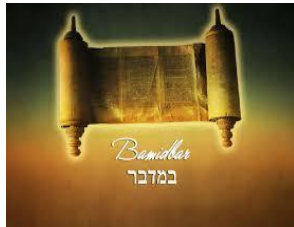


Parasha 34: B'Midbar (In The Wilderness)- B'Midbar/Numbers 1:1-4:20

*All Scripture References from The Orthodox Jewish Bible- Referred to as OJB- unless otherwise noted

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We are now entering the *'fourth sefer/book'* of the *'Torah proper'*. ****[First five books of the TaNaKh/Hebrew Scriptures]** The title for the Hebrew is **במדבר** [**resh-beit-dalet-mem-beit... read right to left**]/*'Bamidbar meaning, In The Wilderness'*. The English title, *'Numbers'* comes from the sefer/book's opening with the *'taking of a census'*. However, as we will see, this is a rather poor name for this parasha. It *'could be presumed'* from such, that YHWH *'might be reducing Yisrael to a mere a number'*. The fact is, nothing could be further from the truth, as we will see.

There is in the Torah an *'undercurrent of passionate love YHWH has toward His people Yisrael'*. This was seen in our previous sefer/book of Shemot/Exodus. It was here Yisrael received the *'mattan/giving of the Torah'*, which was a *'Wedding Covenant, a Ketubah in Hebrew'*. YHWH *'betrothed'* Himself to Yisrael and they, in turn, *'accepted His betrothal'* willingly. They *'gave themselves'* to Him, which was all *'a picture of love'*. Those who see the Torah *'merely as Law have no idea the depth and passion'* with which YHWH *'yearns for His beloved Yisrael'*. It is the reason one of the Names of YHWH is *'El Kanah meaning, Jealous Mighty One'*. Any husband who truly has a *'passionate relationship'* with his wife will not stand for the *'affection of his love to be encroached on by another'*. All this plays into the purpose YHWH has in *'instructing Moshe to take a census'* of Am Yisrael.

YHWH Restores Dignity And Identity To His People

One of the reasons you *'count something is because it is precious'*. You want to *'establish its worth'*, so you determine its value accordingly. If you remember, as we have been studying the Torah, Yisrael had fallen into a *'terrible state of declension'* during their time in Mitzrayim/Egypt. In the opening of Shemot/Exodus we found the present Pharaoh, who had come on the scene, was not like the one living during the days of Yosef/Joseph. This Pharaoh was cruel and wicked. He was afraid of Am Yisrael, and so, he set out on a *'determined plan to reduce them to a nothing... TO AN IT'*. Through a *'regimen of constant work, terrible conditions and ever-increasing burdens'* the psyche of Yisrael was broken. YHWH *'set in motion'* His plan to *'redeem and deliver them'*. All that He did for His people through Moshe, was to *'provide them the hope of realizing their destiny as a nation'*. In so doing, He would be *'showing forth His kavod/glorry to the entire world'*. This is the reason for the census. Verse two, of chapter one, opens with this statement,

***"Take ye the rosh (top amount, census) of kol Adat Bnei Yisroel [all the assembly of the Sons/Children of Yisrael] ..."* (Bamidbar/Numbers 1:2a OJB- definitions mine)**

Most Bible translations fail to really give exactly what YHWH was *'instructing Moshe to do'* in this census. Even the OJB version, which I use, doesn't quite get the *'real picture'* of what is being done. The literal rendering of the verse is...

“LIFT UP THE HEADS of the assembly of the Sons/Children of Yisrael...”

This *'phrase is used two other places'* in the Torah. **(B'eresheet/Genesis 40:13; 19)** Both involved *'Yosef/Joseph'* during his time in prison. If you remember, he met the *'butler and the baker'* while there, both former servants of Pharaoh. They each had dreams which Yosef/Joseph interpreted. In both instances, the *'interpretations'* had to do with *'each of their heads being lifted up'*. The butler was *'lifted up to promotion and restoration'*. However, the baker was *'lifted up to judgment and death'*. So, it is *'very important who is lifting up your head and for what purpose'*!

The *'lifting of the head of each Yisraelite'* in our parasha is concerned with *'recognition'*. The rest of verse two tells us *'each family, from each tribe's name, that each man's head was to be lifted up before YHWH'*. It wasn't *'just about a number'*. It would have been easier to do the census in a corporate manner. However, YHWH asked it to be done *'individually, as well as by family'*, from each of the twelve tribes. The *'whole point'* was to restore **EVERY SON OF YISRAEL** to a *'sense of his worth'* before YHWH. So much had been lost in Mitzrayim/Egypt. Now, was the time to *'show His care and restore the hope of Yisrael'*. **THEY HAD A DESTINY.** It was a *'glorious one'*, woven together with their Creator. Thus, He *'lifted up their heads to heal and restore His purpose and renew His call'* to make Yisrael *'great among all the nations'*.

Insight Into Master Yeshua's Death At Golgotha

As we have seen above, having your *'head lifted up'* is a serious thing. In this sense of being *'lifted up'* there is something quite interesting to be found in the *'name of the hill'* where our Master Yeshua was crucified. The name of the hill was *'Golgotha'*. This *'name'* is, in fact, an Aramaic word, *'Golgota'*. It literally means *'Skull'*. What makes this so interesting and important is, when YHWH instructed Moshe to count the Yisraelite men above, he was told to *'count them by their heads'*. The Hebrew word for *'head'* as it is used in chapter one verse two is *'gulgoleth'*. It, like its Aramaic counterpart *'Golgota'*, also means *'head or skull'*. So now with this understanding, what our blessed Master Yeshua was doing on that hill at His crucifixion was *'having His head lifted up'* to be **COUNTED IN OUR PLACE!** The death He was dying was not His own. **IT WAS FOR OUR REDEMPTION!** Oh, the wonder of YHWH's love and mercy toward us. Amen!

The King And His Army

In chapter two we see, after the census is counted, the tribes are being *'encamped around the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. YHWH, the M'lekh/King, is in the *'midst of His people'*. It was customary that a king *'upon his coronation'* in that day, would *'gather his army to secure his kingdom'*. YHWH knows. as Am Yisrael sets out from Mt. Sinai into the Bamidbar/Wilderness, they will *'encounter their share of conflict'* from other nations. So, He has *'counted Am Yisrael'* from those men *'twenty years old and upward'*. It was from these He would form His tzava/army.

Now, *'each encampment'* was made up of *'three tribes'*. They *'each camped'* to the East, South, West and North *'around the four sides of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. At the *'opening of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'* to the East, we find the encampment of Yehudah/Judah, Issachar and

Zevulun. To the South camped the tribes of Reuven, Shimon and Gad. Next, to the West camped the tribes of Ephraim, *Menasheh* and Binyamin/Benjamin. Finally, to the North camped the tribes of *Dan*, *Asher* and *Naphtali*. In all, the total of the tribes of Yisrael were 603,550 men. YHWH had gone to great lengths to *'restore their dignity and identity'*. Now, He was *'giving them a purpose by placing them in order around the dwelling place of His Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. They were no longer a *'disassociated, dislocated and destabilized people'*. All that remained was for them to *'put their trusting faithfulness'* in the One who had *brought them this far'*. **HE HAD NOT BROUGHT THEM OUT NOT TO BRING THEM IN!**

YHWH Separates And Sets In Order The Tribe Of Levi

With all that YHWH had done for Yisrael thus far, He was still not finished. The tribe of Levi must still be set in order. Since the *'Golden Calf incident'*, YHWH had *'honored the tribe of Levi for their faithfulness'* in staying true to Him. He did this by giving them the *'kehunah/priesthood'* which had been *'reserved for the bechorim/the firstborn of the sons of Yisrael'*. He kept the *'tribe of Levi'* separate from the general census and *'reserved them to be counted on their own'*. They were **NOT** to be *'numbered with the other tribes'*, because YHWH would *'set them apart'* and He would become their inheritance!

There were *'four divisions within the tribe of Levi'*. Levi himself had three sons: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. The *fourth division* came from Levi's great grandson *'Aharon'*. He and his sons would become the *'kohanim/priests'*. They were to be the *'special order of the Levi'im'*, who would *'minister in the Mishkan/Tabernacle'* for Yisrael and to YHWH. ****[Remember, ALL Levites were Yisraelites; but not ALL Levites were kohanim/priests]** The *'Kohen HaGadol/High Priest'* was the only one of the *'kohanim/priests'* who was *'permitted to minister'* within the *'Most Holy Place, the Kadosh HaKedoshim/Holy of Holies'*. All the other Levi'im were in some way associated with the *'maintenance and moving of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. Each were assigned *'specific duties accordingly'*. The Gershonites had to do with the *'woven materials of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. The Kohathites were responsible for the *'furnishings and the Merarites'* took care of the *'wooden parts'*. Whenever the *'cloud of YHWH's Sh'khinyah/Manifest Presence'* moved, each of the *'designated Levi'im'* would take care of *'moving and setting up their portion of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*.

The actual encampment of the tribe of Levi was *'within the four encampments of the other tribes of Yisrael'*. In other words, the *'Levi'im were a camp within a camp'*. They were the *'closest to the Mishkan/Tabernacle'* itself. In a sense, they formed a *'barrier of holiness for the dwelling place'* of YHWH. The *'set-apartness/holiness'* of the Levi'im had to do with their *'call to intimacy/nearness in the handling of the furnishings of the Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. All the *'various furnishings and parts'* were all to be considered *'most holy and to be treated with the utmost care and reverence'*. When it came time to *'break the Mishkan/Tabernacle down'*, none of the Levi'im were *'even allowed to look upon the furnishings directly'*. They had to *'back in, drape them with their particular coverings, and then carefully move them'* to their next location. It is said, with all of the *'gold, silver and various metals'* that went into the making of the *'different furnishings'* within the *'Mishkan/Tabernacle'*, it would have been *'impossible for any man or group of men'* to have carried them very far on their own. This was especially true of the *'Ark of the Covenant'* itself. So, it is said, that the *'Ark'* actually **CARRIED THE LEVI'IM WHO BORE IT!**

The Importance Of YHWH Bringing Yisrael To The Wilderness

The fact that YHWH brought Yisrael into the 'Midbar/Wilderness' was no accident. You will remember, Yisrael, while 'in bondage in Mitzrayim/Egypt', had fallen into a 'terrible state of declension'. They had 'lost their dignity as human beings' and had basically been 'reduced to an it'. They were more or less a 'commodity' for Pharaoh to use or discard as he deemed needful. This brought the 'psyche of Yisrael into a deep sense of mental and emotional distortion'. Now, having 'brought them out of that bondage', YHWH is going to 'bring them through to healing and wholeness'.

I used to work in a hospital. Every area where patients were, was always kept clean and sterile. But, the cleanest, most sterile area, was the operating room. Every measure was exercised to insure, that no germs or contamination was allowed in that environment. Beloved, this is what the 'B' Midbar/Wilderness' was. In 'Hebraic thought' it was a 'sterile environment'. It was a place YHWH could 'take Yisrael to detox them'. To allow them to be 'confronted with the ways of His Torah and be sanctified', before allowing them to 'enter the Land of Promise'.

There are some that maybe familiar with the use of a 'petri dish' in a lab. This is a 'totally sterile container into which cultures are introduced and grown'. This is exactly what YHWH was doing. He was taking 'Yisrael into the Midbar/Wilderness, His petri dish'. He was going to 'remove' them from what the 'environment of Mitzrayim/Egypt had reduced them to'. Then, He would 'grow them by His Torah and their experience' through His HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness into a nation 'established upon righteousness'. They were to be 'transformed', as Rav Sha'ul writes to the Corinthian assemblies 'from glory to glory'. (11 Corinthians 3:18)

YHWH's Voice And The Wilderness

While we are on this 'thought of the wilderness' being a place for Yisrael's 'transformation process', let's go a bit further. On the 'surface', the wilderness/desert environment maybe somewhat deceiving. The barrenness, heat, and many faceted 'degrees of struggle for survival can blur somethings' that are very important for us to see. This 'environment' **REDUCES** the 'possibility for distraction'. The hustle and bustle of daily life one is normally used to is 'replaced by a very well ordered, quiet eco-system'. If one is able to gain focus, then the wilderness/desert can become a 'perfect proving ground' for survival and using those things learned when one returns to life in general. One point we 'must understand in the transformation process' is: **HOW IS ONE TO OVERCOME, IF THERE IS NOTHING TO OVERCOME?**

We are looking at the setting... The Midbar/The Wilderness to which the 'newly released nation of Yisrael' is the subject. The 'catalyst needed' to get the most out of what is to be experienced is... **YHWH'S WORD**. This 'part of the needed process' is contained in the very word for 'wilderness' in the Hebrew. The root word of 'מִדְבָּר/midbar' is 'דָּבַר/d'bar'. It means, 'mouth, word, speech or speaking'. When you see in most Bible translations 'Word of the Lord' that Hebrew word is 'דָּבַר/d'bar'. YHWH told Yisrael in His 'instructions' given to them at Mt. Sinai,

"But if thou shalt indeed obey his [bat] kol [daughter of a voice; Divine echo], and do all that I speak **[Heb. דָּבַר/d'bar]; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries." (Shemot/Exodus 23:22 OJB- commentary/definitions mine)

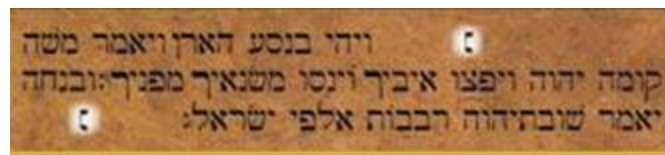
Of course, the great prayer for all who walk with YHWH is, 'Sh'mah Yisrael, meaning to hear and do'. All that YHWH was instructing Yisrael was 'absolute dependence' upon their **HEARING and DOING** His Word. Therefore, the 'best environment' for this to occur was right here in the 'מדבר/Midbar/Wilderness' into which they were being led. Our blessed Master Yeshua tells us the 'necessity of hearing YHWH's **PRESENT TENSE... PROCEEDING Word**.

"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Mattityahu/Matthew 4:4 New American Standard Bible- emphasis mine)

How are we to hear YHWH's 'proceeding' Word? We must first become 'familiar' with the Word He has **ALREADY SPOKEN... THE WRITTEN WORD**. YHWH will always speak 'in harmony' with what He has **ALREADY SPOKEN. (The PRECEDED Word)** As we 'read' it (**preferably out loud**), 'study' it, 'meditate' on it, 'our spirit will become use to it'... **CONDITIONED BY IT**. Then, when He 'speaks to our heart', **WE WILL KNOW IT. (The PRECEDING Word)** We will 'learn to recognize' it. ****[As the late Arthur Burt, a wonderful preacher from Wales use to say, 'There is a great difference between the 'DED' and the 'DING'.'] EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND YHWH'S WORD.** This is the 'whole purpose' in Yisrael being 'brought into the Midbar/Wilderness'. To make their 'focus strong' on YHWH's Word. **ELIMINATING THE DISTRACTIONS. TURNING DOWN THE NOISE LEVEL, SO NOTHING WILL 'impede their heart from' DILIGENTLY HEARING AND DOING HIS WORD.**

Poised To Enter The Land?

It is a 'tradition' among the 'Sages of Yisrael' that this 'sefer/book' of Torah is, in fact, 'three seferim/books in one'. In the 'Traditional Jewish Writings of the Talmud, tractates Shabbat 115b and 116a, it says any part of Torah that has **85 verses or more** maybe considered itself a 'book'. The interesting thing is, that 'both the verses at the end of chapter 10 verses 35-36', are each 'bookended by an **inverted Hebrew letter** **NUN [n-oo-n]** ך in the 'Torah scroll'. You will 'not see this' in your regular bibles. Look at this below.



The use of this 'inverted nun' ך in the 'Torah scroll' gives the 'same usage as brackets' in English 'grammatical sentence structure'. It 'segregates' what is contained to allow it's 'thought to be examined' as a means either of 'explanation or consideration'. In this 'understanding', the Sages see the 'sefer/book of Bamidbar/Numbers' as **THREE SEPARATE BOOKS!** The 'first verse' starts at 'chapter one' and goes to 'chapter ten verse 34'. In this thought, the next 'sefer/book' only covers two verses: 'chapter ten verse 35 and 36'! The last 'sefer/book' in this thought 'covers chapter eleven to the end'. Thus, the 'Sages of Yisrael see Torah' as **SEVEN SEFERIM/BOOKS OF WISDOM** not just five! They use the below 'p'suk/verse' from the 'sefer/book of Mishle/Proverbs' to support this.

"Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her SEVEN PILLARS;" (Mishle/Proverbs 9:1 – (emphasis mine)- New American Standard Bible)

The Sages say that Yisrael ‘during the first ten chapters’ of Bamidbar/Numbers was ‘made ready to cross over into Cana’an’. If all had gone well, ‘that’s exactly what would have happened’ between verses 35 and 36 of chapter ten! However, the ‘Torah records the terrible failure due to the evil report’ brought back by ten of the twelve leading men sent to ‘recon the Land of Promise’. There are ‘great lessons’, we, as the ‘returning house of Yosef/Ephraim’ **MUST LEARN** today as we labor in this ‘hour of restoration of the Whole House’. The ‘promise of restoration’ is written, but just like these leaders who **SAW ALL THAT YHWH HAD PROMISED** concerning The Land was true. Yet, they sadly ‘lost sight of those promises’ when faced with the obstacles found there. There were **GIANTS DWELLING IN THE LAND! DID THAT CHANGE WHAT YHWH HAD PROMISED? NO!** But in that moment, ‘trusting faithfulness gave way to unbelief’. An ‘entire generation’ was lost due to the ‘ensuing evil report’ ten of the twelve leaders gave to the people upon their return! Beloved, there are **GIANTS** enough facing us all as the ‘returning house of Yisrael’ (**Yosef/Ephraim**) today in this restoration. **BUT WE MUST LEARN FROM WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO READ.** It doesn’t matter ‘how great the obstacles’ that exist between the ‘Two Houses of Yisrael’ today. All that matters is: **DO WE TRUST WHAT YHWH HAS SAID???**

A Hidden Revelation In The Inverted Nuns

There is something even more interesting in all of this. Remember, YHWH has ‘hidden many things’ not **FROM** ‘us’, but **FOR** ‘us’. The Hebrew letter נ/Nun, in its earliest form of ‘Paleo Hebrew’ writing looked like a ‘seed’, but ‘more precisely a human seed... a sperm’.... ~ The Hebrew letter נ/Nun is the ‘fourteenth letter’ of the Hebrew AlefBet. With this understanding, we may see the letter נ/Nun as a ‘letter of continuation in the sense of the procreative aspects of familial generations’. In this manner, it is a **PICTURE OF LIFE**. Yet, not just any life... **RESURRECTION LIFE!** If, in ‘Hebraic thought, a proper facing נ/Nun is related to life’, then a ‘backward facing ׀ /Nun points to’ **LIFE OUT OF DEATH... RESURRECTION LIFE!**

The fact that the letter נ/Nun is the ‘fourteenth letter’ of the ‘Hebrew AlefBet’ is very important. The number ‘fourteen in Hebraic understanding means salvation’. Both Yisrael’s exodus from Mitzrayim/Egypt and ‘the redemptive death’ of Yeshua HaMashiach occurred on the ‘14th day of Aviv’ on the Hebrew calendar. Now, let’s look at ‘verse 35’ in Bamidbar/Numbers 10.

“And it came to pass, when the Aron [Ark] set out, that Moshe said, RISE UP, Hashem [YHWH], and let Thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate Thee flee before Thee (Literally in Hebrew ‘before Your face’).” (Bamidbar/Numbers 10:35 OJB-emphasis/commentary/definitions mine)

What YHWH has ‘hidden for us’ in this verse is, the **RESURRECTION OF OUR BLESSED MASTER YESHUA** who gave Himself for us in redemption! He ‘faced and destroyed the powers of darkness’ ****[Hasatan... His angels and his demons... may their memory be blotted out forever]** on that tree. By His ‘victory in resurrection’, Master Yeshua has ‘made a way’ for **ALL WHO BELIEVE UPON HIM TO BE FORGIVEN, RECEIVE ETERNAL REDEMPTION**, thus leading to the **FULLNESS OF ETERNAL SALVATION** at His promised return. (**Colossians 2:15; Yochanon Alef/1 John 3:8 Ivrin/Hebrews 9:28**) Let’s continue.

Now, we will quote the next verse, Bamidbar/Numbers 10:36. YHWH is ‘revealing the goal of His eternal/redemptive purpose’ in these two verses.

“And when it (the ark) rested, he said, RETURN, Hashem [YHWH], unto the countless thousands of Yisroel.” (Bamidbar/Numbers 10:36 OJB- explanation/definitions mine)

In this verse, you have ‘the goal of YHWH’s redemptive purposes... the **CULMINATION** of the regathering of the Whole House of Yisrael’! Master Yeshua has ‘destroyed’ Hasatan’s ‘grip of sin and death’ on mankind. ****[May his memory be blotted out forever] (Ivrim/Hebrews 2:14)** Master Yeshua is also, at present, by YHWH’s HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness, ‘regathering the house of Yosef-Ephraim from among all the nations’ where they have been **SCATTERED**. He is also ‘regathering’ the **DISPERSED** ‘house of Yehudah/Judah from among the nations’ too! The ‘Jewish house’ was the ‘first of the nation of Yisrael to return to our promised restored Homeland’... **YISRAEL**. When our Master Yeshua returns, He will be ‘enthroned’ as M’lekh Mashiach/King Messiah over a **RESTORED Whole House of Yisrael**. He will ‘rule the earth from His throne in Yerushalayim/Jerusalem’. Isn’t it amazing what YHWH can do with the **LITTLE** contained in these two verses? Herein also to show the **GREATNESS** of His glory! (**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 11:10-16; Yechezk’el/Ezekiel 37:16-28**)

A Final Encouragement

Beloved, we all like ‘Yisrael of old’ have been ‘given the opportunity’ to share in the fulfillment of YHWH’s promises. Regardless of our individual responses it will happen. We are the ones who will decide ultimately, if ‘we’, **INDIVIDUALLY**, will be ‘included in the final realization’ of those promises. The Torah is ‘written for our admonition’ (**1 Corinthians 10:11**) to ‘help us learn’ from what ‘has happened before’. May YHWH ‘give us His mercies and multiplied grace’. Just like ‘Yisrael of old’, who was ‘poised and ready’ to go into the Promised Land. We too are ‘poised’ to see this **PRESENT-DAY RESTORATION** of the ‘Whole House of Yisrael’. **Will we ‘qualify’ to be a ‘part of the fulfillment of that promise’ or will we ‘fall short through unbelief’?** Remember, that ‘first generation’ in the Midbar/Wilderness? Let us learn well what YHWH is showing us as we study the rest of the book of Bamidbar/Numbers. We are **NOT GOING TO BE QUALIFIED** for these things ‘sometime in the future’. **NO! WE ARE BEING QUALIFIED** ‘by our choices and actions... **RIGHT NOW!** The Hebrew phrase we have spoken of along the way in our study of Torah will ‘play a major role’ in this endeavor:

*Ma’aseh avot siman le’vanim...
The deeds of the fathers [our ancestors] are signposts to the children*

Amein! We say the following blessing as we continue each week’s study of Torah...

*Chazak u’Barukh...
Strength and Blessing!*

****Click the link below to listen to the mp3 audio-reading of our parasha**

[Parasha 34: B’Midbar/In The Wilderness](#)