

REF. MATERIAL

Census of Israel in Numbers

THE GENERAL CENSUS

Num.1:1 — God speaks to Moses telling him to take a census of “*all the congregation of the children of Israel...every male by their polls...twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war.*”

Num.1:49 — However, the tribe of Levi is not to be numbered along with the rest of the children of Israel.

Num.8:14-17 — Explains that the Levites “*are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me.*” The reason? Because when God smote the first-born in Egypt, He said that He had set apart (sanctified) the first-born of Levi “*for myself.*”

Name of Tribe	Census Count	Reference
Levi	Not numbered — Num.1:49	
Reuben	46,500	Num.1:21, 2:11
Simeon	59,300	Num.1:23, 2:13
Gad	45,650	Num.1:25, 2:15
Judah	74,600	Num.1:27, 2:4
Issachar	54,400	Num.1:29, 2:6
Zebulun	57,400	Num.1:31, 2:8
Ephriam	40,500	Num.1:33, 2:19
Manasseh	32,200	Num.1:35, 2:21
Benjamin	35,400	Num.1:37, 2:23
Dan	62,700	Num.1:39, 2:26
Asher	41,500	Num.1:41, 2:28
Naphtali	53,400	Num.1:43, 2:30
Total	603,550	Num.1:46, 2:30

CENSUS OF THE LEVITES (FOR THE FIRST-BORN)

Num.3:12-13 — The number pertaining to the Levites as substitutes for the first-born.

Name of Tribe	Census Count	Reference
Gershon	7,500	Num.3:22
Kohath	8,600	Num.3:28
Merari	6,200	Num.3:34
Total	22,300	Num.3:39 ¹

Redemption of the first-born who had no substitutes:

Name of Tribe	Census Count	Reference
First-born from Other Tribes	22,273	Num.3:40-43
Substitutes from Levi	22,000	Num.3:39
Difference (to be redeemed)	273	Num.3:46

273 persons x 5 shekels = 1,365 shekels [Num.3:46]

FULL CENSUS OF THE LEVITES

Num.4:3 — The Levites were numbered according to slightly different rules; e.g., from “*thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old*” vs. Israel who was counted from “*twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war...*”.

Name of Tribe	Census Count	Reference
Kohath	2,750	Num.4:35-36
Gershon	2,630	Num.4:40
Merari	3,200	Num.4:44
Total	8,580	Num.4:48

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¹ Num.3:39 gives the total as being 22,000. The difference can be accounted for by realizing that the first-born of the Levites, being already dedicated to God, could not stand as substitutes for the first-born from other tribes.