



Beth Zion Congregation

ב"ה

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May 15—21, 2021

4 - 10 Sivan 5781

Parshat Bamidbar

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BAMIDBAR

MAY 15, 2021 • 4 SIVAN 5781

HERTZ P. 567 HAFTARAH P. 582

STONE P. 726 HAFTARAH P. 1180

SHAVUOT I

HERTZ P. 290 MAFTIR P. 698 HAFTARAH P. 1027

STONE P. 400 MAFTIR P. 892 HAFTARAH P. 1228

SHAVUOT II

HERTZ P. 814 MAFTIR P. 698 HAFTARAH P. 1032

STONE P. 1018 MAFTIR P. 892 HAFTARAH P. 1229

God commands Moses to take a census of the Children of Israel according to their families and their fathers' household. The Israelites follow this command and do everything that God instructs. Immediately following this census, the Israelites are commanded to "encamp, every man with his standard according to his ensigns according to the insignias of their fathers' household, at a distance surrounding the Tent of Meeting shall they encamp" (Numbers 2:2). The Alshekh asks the following questions: 1) Why, when looking at the Hebrew, is this commandment phrased as if it applied to individuals, i.e. ish a man, rather than collectively? 2) The Torah, in relation to the tribes, discusses the direction of their encampment preceding the camp leaders. With regard, however, to the camp of Judah, we read about the direction of the camp PRIOR to the camp leaders. 3) Why does the Torah vary the manner in which it introduces the second tribe in each encampment from the others? The Midrash describes that there was some jealousy between the tribes concerning their positions around the tabernacle, as well as the order in which they would travel. God told Moses to tell the tribes that they would occupy the same positions as their founders had occupied when they carried Jacob's bier to burial in the cave of Machpelah. This is recorded in the Torah by the words "according to the ensigns of the houses of their fathers" (v.2). There are two other areas in which jealousy could manifest itself. 1) The 4 camps, each sharing 1 flag between them could be jealous of the composition of each camp, i.e. the tribes that had been assigned to be part of the same camp. 2) The camps that had been assigned to travel at the rear of the procession could be jealous of those marching in front. Ephraim, for instance, could be jealous of Reuben and Judah, and Dan of all the others. Since the leaders of each tribe could still have felt inferior to the 4 camp leaders, the Torah hints at the positioning of the sons at Jacob's bier. To avoid Judah boasting that he was the leader, the Torah speaks about "AND those encamping in an easterly direction", i.e. the other two tribes are described as an integral part of the camp of Judah. Displaying similar sensitivity for the members of the camp of Dan – the rearguard – the Torah, (v.31) states that though they traveled last, it was 'ledigleyhem', according to THEIR flags; as if all the other camps were subordinate to the camp of Dan, and not vice-versa. In the case of the tribes Issachar and Zevulun, the Torah writes u-fekudeyhem, THEIR counted ones (plural), to point out that unity existed. Though each one considered himself a separate unit, they related to one another in such a way that each one assumed responsibility for the other's physical or spiritual well-being (Zevulun providing Issachar's material needs, Issachar studying Torah and sharing his merit with Zevulun). The reason the Torah writes "the camp of Ephraim according to their armies westward", is for that it is a compliment to the angels who had become the armies of Israel – as God's presence is conceived of as emanating from the West (the Holy of Holies being the most western part of the tabernacle).

When the Torah discusses the issue of counting the people of Israel, we learn that this is an act of elevating the Israelites, i.e. numbering them. This was performed through their handing over the half shekel, which formed their ransom money for their sin of the golden calf. This is the reason the Torah employed the term 'ki tissa et rosh' – when you "lift the head" when describing their being counted. This is in contrast with the members of the tribe of Levi who had no need to pay a ransom for their soul seeing they had not been guilty of that sin. This is why the Torah introduced the instruction to count the Levites (3:15) with the words "pakad et bnei Levi" – "count the members of the tribe of Levi." If all this is correct, why did the Torah change its wording when it came to counting the Kehatites and employ the same term 'Nasso' when instructing Moses and Aaron to count them? Perhaps the fact that the Kehatites were entrusted with a task such as carrying the Holy Ark and the Table which required them to enter the Tabernacle was a special elevation for them and this is why the Torah wanted us to know this and wrote the term 'Nasso'. It is a relative term and shows that their function was more highly rated than that of the family of the clan of Gershon, although Gershon was the older of Levi's sons. The reason that God chose the Kehatites for this task was that they provided "light for the world" in that Moses and Aaron were descended from. It was no more than fair that the branch of the Levites who had produced Moses and Aaron should be the ones entrusted with carrying the Torah, which Moses had communicated to the people. Our verse is careful to say - 'meetoch b'nai Israel', "from the midst of the children of Israel," seeing that Kehat was the middle son of Levi's three sons Gershon, Kehat and Merrari.

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSOR

Paula Kadaner
Irwin, Debbie,
Humphrey and Reesa
and their families,
in memory of
their beloved
husband and father,
grandfather and great-grandfather,
Jack Kadaner z"l
on the occasion of
his first yahrtzeit, 5 Sivan

~~

Didi & Seymour Silverman
in memory of
her father
Ernest K. Shapiro Z"L

MAZAL TOV TO

Birth

Maya Devorah
great - granddaughter of
Miriam & Rabbi Nota Greenblatt
Joseph Levkovich
granddaughter of
Rivi & Zigui Levkovich
Lea & Dr. Artie Fink
daughter of
Adena & Davi Levkovich

Carmi Neriya
great grandson of
Ruth & Ed Sacher
grandson of
Tova & Ari Sacher
son of
Hallel and Yochai Eliyahu

2021 GRADUATES

John Elliot
grandson of
Ruby Heft

Jacob Heft
grandson of
Ruby Heft

IN APPRECIATION TO

Jacob Silverman
for leading services
in the Main Sanctuary
on Shabbat
and leining
in the Albert Spector
on Shavuot

Steve Farkas
for leading services
in the Main Sanctuary
on Shavuot

Bobby Shaul
for leining
in the Main Sanctuary
on Shabbat and Shavuot

Ben Rubin
for leading services
in the Albert Spector
on Shabbat and Shavuot II

Dr. Bruce Mazer
for leading services
in the Albert Spector
on Shavuot I

Danny Kroo
for leining
in the Albert Spector
on Shabbat

Friday, May 14

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and
Maariv 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting 7:59 pm

Shabbat, May 15

Shacharit 9:00 am
Mincha 8:00 pm
Shabbat Ends 9:12 pm

Sunday, May 16

Erev Shavuot

Shacharit 8:00 am

Mincha 8:00 pm

Candle Lighting 8:01 pm

Monday, May 17

Shavuot I

Shacharit 9:00 am

Mincha 8:00 pm

Candle Lighting from a pre - existing
flame
after 9:15 pm

Tuesday, May 18

Shavuot II

Shacharit (Ruth and Yizkor) 9:00 am

Yizkor only 11:15 am

Mincha 8:00 pm

Yom Tov ends 9:16 pm

Shacharit

Wednesday 6:25 and 8:00 am

Thursday 6:15 and 8:00 am

Friday 6:25 and 8:00 am

Mincha Maariv

Wednesday, May 19 and Thursday,
May 20

in person and on Zoom

8:00 pm

Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86077732180?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYml2QT09)

[pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMM
UJoYml2QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYml2QT09)

Meeting ID: 860 7773 2180

Passcode: 444278

Friday, May 21

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and
Maariv 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 8:07 pm

חג שבועות שמח

***The Clergy, Officers,
Board of Directors and Staff
wish you
A Chag Shavuot Sameach
A very Happy Shavuot!***