### Numbers

## Chapter 3

1These are the generations of Aaron and Moses in the day in that the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount SinAi.  
  
2These are the names of the sons of Aaron:  
  
 • NaDab (the firstborn),  
 • AbiUd,  
 • EliEzer, and  
 • IthaMar.  
  
3They were the Anointed Priests who were made perfect for the Priesthood.  
  
4However, NaDab and AbiUd died before Jehovah when they offered [incense] to Him in an unauthorized way, while they were in the SinAi Desert. And because they had no children, just EliEzer and IthaMar served as Priests with their father Aaron.  
  
5Then the Lord spoke to Moses and told him:  
  
 6‘Bring the Tribe of Levi up in front of Aaron the Priest, for they’re all going to serve him 7and they must follow his instructions. You must explain this to the children of IsraEl in front of the Tent of Proofs, and show how [the Levites] will thereafter perform their duties at the Tent.  
  
 8‘[The Levites] are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Proofs and they must teach the children of IsraEl about everything that has to do with the Tent.  
  
 9‘You are to give the Levites to Aaron and his sons (the Priests)... For they’ve been given to Me as a gift from the children of IsraEl.  
  
 10‘Appoint Aaron and his sons to be in charge of the Tent of Proofs, and they must give [the Levites] instructions about the Priesthood, everything that belongs to the Altar, and everything inside the veil… Anyone else who touches these things must die.’  
  
  
11Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 12‘Look, I have chosen the Levites from among the children of IsraEl [to take the place] of [all of] the [firstborn] males who are among the children of IsraEl. [The Levites] are their ransom, and they’re Mine. 13For all their firstborn have been Mine since the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. I chose all the firstborn in IsraEl as holy to Myself – both the men and the animals – and they’re Mine!  
  
 ‘For I am Jehovah!’  
  
  
[Editor note: There now follows census data, instructions for running the Tent of Proofs, and further laws. The story resumes at Numbers 6:22.]  
  
  
14Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the SinAi Desert and said:  
  
 15‘Take a census of the sons of Levi by family lines and divisions… Count every male from a month old and up.’  
  
16So thereafter, Moses and Aaron counted them all following Jehovah’s instructions.  
  
17The sons of Levi were:  
  
 • GedSon,  
 • CaAth, and   
 • MeraRi.  
  
18GedSon’s sons (and family lines) were:  
  
 • LoBeni, and  
 • Semei.  
  
19CaAth’s sons (and family lines) were:  
  
 • AmBram,  
 • IsSaAr,  
 • HebRon, and   
 • OziEl.  
  
20MeraRi’s sons (and family lines) were:  
  
 • MoOli, and  
 • Musi.  
  
These were the families of the Levites by family lines.  
  
  
21GedSon’s [sons] were LoBeni and Semei, 22and the number of males descending from them that were a month old and older was 7,500…  
  
23The sons of GedSon were to camp behind the Tent on its west side. 24The ruler of the family of GedSon was EliSaph (son of DaEl).  
  
25The instructions that were given to the sons of GedSon concerning the Tent of Proofs included taking care of the tent itself, the veil that covers the entrance to the Tent of Proofs, 26the curtains for the courtyard, the veil to the courtyard that was around the Tent, and such things.  
  
  
27The divisions that were counted [in the family line] of CaAth were those of AmBram, IsSaAr, HebRon, and OziEl, 28and they included 8,600 males a month old and older, who were given these instructions regarding the holy things.  
  
29The families of the sons of CaAth were to camp next to the Tent, along its south side. 30The ruler of the family line and divisions of CaAth was EliShaphan (son of OziEl).  
  
31They were told that they were to be in charge of the Chest, the Table, the Sacred Lamp, the Altars, and all the furnishings in the Holy Place that were used in holy service inside the veil, and all their parts.  
  
  
32The head over the chiefs of the Levites was EliEzer, the son of Aaron the Priest. He was appointed to give all the instructions regarding the holy things.  
  
  
33The family lines of MeraRi were those of MoOli and Musi. 34All the males a month old and older among his line were counted at 6,050.  
  
35The head of the family line and divisions of MeraRi was SuriEl (son of AbiChail). They were to camp next to the Tent, along its north side.  
  
36The sons of MeraRi were told that they were to be in charge of the Tent’s caps, rafters, posts, sockets, all their fittings and pieces, 37the posts for the courtyard, and their bases, pins, and ropes.  
  
  
38Moses, Aaron, and their sons were to camp in front of the Tent of Proofs on its east side. They were to take care of the Holy Place and give instructions about it to the children of IsraEl. Anyone else who touched it was to die.  
  
39All the Levites whom Moses and Aaron counted that were a month old and older (by family lines) following Jehovah’s instructions, were 22,000.  
  
  
40Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 ‘Now, count all the firstborn males among the children of IsraEl who are a month old and older, and record their names. 41Thereafter, take the Levites for Me in place of all the firstborn of the sons of IsraEl.  
  
 ‘Also, take all the Levites’ cattle in place of the first-born of the cattle of the children of IsraEl… For I am Jehovah!’  
  
42So Moses counted all the firstborn of the children of IsraEl, just as the Lord had commanded him to do. 43And all the male firstborn a month old and older that were counted by name were 22,273.  
  
  
44Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 45‘Now, take the Levites in place of all the first-born of the sons of IsraEl, and take the Levite’s cattle in place of their cattle, for they must be Mine… I am Jehovah!  
  
 46‘And the ransom [that must be paid] for all the firstborn of the sons of IsraEl that exceed the number of Levites (the 273), 47[must be paid for] with 5 silver-coins per person. They must be paid for using the holy double-silver coins at 20 copper coins per silver coin... 48Then, give the money to Aaron and his sons as the ransom for those who exceed their number.’  
  
49So Moses took the silver as the ransom for those who exceeded the number that were bought by the Levites. 50The amount of holy silver coins that he took from the firstborn of the sons of IsraEl was 1,365.  
  
51Then Moses gave the ransom for these extra ones to Aaron and his sons, according to the instructions that the Lord had given to Moses.