

Week 34: May 31, 2025

Shabbat Message

Bamidbar / *In the Wilderness* / בְּמִדְבָּר

[Numbers 1:1-4:20](#)

My Way or Yah's Way

The Census

Introduction

The book of Numbers facilitates and intricate exploration of Elohim's divine wisdom manifested in the organization and protection of his people Israel. The book begins with the first national census and proceeds to address the Israelites' encampment arrangement and leadership structure. We will also see Yehovah imparting divine wisdom and understanding to Moses and

Aaron as they lead Israel from the wilderness B'midbar to the Promised Land so let's get started with learning more about this wonderful book.

In a Panoramic View

Numbers 1

1. Numbers 1, far from being a mere historical account, provides profound wisdom on God's nature, His principles on leadership, accountability, obedience, personal identity, consecration, and holiness.
2. It intricately intertwines with Brit Chadasha teachings, showcasing the Bible's enduring relevance and the unchanging wisdom of God.
3. In essence, Numbers 1 serves as a critical guidepost for understanding the divine orchestration of life within a theocratic society, offering timeless insights for contemporary believers in their spiritual journey.

The Divine Census

Numbers 1:1-4

1. The chapter begins with Elohim commanding Moses to conduct a census of all Israelite men over 20 years of age, able to go war. (Numbers 1:2-3).
2. This act of number counting highlighted Elohim's omniscient nature, reflecting similar

divine counts such as Revelation 7:4-8.

3. There might be a hint of a real age of accountability here at 20 years old. The stipulated age of 20 in (Numbers 1:3) suggests a hint of divine recognition of maturity. This principle reverberates in the Renewed Covenant Scriptures, where Paul encourages believers to spiritual maturity in Ephesians 4:13-14.

The Appointed Leaders

Numbers 1:5-16

1. Twelve leaders are identified, one from each tribe, entrusted with helping Moses and Aaron with the census activity (Numbers 1:4).
2. This appointment shows Elohim's structure of leadership, a pattern found in Matthew 10:4, where Yeshua appoints twelve apostles.
3. The significance of each leaders name had meaning, reflecting Elohim's providential character. Similar naming is found in Matthew 1:21, where Yeshua's name reflects His saving role.

The Conduct of the Census

Numbers 1:17-46

1. Moses and Aaron obeyed Elohim's command, conducting the census just as they were

instructed. This obedience mirrors Messiah's obedience to Elohim's will in Philippians 2:8.

2. Tribal identity the census results are presented tribe by tribe (Numbers 1:20-43), reinforcing the tribes unique identities.
3. This individual acknowledgement reflects the biblical principle of personal identities within the body of Messiah. (1 Corin. 12:27).

The Levites exclusion

Numbers 1:47-54

1. The Levites are excluded from this census as they are dedicated to the service of the tabernacle (Numbers 1:49).
2. This separation of the Levites illustrates the Biblical principle of consecration, as seen in 1 Peter 2:9.
3. Elohim's command to protect the tabernacle from unauthorized access (Numbers 1:51) portrays His holiness. This theme is echoed in Hebrews 9:3-5, which describes the holiness of the Most Holy Place.

Take Away

1. Yehovah chose this special census to test Moses and Aaron to see if they would be obedient to His commandments.
2. Yehovah appointed leaders to lead His people through the wilderness into the promised

land which shows we must pray for leaders who will lead and not just go by what the people want.

3. Yehovah's census shows that He is very concerned with structure and not just every man to himself.

Application

1. I will be concerned with structuring of my own life as well as I walk closely with Yeshua HaMashiach.
2. I will continue to study this book so I can attain the wisdom that He promised me.
3. I will humble myself before men just as our Master Yeshua humbled Himself and became a man.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

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