

NUMBERS 26:1 After the plague, the LORD spoke to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying,

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Moses and Eleazar are commanded to take the sum of the Israelites, in the plains of Moab, Num 26:1-4. Reuben and his posterity, 43,730, Num 26:5-11. Simeon and his posterity, 22,200, Num 26:12-14. Gad and his posterity, 40,500, Num 26:15-18. Judah and his posterity, 76,500, Num 26:19-22. Issachar and his posterity, 64,300, Num 26:23-25. Zebulun and his posterity, 60,500, Num 26:26, Num 26:27. Manasseh and his posterity, 52,700, Num 26:28-34. Ephraim and his posterity, 32,500, Num 26:35-37. Benjamin and his posterity, 45,600, Num 26:38-41. Dan and his posterity, 64,400, Num 26:42, Num 26:43. Asher and his posterity, 53,400, Num 26:44-47. Naphtali and his posterity, 45,400, Num 26:48-50. Total amount of the twelve tribes, 601,730, Num 26:51. The land is to be divided by lot, and how, Num 26:52-56. The Levites and their families, Num 26:57, Num 26:58. Their genealogy, Num 26:59-61. Their number, Num 26:23,000, Num 26:62. In this census or enumeration not one man was found, save Joshua and Caleb, of all who had been reckoned 38 years before, the rest having died in the wilderness, Num 26:63-65.

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NUMBERS 26:2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, all who are able to go out to war in Israel."

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Verse 2

Take the sum of all the congregation - After thirty-eight years God commands a second census of the Israelites to be made, to preserve the distinction in families, and to regulate the tribes previously to their entry into the promised land, and to ascertain the proportion of land which should be allowed to each tribe. For though the whole was divided by lot, yet the portions were so disposed that a numerous tribe did not draw where the lots assigned small inheritances. See Num 26:53-56, and also see the note on Num 1:1.

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NUMBERS 26:3 Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,

NUMBERS 26:4 "Take a census, from twenty years old and upward; as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel."

These are those that came out of the land of Egypt.

NUMBERS 26:5 Reuben, the firstborn of Israel; the sons of Reuben: of Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the family of the Palluites;

NUMBERS 26:6 of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the family of the Carmites.

NUMBERS 26:7 These are the families of the Reubenites; and those who were numbered of them were forty-three thousand seven hundred thirty.

NUMBERS 26:8 The sons of Pallu: Eliab.

NUMBERS 26:9 The sons of Eliab: Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. These are that Dathan and Abiram, who were called by the congregation, who rebelled against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they rebelled against the LORD,

NUMBERS 26:10 and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died; at the time the fire devoured two hundred fifty men, and they became a sign.

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Verse 10

Together with Korah - The Samaritan text does not intimate that Korah was swallowed up, but that he was burnt, as appears in fact to have been the case. And the earth swallowed them up, what time that company died; and the fire devoured Korah with the two hundred and fifty men, who became a sign.

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NUMBERS 26:11 Notwithstanding, the sons of Korah didn't die.

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Verse 11

The children of Korah died not - It is difficult to reconcile this place with Num 16:27, Num 16:31-33, where it seems to be intimated that not only the men, but the wives, and the sons, and the little ones of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, were swallowed up by the earthquake; see especially Num 16:27, collated with Num 16:33. But the text here expressly says, The children of Korah died not; and on a close inspection of Num 16:27, we shall find that the sons and the little ones of Dathan and Abiram alone are mentioned. So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out - and their wives, and their sons, and their little ones. Here is no mention of the children of Korah, they therefore escaped, while it appears those of Dathan and Abiram perished with their fathers. See the note on Num 16:30.

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NUMBERS 26:12 The sons of Simeon after their families: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites;

NUMBERS 26:13 of Zerah, the family of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites.

NUMBERS 26:14 These are the families of the Simeonites, twenty-two thousand two hundred.

NUMBERS 26:15 The sons of Gad after their families: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the family of the Haggites; of Shuni, the family of the Shunites;

NUMBERS 26:16 of Ozni, the family of the Oznites; of Eri, the family of the Erites;

NUMBERS 26:17 of Arod, the family of the Arodites; of Areli, the family of the Arelites.

NUMBERS 26:18 These are the families of the sons of Gad according to those who were numbered of them, forty thousand and five hundred.

NUMBERS 26:19 The sons of Judah: Er and Onan. Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

NUMBERS 26:20 The sons of Judah after their families were: of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites; of Perez, the family of the Perezites; of Zerah, the family of the Zerahites.

NUMBERS 26:21 The sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

NUMBERS 26:22 These are the families of Judah according to those who were numbered of them, seventy-six thousand five hundred.

NUMBERS 26:23 The sons of Issachar after their families: of Tola, the family of the Tolaites; of Puvah, the family of the Punites;

NUMBERS 26:24 of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

NUMBERS 26:25 These are the families of Issachar according to those who were numbered of them, sixty-four thousand three hundred.

NUMBERS 26:26 The sons of Zebulun after their families: of Sered, the family of the Seredites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites.

NUMBERS 26:27 These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those who were numbered of them, sixty thousand five hundred.

NUMBERS 26:28 The sons of Joseph after their families: Manasseh and Ephraim.

NUMBERS 26:29 The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir became the father of Gilead; of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites.

NUMBERS 26:30 These are the sons of Gilead: of Iezer, the family of the Iezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites;

NUMBERS 26:31 and Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; and Shechem, the family of the Shechemites;

NUMBERS 26:32 and Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; and Hephher, the family of the Hephherites.

NUMBERS 26:33 Zelophehad the son of Hephher had no sons, but daughters: and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

NUMBERS 26:34 These are the families of Manasseh. Those who were numbered of them were fifty-two thousand seven hundred.

NUMBERS 26:35 These are the sons of Ephraim after their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthelahites; of Becher, the family of the Becherites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

NUMBERS 26:36 These are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

NUMBERS 26:37 These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those who were numbered of them, thirty-two thousand five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph after their families.

NUMBERS 26:38 The sons of Benjamin after their families: of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites;

NUMBERS 26:39 of Shephupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

NUMBERS 26:40 The sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

NUMBERS 26:41 These are the sons of Benjamin after their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand six hundred.

NUMBERS 26:42 These are the sons of Dan after their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan after their families.

NUMBERS 26:43 All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those who were numbered of them, were sixty-four thousand four hundred.

NUMBERS 26:44 The sons of Asher after their families: of Imnah, the family of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the family of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the family of the Berites.

NUMBERS 26:45 Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

NUMBERS 26:46 The name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

NUMBERS 26:47 These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those who were numbered of them, fifty-three thousand and four hundred.

NUMBERS 26:48 The sons of Naphtali after their families: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites;

NUMBERS 26:49 of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.

NUMBERS 26:50 These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand four hundred.

NUMBERS 26:51 These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred one thousand seven hundred thirty.

#### Verse 51

These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty - The following comparative statement will show how much some of the tribes had increased, and others had diminished, since the enumeration in Numbers 1.

Tribe Chapter 26 Chapter 1 Variation Reuben 43,730 to 46,500 2,770 decrease Simeon 22,200 to 59,300 37,100 increase Gad 40,500 to 45,650 5,150 increase Judah 76,500 to 74,600 1,900 decrease Issachar 64,300 to 54,400 9,900 decrease Zebulun 60,500 to 57,400 3,100 decrease Manasseh 52,700 to 32,200 20,500 decrease Ephraim 32,500 to 40,500 8,000 increase Benjamin 45,600 to 35,400 10,200 decrease Dan 64,400 to 62,700 1,700 decrease Asher 53,400 to 41,500 11,900 decrease Naphtali 45,400 to 53,400 8,000 increase Total 601,730 to 603,550 1,820 increase on the whole, in 38 years. Decrease in all, 61,020. Increase in all, 59,200.

Let it be observed,

1. That among these there was not a man of the former census, save Joshua and Caleb, see Num 26:64, Num 26:65.

2. That though there was an increase in seven tribes of not less than 74,800 men, yet so great was the decrease in the other five tribes, that the balance against the present census is 1,820, as appears above: thus we find that there was an increase of 601,728 from 603,550 in the space of thirty-eight years.

Notwithstanding the amazing increase in some and decrease in other tribes, the same sort of proportion is preserved in the east, west, north, and south divisions, as before; so as to keep the division of Judah, which was always in the front or van, the largest; and the division of Dan, which was always in the rear, the next in number. But it is worthy of remark that as they are now, properly speaking, to commence their grand military operations, so their front, or advanced division, is increased from 186,400 to 201,300; and their rear from 157,600 to 163,200. The first division is strengthened 14,900 men, and the last division 5,600 men. The reasons for this are sufficiently obvious.

Mr. Ainsworth has a curious remark on the number of families in the 12 tribes.

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NUMBERSber of Families 1. Of Manasseh 8 7. Of Reuben 4 2. Of Benjamin 7 8. Of Issachar 4 3. Of Gad 7 9. Of Ephraim 4 4. Of Simeon 5 10. Of Naphtali 4 5. Of Judah 5 11. Of Zebulun 3 6. Of Asher 5 12. Of Dan 1 "In all 57; to whom if we add the 12 patriarchs, and Jacob their father, the whole number is 70, the exact number of the souls in Jacob's house that went down to Egypt, Gen 46:27." In a variety of things in this ancient economy there is a most surprising proportion kept up, which never could have been a fortuitous effect of general causes. But proportion, harmony, and order distinguish all the works of God, both in the natural and moral world.

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NUMBERS 26:52 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

NUMBERS 26:53 "To these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names.

NUMBERS 26:54 To the more you shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer you shall give the less inheritance. To everyone according to those who were numbered of him shall his inheritance be given.

NUMBERS 26:55 Notwithstanding, the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

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Verse 55

The land shall be divided by lot - The word גורל goral, translated lot, is supposed by some to signify the stone or pebble formerly used for the purpose of what we term casting lots. The word hlot is Anglo-Saxon, from to divide, or portion out, i. e., fortuitously: it answers to the Greek κληρος, which some think comes from κλαω to break; because the lot, being a sort of appeal to God, ("The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord," Pro 16:33), broke off all contentions and litigations relative to the matter in dispute. From this original division of the promised land by lot to the children of Israel, all portions, appointments, offices, shares, or divisions in spiritual and ecclesiastical matters, were termed lots. So in the New Testament, the word κληρος, lot, is used to signify a portion of spiritual blessedness, and κληρονομια, a division by lot, an

inheritance; and κληροι, the lotted or appointed persons to different works, shares, etc.; hence our word clergy, κληροι, persons appointed by lot to a lot, portion, or inheritance; see the case of Matthias, Act 1:26. Persons thus appointed were by accommodation termed inheritors, because originally, when there could be no claims of exclusive right, all lands where a wandering tribe chose to take up its residence were divided by lot, as the promised land in the case before us. So Judah says to Simeon his brother, Jdg 1:3 : "Come up with me into my lot." And as God was ever supposed to be the whole disposer in such matters, whatever fell out in the course of God's providence was called a lot. "This is the lot of them that rob us;" Isa 17:14. "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter;" Act 8:21. A lot in the promised land was evidently typical of a place in eternal glory. "That they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance (κληρον, a lot) among them that are sanctified;" Act 26:18. "Who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance, κληρου, of the lot) of the saints in light;" Col 1:12. "Which is the earnest of our inheritance, (κληρονομιας, of our allotted portion;)" Eph 1:4. "What is the riches of the glory of his inheritance," (κληρονομιας, allotted portion); Eph 1:18. As therefore the promised land was divided by lot to the believing Israelites, God determining the lot as he saw good, none of the people having any claim on or right to it; so the kingdom of heaven is a lot given by the mere good will of God to them that believe and obey him; for as unbelief and disobedience threw 600,000 people out of the inheritance of the promised land; so none who disbelieve God's word, and rebel against his authority, shall ever enter into the kingdom of heaven - See Ainsworth. These things happened unto them for examples: see then, reader, that thou fall not after the same example of unbelief.

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NUMBERS 26:56 According to the lot shall their inheritance be divided between the more and the fewer."

NUMBERS 26:57 These are those who were numbered of the Levites after their families: of Gershon, the family of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

NUMBERS 26:58 These are the families of Levi: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korahites. Kohath became the father of Amram.

NUMBERS 26:59 The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. She bore to Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister.

NUMBERS 26:60 To Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

NUMBERS 26:61 Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange fire before the LORD.

NUMBERS 26:62 Those who were numbered of them were twenty-three thousand, every male from a month old and upward; for they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Israel.

NUMBERS 26:63 These are those who were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

NUMBERS 26:64 But among these there was not a man of them who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.

NUMBERS 26:65 For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." There was not a man left of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

