

Bemidbar- The Divine Mission:



Torah Portion: [Bemidbar \[Numbers\] 1:1- 4:20](#), Haftarah Portion: [Hoshea \[Hosea\] 2:1-22](#),

Netzarim Ketuvim: [Romiyim \[Romans\] 9:22- 33](#).

Introduction:

As we enter the fourth book of Mosheh, we find Yisrael in the Wilderness after receiving instructions through **Vayiqra** [Leviticus] while they were before Mt. Sinai. The book of Bemidbar addresses their journey in the wilderness so we begin there with YHWH calling for a census which consumes our entire reading this week. Therefore, we need to see the significance of this week's reading to appreciate all that we have read.

Summary of the Torah Reading:

1. YHWH instructs Mosheh to do a headcount of all men of military age from the tribes excluding Levi who will be counted later.
2. Each tribe we will find have a designated place around the Mishkan [the Tabernacle] with their own standard or flag.
3. The Levites are then counted and appointed as replacing the 1st born of Yisrael and serving in that capacity.
4. The Levites are appointed in 3 families. Gershom camped west responsible for the Mishkan tapestries & curtains, Kohath camped south responsible for the Holy

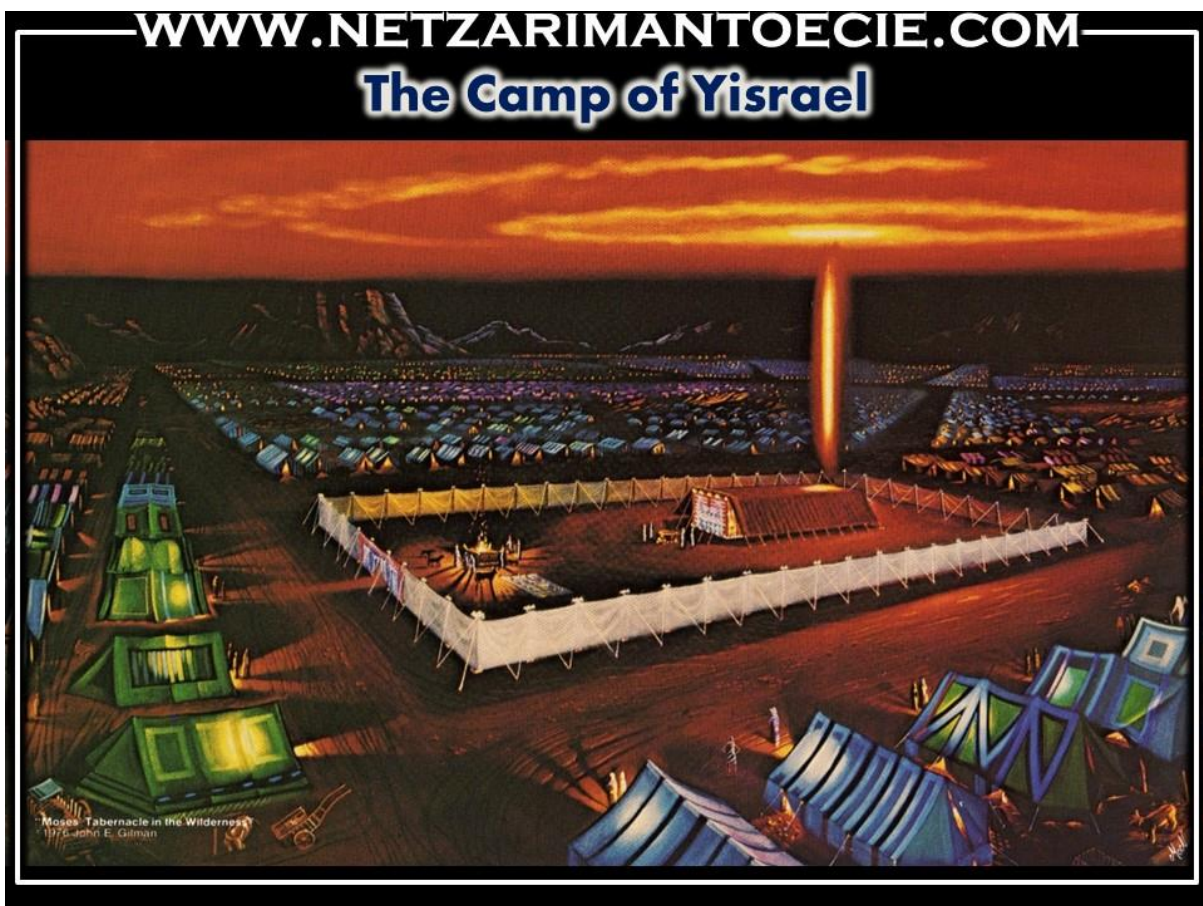
vessels & Merari camped north responsible for carrying the beams, panels & sockets.

The Significance of the Census:

Apart from the fact until now Yisrael had never stood on their own feet since they had until recently been slaves in Mitsrayim [Egypt]. Rashi the great sage suggests it is because Elohim has a sense of love for Israel that He counts them all the time.



It all sounds like a billionaire who rubs his hand in glee and keeps on counting his money. What does it mean that Elohim can't stop counting us, and that's somehow an act of love?



However, the census did have a special purpose! The census did achieve firstly to place all

Yisrael around the Mishkan the place that YHWH dwelt and to give each tribe its unique place.



Even more than that they had their own standard like a flag coloured according to the colour of one of the stones on Aharon's Priestly garment. Surely the intent of YHWH was to cause his people to see that they are his treasured possession and each tribe to Him were special. Also, we read that each man was recorded giving the special attention to each family that they would certainly know that they are no longer fodder like they were as slaves under **Mitsrayim** [Egypt] but now they were the people of Elohim & thereby prized above all the Nations of the Earth.

Much like Yisrael we too have been chosen to be the people of Elohim but not by bloodlines or heritage or national identity but by the call of Elohim as we read in:

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Yeshua Teaching the Faithful Followers



Yahuchanan [John] 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the strength to become children of Elohim, to those believing in His Name, **13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Elohim.

Yisrael in our reading were given this prize position in which they could daily look upon the very physical dwelling & representation of Elohim in this World to believe that He was for them & with them in a Journey that would require them to fight against enemies that would resist them & therefore the Supremacy of Elohim the true and undeniable Elohim who would powerfully reveal Himself against all her enemies.

Surely, we have this same promise through our Master who said this in:

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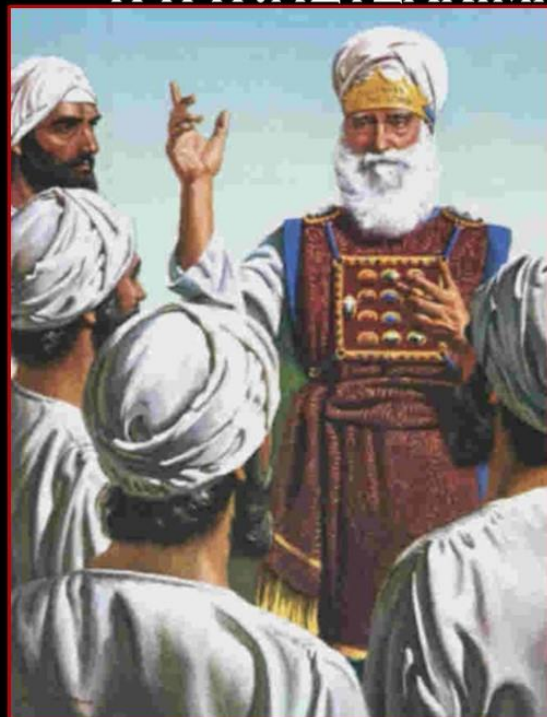


Yahuchanan [John] 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

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The Uniqueness of the Levites:

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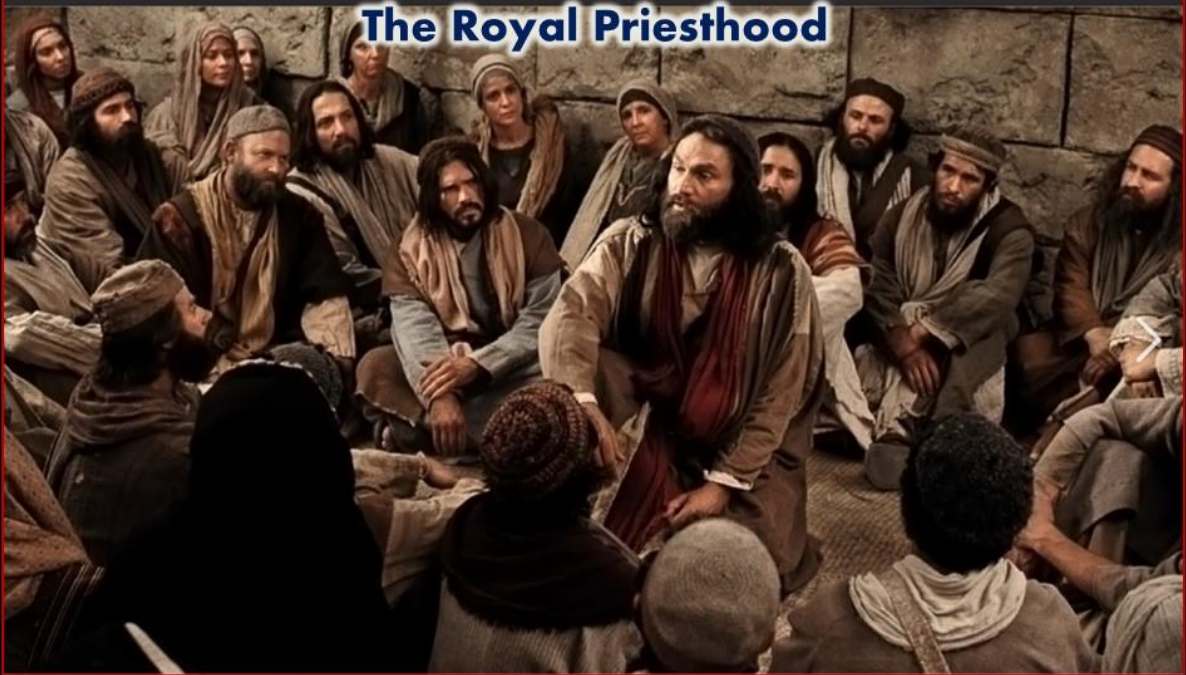
We read however that the Levites were counted separately & not part of the men of war. They in fact replaced the Firstborn who were appointed as belonging to Elohim because of Mitsrayim & who were called to act as the family priest. However, perhaps because of their zeal at the time of the Golden Calf the Levites were instituted for the Firstborn.

However, we know with the coming of Yeshua the Messiah and our Lord, things have changed. However, The Levites did not just have the purpose of taking up the Mishkan but of also transmitting the values of Elohim to the people. They therefore stood between the Priests and the people like a go-between.



The truth of this purpose should not be lost to us ever, who are called into the faith especially as Fathers or Mothers who have the role of transmitting the values of Elohim to our children & beyond. With Yeshua as the Ultimate **Kohen Ha Gadol** [High Priest] in the Heavenly Priesthood, being the Melki-Zedek Priest who is both King & Priest we have been given an even more exalted position. Kepha therefore inspires us with these words in:

The Royal Priesthood



Kepha Aleph [1 Peter] 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

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Romiyym [Romans] 11:24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

We are made painfully aware that Yisrael forfeited its privilege because of its apostasy and because its wicked leaders executed the Holy one giving the assembly of believers this Royal Priesthood, but we must not become overly prideful since Shaul [Paul] says this in;

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cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Conclusion:

I do hope as we complete our reading that we come to see the value that YHWH places on his people since He counts them by tribe & family. Surely, He wants each Tribe and each Family to understand their special position as YHWH's treasure. It is with this same thought that we must consider ourselves. We are not just a number in the great array of believers over the centuries. We are His special treasure each one of us individually and He only wants the best for each of us.



In so doing His desire for us is that we too want what he wants and that is to bring his message of redemption in Yeshua to the rest of the world & transmit His Holy values through our life that we may be an example for others to see. This is why the Divinely ordained Mission from our Master must always be central in our hearts.

Amein!

Haftarah: [Hoshea \[Hosea\] 2:1-22](#)

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Haftarah:
Hoshea [Hosea]
2: 1-22

The Mercy of Elohim to an Unfaithful People

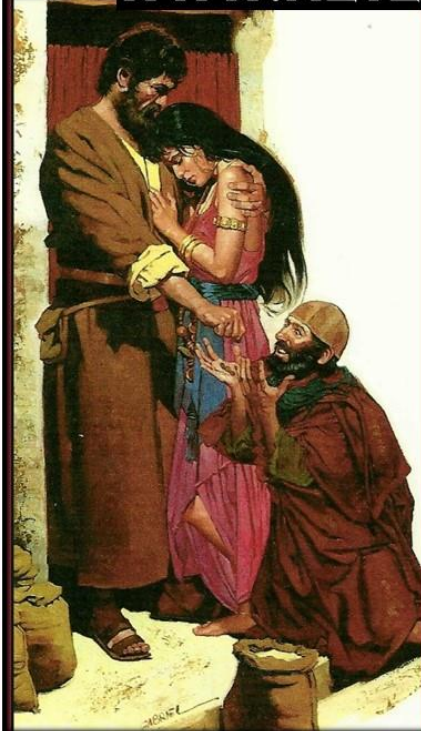
It would seem that this reading speaks of Gomer the Navi's Wife **[the Prophets wife]** who was a Harlot & was unfaithful to Hoshea much like Yisrael was unfaithful to YHWH. This reading therefore depicts a courtroom scene where Elohim is the Plaintiff & Husband calling on the individual Yisraelites as children to bring charges against their mother the Nation. The Evidence is that Yisrael is attributing her prosperity to her heathen neighbours **"her Lovers."**





Elohim, however, shows that He withheld rain & Productivity to show the Canaanite god Baal was not the god of rain and fertility as in the time of Eliyahu [Elijah].

Ever since the exodus Yisrael had mixed the worship of false elohim with the worship of the true which are termed her lovers.



**Hoshea Buys Back
His Adulterous Wife**

However, YHWH promises to woo his people & restore them back to himself, so He called Hoshea to do to buy his adulterous wife back for 15 shekels. What the outward observance of the law of Mosheh could not do Elohim does through a newly regenerated heart with the New Covenant one day being perfected when Yisrael is restored with the Millennial scene when all creation is subjected to Elohim & the Nation of Yisrael is no longer thought of as a prostitute & YHWH will say **“You are my people”** , and they will say, **“You are my Elohim.”**

Netzarim Ketuvim: Romiyim [Romans] 9:22- 33



The Elect Vessels:

In the exceeding greatness of his character, we find Elohim justly enduring the rebellion of people though they deserve eternal punishment and so Shaul [Paul] is continuing with the theme of the potter with some vessels that Elohim has not chosen for salvation being by their own rejection of Him since YHWH does not make men sinful but leaves them in the sin they have chosen. The greatness of His character is seen in His grace, mercy, compassion & forgiveness to those He has chosen for Salvation called the elect a subject hard to understand & just must be kept in Messiah.

Shaul [Paul] however concludes the lesson on the Choice of Elohim by reminding us that His judgement is not because of something YHWH did to them but because of their own unwillingness to believe the good news.

Amein! Shavua Tov Eleykhem! [A Good Week Unto You]