

THE NUMBERS AT STAKE⁹

Migration to Egypt Gen. 46:8-25	First Census (Num. 1:17-46)	Second Census (Num. 26:1-51)
Reuben (5) ¹⁰	Reuben (46,500)	Reuben (43,730)
Simeon (7)	Simeon (59,300)	Simeon (22,200) ¹¹
Levi (4)	Gad (45,650)	Gad (40,500)
Judah (6)	Judah (74,600)	Judah (76,500)
Issachar (5)	Issachar (54,400)	Issachar (64,300)
Zebulun (4)	Zebulun (57,400)	Zebulun (60,500)
Gad (8)	Ephraim (40,500)	Manasseh (52,700) ¹²
Asher (7)	Manasseh (32,200)	Ephraim (32,500)
Joseph (3)	Benjamin (35,400)	Benjamin (45,600)
Benjamin (11)	Dan (62,700)	Dan (64,400)
Dan (2)	Asher (41,500)	Asher (53,400)
Naphtali (5)	Naphtali (53,400)	Naphtali (45,400)
Total: 67	Total: 603,550	Total: 601,730

⁹ Really, all large numbers are at stake. Even numbers in Chronicles have come under attack. J. Barton Payne, e.g., writes on I Chronicles 21:5 (which contains the number of military men in David's ill-advised census): "Second, on the basis of the noun *'lapim*, denoting either 'thousands' or 'chiefs,' 'specially trained warriors'... we should probably think in terms of a muster of 1,570 outstanding military figures and not necessarily of over a million and a half 'men . . . who could handle a sword.'" "1, 2 Chronicles," in vol. 4 of *Expositor's Bible Commentary* (1988), 407.

¹⁰ The numbers in this column include the son of Jacob mentioned, their sons, and any grandsons listed. Only sixty-seven are listed here (seventy in Gen. 46:27) because the number does not include Dinah (Leah's daughter), Serah (Asher's daughter), and Jacob.

¹¹ Note the large decrease in the descendants of Simeon. Our supposition is that they were heavily involved in the worship of Baal-Peor and suffered the tragic consequences (Num. 25:14-15).

¹² The change in the listed order of the sons of Joseph may be due to the growth of Manasseh.