



SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARSHA SHEET

PARSHAT BAMIDBAR

Its time for the Jewish people to be counted again! Hashem has told Moses that he would like a census of the Jewish people to take place. But how is it possible to count all of the Jewish people? Thank G-d, there's lot of us. And without computers and calculators how was Moses able to count the exact amount of Jewish people?

Here's your answer - Hashem told Moses to that all the men between the ages of 20 and 60 are to give Moses a half shekel coin. At the same time, these men are required to register their name and family name. The only tribe which is not counted is the Levite tribe. It takes many days to count the Jewish people in this way, but finally Moses manages to count the total amount of Jewish people. And guess what?!? The grand total of Jewish people totals the exact same amount of Jews that were alive the last time Hashem commanded Moses to count the Jewish people. This means that not one Jew died during the building of the Mishkan!!



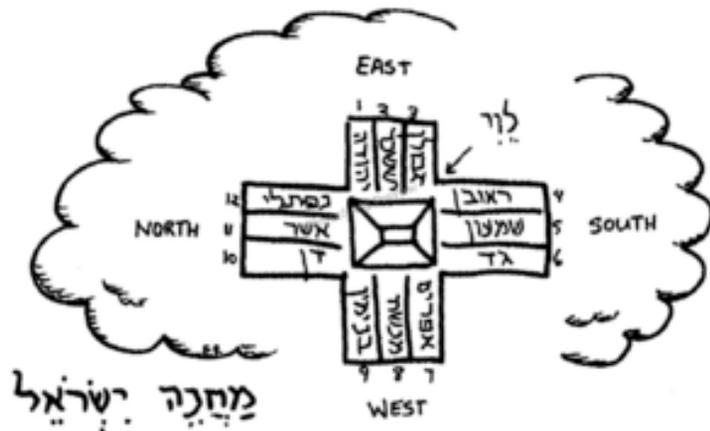
Now that we know how many Jewish people there are, Hashem tells Moses to divide the Jewish camp into three main sections. First we have the center of the camp. This is where the Mishkan rests. It is the holiest part of the entire camp of Israel and it is called the 'Camp of the Divine Presence'. Surrounding this is the 'Camp of the Levites', however even though it is called 'Camp of the Levites', only Moses, Aaron and Aaron's sons are holy enough to live over here. The rest of the Levites must leave a distance of about 450 meters between their homes and the 'Camp of the Divine Presence'. Finally we have the third section. This is where the 'Camp of Israel' resides. Now do you know that the Camp of Israel was further divided into another 4 sections? Thats right. The tribes of Judah, Yissachar and Zebulun lived east of the Mishkan. South was Reuben, Gad and Simeon. West of the Mishkan was Ephraim, Benjamin and Menashe. And north of the Mishkan was Dan, Asher and Naftali.



Did you know that each of the tribes had their own flag? Yup, just like our country has it's own flag, every tribe of Israel has its own flag. Judah's flag was sky blue and illustrated a picture of a lion, Yissachar was dark black with a picture of the sun and moon, Zebulun was white with an image of a ship on it. Reuben had flowers, Simeon's flag was green with picture of the city of Shechem and Gad had an image of troops embroidered onto its flag. Benjamin's flag was multi-coloured with a picture of a wolf, while Ephraim and Menashe both had black flags, but Ephraim had a bull on his, whereas Menashe's depicted an ox. Dan's flag had a snake, Asher's pictured an olive tree and Naftali's flag was wine coloured with an image of a deer. Now these flags were not chosen randomly, but rather they each characterise the Jewish people within each specific tribe.

Even though the Jewish people all belonged to different tribes, and they did not all live in the same sections as each other, they were all very nice to one another. They treated each other with respect and very kindly. Hashem made sure to protect His people in the desert, and placed six clouds of glory around the camp of Israel to protect the Jewish people from any enemies or people that might try to attack them.

Whilst living in the desert, the Jewish people did not stay in one place, but traveled quite a bit. But who decided that it was time to pack up and move elsewhere? It was Hashem indeed! He would send a sign which would signal that it was time for the Jewish people to pack up and head to a new place. It would sometimes be the little children who would see the sign while they were playing outside. 'Look', they would say, 'the cloud above the flag of Judah is folding up. This must mean that it's time for us to move to our next location'. Immediately, the sound of the shofar would be heard. This was a sign for the tribe of Judah, Yissachar and Zebulun to take down their tents. Once they were done, the Shofar was sounded again and the tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad quickly readied themselves for departure. Once again the shofar was heard and the tribes of Ephraim, Menashe and Benjamin knew that this was their cue to pack up. Finally the shofar was blown one last time and the tribes of Dan, Asher and Naftali hurriedly took down their tents. While all of this was happening, the Levite tribe was given the special



honours of covering up all the holy vessels of the Mishkan and disassembling the Mishkan itself. Once all of this was done and the entire Jewish nation was ready to leave, Moses would call out a special verse to Hashem. Immediately, Hashem's cloud of glory began to move, guiding the Jewish people in the right direction.

Do you want to hear something really interesting? When the Jewish people traveled, they traveled in the same formation in which they camped. This means that the Mishkan was always in the middle, and it was surrounded by the Levites who carried all of its parts and around the Levites in all four directions were all the twelve tribes.

The Jewish people traveled for quite some time until it was time to stop. But how would the Jewish people know when it was time to settle once again? You got it! Hashem would make the cloud stop. It would then unfold itself and spread out above Judah's tribe flag and the Jewish people knew that this would now be their new camping place.

PARSHA QUESTIONS:

1. What is the name of this weeks Parsha?
This weeks Parsha is Parshat Bamidbar.
2. What does Hashem command Moses to do in the beginning of the Parsha?
In the beginning of the Parsha, Hashem commands Moses to count the Jewish nation.
3. Which is the only tribe that is not counted?
The only tribe which is not counted is the tribe of the Levites.
4. How many sections is the Jewish camp divided into?
The Jewish camp is divided into three main sections.
5. Name the three different sections of the Jewish camp?
The sections of the Jewish camp are, the 'Camp of the Divine Presence', 'Camp of the Levites' and 'Camp of Israel'.
6. Which tribes were positioned south of the Mishkan?
The tribes of Reuben, Gad and Simeon were positioned south of the Mishkan.
7. Name the 12 tribes of Israel?
Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Yissachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naftali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin.
8. Describe what Benjamin's flag looked like?
Benjamin's flag was multicoloured and had a picture of a wolf.
9. Name one way in which Hashem protected the Jewish people in the desert?
One of the ways that Hashem protected the Jewish people in the desert was by surrounding them with six clouds of glory. These clouds protected the Jewish people from their enemies and any other people that wanted to attack the Jewish people.
10. How did the Jewish people know that it was time to start traveling?
The Jewish people knew that it was time to start traveling when they saw that the cloud of glory above the flag of Judah had folded itself up. Immediately, the Shofar would begin to sound to warn everyone to start getting ready to leave for a new and unknown destination.
11. While everyone packed up their belongings, what was the Levite tribe busy doing?
While everyone was packing up their belongings, the Levite tribe busied itself with covering up the holy vessels of the Mishkan and disassembling the Mishkan itself.
12. How did the Jewish people know when they had reached their next destination?
The Jewish people knew that they had reached their next destination when the cloud of glory would stop moving, and would unfold itself and spread out over the flag of the tribe of Judah.

It was great seeing you in Shule!

**We Hope you enjoy reading this Parsha Sheet and quizzing your family!
Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew**

