

## Where Are You Stationed?

Shalom,

*Numbers 1:2 Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls;*

*Numbers 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.*

The Torah reading this week is found in **Numbers 1:1—4:20**, and in this portion we read the command to “**Take a census.**” We find in the reading that the number of men eligible for military service from the age of twenty years and upward in the entire nation of Israel is six hundred three thousand, five hundred fifty, excluding all of the tribe of Levi. The Scripture never tells us the total number of the people who were delivered from Egypt, but it would not be unreasonable to believe that the population of the children of Israel at that time could have been between two and one half to three million persons. Calculating an area with enough space for all of the men, women and children of Israel to set up a camp, we can estimate that the wilderness camp certainly may have covered an area of twelve square miles, or assuming that they surely would have tried to maintain defensible borders, a square, or circular area of approximately four miles across. It is staggering to visualize this encampment, but it would have been an amazing mobile city with all of the needs of any large mass of people. We are given the stations that God assigned to each tribe beginning with the Tabernacle in the center. Moses’ and Aaron’s tents were to be closest to the east side with the rest of the tribe of Levi encamped around and nearest the Tabernacle. On the four sides of the camp and surrounding the tribe of Levi, there were to be three tribes in each direction, thus encircling the entire camp with the hub, and focus of all the tribes toward Tabernacle.

As you meditate on this Torah portion, imagine what it would be like to live in this setting. No matter where you set up your tent, you and your family would have had a variety of needs that would have required every person capable of doing any kind of work to be responsible for their assigned task on a continual basis. Every member of every tribe in the wilderness was important, and each of them was either performing a function, or in the process of being trained to fulfill a specified duty for the benefit of, not just themselves, but for the edification of the congregation.

Not every member of the congregation could camp near the Tabernacle at the center of the camp, some would necessarily have to live two, or more miles from the center of the camp, and perhaps, belonging to a family placed on the outer perimeter of the camp, it might be possible that they could begin to compare their camping site with the Levites who got to live nearer the center where the Cloud of YHWH’s presence was permanently stationed, and allow feeling of envy or jealousy to enter their thinking. It is important for all of us to consider the amazing call and plan of God that He has for each of us, and never make assumptions based on human reasoning, nor demonic deception. Certainly, those in one part of the congregation of YHWH are not preferred over those stationed in another area, in fact, those who seem to be further from the center play a

vital role for the safety and security of the entire community.

*1 Corinthians 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*

In the same way, God has called all of us, and has a specific place for all of us in the Body of Messiah. He not only has a specific place, but also a specific function, and in that call He has also given us the grace that enables us to fulfill what He has called us to be, and do. It's vital to remember that the Father has no unnecessary members in His congregation, and also important to understand that our proximity to the perceived center of activity has nothing to do with how He views us. No, the truth of the matter is that you, no matter where you have been placed in the body, are valuable and precious to Him, and the body would be incomplete without your participation.

We, as the congregation of God in the earth, are set in the Body of Messiah, not just covering twelve square miles, but **strategically placed around the whole world**, and just as certainly, we are to be serving, or preparing for service, supplying that which is needed for the building up of the body of Messiah. As we grow up in Him, we bring the message of deliverance from bondage, and abundant life to all who will receive it. Each of us have our place and part in the congregation, and we are fully equipped as the end time congregation, the body of Messiah Yeshua. None of us are far from the center, for the Shekinah presence of God is available wherever the individual members of His body dwell, for we are in Him, and the Holy Spirit is working in us to reveal where, and how we fit in the Body of Messiah, and empowering us to take our place and fulfill our call by His grace.

**We are Counting the Omer! Today is day 38, or twelve more days until Shavuot. We will have a special Shavuot, or Pentecost, service on Sunday, June 4 at 10am, followed by a brunch after the service. Meat and drinks will be supplied. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.**

**Join us to learn the Authority of the Believer each Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby.**

Ministering at our station,  
Terry