



Math for the people, by the people.

# Book of Numbers

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The *Book of Numbers* is the fourth book of the *Holy Bible*. The original Hebrew title is “Ba-Midbar”, which means “In the Desert.” In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the book was referred to as “Arithmoi”, giving rise to its name in most modern languages. Chapter 1 lists the results of the Census taken after the Jews escaped from Egypt, “every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war,” categorized by tribes (but the Levites were excluded from the Census). In the King James Version, the numbers are given rounded off by hundreds.

Reuben	46500
Simeon	59300
Gad	5650
Judah	74600
Issachar	54400
Zebulun	57400
Ephraim	4500
Manasseh	32200
Benjamin	35400
Dan	62700
Asher	41500
Naphtali	53400
Levi	not counted

Unlike other uses of numbers in the *Bible*, the numbers in the Book of Numbers are understood to be actual enumerations and not chosen for their symbolic value because of their mathematical or numerological properties (as is the case with the Book of Revelations).

The title *Book of Numbers* was used by John Conway and Richard Guy for their book on number theory. Title aside, it contains no biblical references.