></b>   <b><u>Dwelling Place</u></b>   <b><u>Tent of Meeting</u></b> </td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 2px;"> <b><u>Mosheh, Aharon, &amp; Sons of Aharon</u></b>                       Guarding the Duty of the Set-Apart Place                 </td> </tr> </table>		Gereshonites – 7,500  Dwelling Place, Tent, Covering of Door of Tent of Meeting, Courtyard, Covering Door of Courtyard	<b><u>Middle of The Camps of The Lewites</u></b>  <b><u>Dwelling Place</u></b>  <b><u>Tent of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Mosheh, Aharon, &amp; Sons of Aharon</u></b>  Guarding the Duty of the Set-Apart Place
	Gereshonites – 7,500  Dwelling Place, Tent, Covering of Door of Tent of Meeting, Courtyard, Covering Door of Courtyard		<b><u>Middle of The Camps of The Lewites</u></b>  <b><u>Dwelling Place</u></b>  <b><u>Tent of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Mosheh, Aharon, &amp; Sons of Aharon</u></b>  Guarding the Duty of the Set-Apart Place	
Qehathites – 8,600  Ark, Table, Lampstand, Altar, Utensils, Covering					
	<b><u>South Side – 151,450</u></b> <b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> To Depart</u></b> <b><u>Camp of Re’uven</u></b>  Re’uven – 46,500 Shim’on – 59,300 Gad – 45,650				

The numbers for the Lewites do not add up correctly in Numbers 3. The mis-match is as follows:

The Gereshonites – 7,500 (Numbers 3:21-22)  
 + The Qehathites – 8,600 (Numbers 3:27-28)  
 + The Clans of Merari – 6,200 (Numbers 3:33-34)  
 SHOULD EQUAL = 22,300

The total based upon the numbers given should equal 22,300. However, Numbers 3:39 just says the total was 22,000. Why the difference?

Well, it is possible that someone along the way has misunderstood the Hebrew letters representing numbers in the original scrolls. Some Hebrew letters look very similar and could be mistaken for each other.

In fact, it appears that may have been exactly what happened. What evidence do we have for this? We must look at Brenton’s English translation of the Greek

Septuagint. The Septuagint is the Greek Translation of the Tanakh (or commonly called "Old Testament"). In Brenton's English translation of this Greek document, which was written more than 2,000 years ago and is older than the Hebrew most translations use, we see in Numbers 3:34 it says:

"The mustering of them according to number, every male from a month old and upwards, was six thousand and fifty."

The English translations using the Hebrew say 6,200, while this English translation of the Greek says 6,050. However, that still leaves us at 22,150 in the Greek. The Greek total in Numbers 3:39 also says 22,000 according to Brenton's translation. That's closer, only 150 off the mark, but still something is amiss. This at least, however, does give evidence that the Hebrew letters in the original manuscript may be easily misunderstood by those copying or translating from the original Scroll.

There are other explanations by learned men on the Internet, but I do not feel it is necessary to share those in these notes as I cannot verify whose explanation would be correct since I am not a language or manuscript expert.

5. Aharon and the Sons of Aharon (Numbers 3:6).
6. יהוה's because when יהוה struck all the first-born in Mitsrayim (Egypt) he set-apart all the first-born in Yisra'el for himself (Numbers 3:11-13).
7. West (Numbers 3:23).
8. No. Only the males were numbered (Numbers 1:20).

### **Reading Notes**

- It is interesting to note that a census was done on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month (Numbers 1:1-2). This might be additional evidence showing that the New Moon Day is not equivalent to a Sabbath. I do not think they would have done this census on a Sabbath day of rest. In fact, we can prove it was not the weekly Sabbath when this census occurred because in Numbers 10:11-12 and verse 33 it shows they went on a 3 day journey spanning the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This shows that neither the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, or 22<sup>nd</sup> were Sabbath days since they were on a journey on these days, seeking out a resting place. If the 22<sup>nd</sup> was not a weekly Sabbath then neither was the 1<sup>st</sup> of that same month because the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month is always on the same day of the week as the 22<sup>nd</sup> of that same month.
- Some believers interpret the age of 20 mentioned in Numbers 1:3 to not only be the age when a man becomes an adult, but also the minimum age a woman must attain in order to get married because before then, from their perspective, she would not be mature enough to make a wise, informed decision, or be considered an adult. They may possibly be correct, and considering all the evil today and the problems

that arise in marriage, proceeding with caution and waiting until a woman is 20 is probably advisable regardless of whether or not it is required.

- See [the reading notes for Week 38 of the Annual Reading Schedule](#) for related information about censuses.

### **Related Verses**

**Census:** Exodus 30:12, Numbers 4:2, 22, 26:2, 4, 1 Chronicles 27:24, 2 Chronicles 2:17