

Torah Portion Bamidbar
Numbers 1:1 – 4:20

The word “bamidbar” means “in the wilderness” in Hebrew.

Here we read about the first taking of a census of the children of Israel. We are given how the males were all divided by age and , and counted. One should notice that the Levites were not counted with the other tribes. The Levites were counted separately because they were the priests and helpers in the Tabernacle. This will be an important thing to remember as we read through the book of Numbers. It will tie in with the spies who will be sent into Canaan.

We also find in this reading that the Levites were dedicated instead of the firstborn sons of Israel. This was because the Levites had stood with Moses at the sin of the golden calf. Originally, God took the firstborn sons to be His priests and spiritual leaders of the family. However, because the firstborn sons were not the ones to stand, but the Levites, Yah now takes the Levites instead. This is also very important to understanding all of the Word of God, Old and New Testaments; when a person begins to study about the order of Melchizedek and the order of the Levitical Priesthood.

Even though Yah took the Levites over the firstborn sons at this point, He never gave up His rights to the firstborn of Israel. This concept is clearly seen in both Testaments. This is why the writer of the book of Hebrews goes into such detail to explain why there was a change in the Torah to a better way. This better way is that the Levitical priesthood was never suppose to be set alongside the Torah. Yahweh allowed this because of sin. However, once Yeshua came, the need for the Levitical Priesthood and a High Priest was no longer needed. Instead, the firstborn son, Yeshua, took His rightful role again as High Priest and brought about the original firstborn order of priests again. This is why it can say in Hebrews 12:22-23 that we are all called into the assembly of the firstborn. He establishes the more perfect order again by His coming.

Please visit: www.ourancientpaths.org for more teachings in rediscovering the ancient paths of our Christian faith.