

# Looking to the future

Dominic Steele, Numbers 26-36

## Numbers 26:1-25, 51-55

<sup>1</sup>After the plague the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, <sup>2</sup>“Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families—all those twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel.” <sup>3</sup>So on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them and said, <sup>4</sup>“Take a census of the men twenty years old or more, as the LORD commanded Moses.” These were the Israelites who came out of Egypt:

<sup>5</sup>The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel, were: through Hanoch, the Hanochite clan; through Pallu, the Palluite clan; <sup>6</sup>through Hezron, the Hezronite clan; through Carmi, the Carmite clan. <sup>7</sup>These were the clans of Reuben; those numbered were 43,730.

<sup>8</sup>The son of Pallu was Eliab, <sup>9</sup>and the sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan and Abiram. The same Dathan and Abiram were the community officials who rebelled against Moses and Aaron and were among Korah’s followers when they rebelled against the LORD. <sup>10</sup>The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them along with Korah, whose followers died when the fire devoured the 250 men. And they served as a warning sign. <sup>11</sup>The line of Korah, however, did not die out.

<sup>12</sup>The descendants of Simeon by their clans were: through Nemuel, the Nemuelite clan; through Jamin, the Jaminite clan; through Jakin, the Jakinite clan; <sup>13</sup>through Zerach, the Zerachite clan; through Shaul, the Shaulite clan. <sup>14</sup>These were the clans of Simeon; there were 22,200 men.

<sup>15</sup>The descendants of Gad by their clans were: through Zephon, the Zephonite clan; through Haggi, the Haggite clan; through Shuni, the Shunite clan; <sup>16</sup>through Ozni, the Oznite clan; through Eri, the Erite clan; <sup>17</sup>through Arodi, the Arodite clan; through Areli, the Arelite clan. <sup>18</sup>These were the clans of Gad; those numbered were 40,500.

<sup>19</sup>Er and Onan were sons of Judah, but they died in Canaan.

<sup>20</sup>The descendants of Judah by their clans were: through Shelah, the Shelanite clan; through Perez, the Perezite clan; through Zerach, the Zerachite clan. <sup>21</sup>The descendants of Perez were: through Hezron, the Hezronite clan; through Hamul, the Hamulite clan. <sup>22</sup>These were the clans of Judah; those numbered were 76,500.

<sup>23</sup>The descendants of Issachar by their clans were: through Tola, the Tolaite clan; through Puah, the Puite clan; <sup>24</sup>through Jashub, the Jashubite clan; through Shimron, the Shimronite clan. <sup>25</sup>These were the clans of Issachar; those numbered were 64,300.

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<sup>51</sup>The total number of the men of Israel was 601,730.

<sup>52</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>53</sup>“The land is to be allotted to them as an inheritance based on the number of names. <sup>54</sup>To a larger group give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group a smaller one; each is to receive its inheritance according to the number of those listed. <sup>55</sup>Be sure that the land is distributed by lot. What each group inherits will be according to the names for its ancestral tribe. <sup>56</sup>Each inheritance is to be distributed by lot among the larger and smaller groups.”

## Numbers 31

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.”

<sup>3</sup>So Moses said to the people, “Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites and to carry out the LORD’s vengeance on them. <sup>4</sup>Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel.” <sup>5</sup>So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel. <sup>6</sup>Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling.

<sup>7</sup>They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man. <sup>8</sup>Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword. <sup>9</sup>The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children and took all the Midianite herds, flocks and goods as plunder. <sup>10</sup>They burned all the towns where the Midianites had settled, as well as all their camps. <sup>11</sup>They took all the plunder and spoils, including the people and animals, <sup>12</sup>and brought the captives, spoils and plunder to Moses and Eleazar the priest and the Israelite assembly at their camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan across from Jericho.

<sup>13</sup>Moses, Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp. <sup>14</sup>Moses was angry with the officers of the army—the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds—who returned from the battle.

<sup>15</sup>“Have you allowed all the women to live?” he asked them. <sup>16</sup>“They were the ones who followed Balaam’s advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the LORD in what happened at Peor; so that a plague struck the LORD’s people. <sup>17</sup>Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, <sup>18</sup>but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man.

## 1 Trusting God for the future

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## 3 Trusting God for the future

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