

# Pearl Seeking

## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 25:10-18	The zeal of Phineas (Pinchas)
Tuesday:	Num. 26:1 -27:11	A new census; The daughters of Tselophhad
Wednesday:	Num. 27:12-23	Yehoshua appointed Mosheh's successor
Thursday:	Num. 28	Daily, Sabbath and New Moon Offerings; Offerings for Spring Festivals
Friday:	Num. 29:1-30:1	Offerings for Fall Festivals

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will look at the census of the next generation of Yisra'elites, who are about to conquer and finally settle in the land of Kena'an. We will learn about the land inheritance for each tribe; and through the story of Tselophhad's daughters we'll see a new right-ruling established for families without any male heirs. Now, let's read Num. 26 & 27:1-11.

## PARSHA POINTS

- While the children of Yisra'el were encamped in the desert plains of Mo'ab, near the Yarden of Yericho, Yahweh told Mosheh and El'azar, son of Aharon, to take another census of the people. They were to count (26:1-3):
  - from 20 (**esrim**) years old and above
  - by their fathers' household
  - everyone going out to the army in Yisra'el
- Therefore, as Yahweh had commanded, the children of Yisra'el were registered - 26:4-50 (For comparison, in the right column are the numbers from the previous census, recorded in Num. 1:19-43):

➤ Re'uben	43,730	(46,500)
➤ Shim'on	22,200	(59,300)
➤ Gad	40,500	(45,650)
➤ Yehudah	76,500	(74,600)
➤ Yissaskar	64,300	(54,400)
➤ Zebulun	60,500	(57,400)
➤ Menashsheh (Yoseph)	52,700	(32,200)
➤ Ephrayim (Yoseph)	32,500	(40,500)
➤ Binyamin	45,600	(35,400)
➤ Dan	64,400	(62,700)
➤ Asher	53,400	(41,500)
➤ Naphtali	45,400	(53,400)



- These were those whom Mosheh and El'azar registered: a total of 601,730 men by their father's house, from 20 years old and above, everyone going out into the army - 26:51 (603,550 total - 1:44-46)
- Yahweh then told Mosheh how to distribute each tribe's land inheritance (**nachalah**), to be granted as they conquered and settled Kena'an - 26:52-53
- Each tribe was to be given an inheritance according to its size; larger tribes would receive a larger amount of land, and smaller tribes would be granted a smaller amount of land - 26:54
- The land was to be divided by lot for both the larger and smaller tribes - 26:55-56
- The sons of Lewi were registered separately, as they had no land inheritance among the children of Yisra'el - 26:62
- All Lewite males from a new moon (month) old and above were registered; 23,000 total - 26:62 (22,000 total - 3:39)
- This registration did not list a single person from the census in the Wilderness of Sinai, except for Kaleb and Yehoshua; the others had all died in the wilderness - 26:64-65



## Chapter 27

- The 5 (**chamesh**) daughters of Tselophhad, of the tribe of Menashsheh, came to the door of the Tent of Appointment to stand before Mosheh, El'azar and before the leaders and all the congregation with the following request (27:1-4):
  - Our father did die in the wilderness, but he was not among those who rebelled with Qorah
  - He died in his own sins
  - He had no sons
  - Why should our father's name be removed from his clan because he had no sons?
  - Let us have a possession (**achuzzah**) just as sons would have
- Mosheh turned to Yahweh to get His ruling in the matter - 27:5
- Yahweh pronounced to Mosheh His decree of right-ruling (27:6-11):
  - The daughters of Tselophhad speak correctly
  - You will give them an inheritance among their father's brothers
  - Tell the children of Yisra'el that if a man has no sons, his inheritance will then go to his daughter
  - If a man has no daughter, then it will go to his living brothers
  - If a man has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers
  - If the father has no brothers, then you shall give the inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan

### Parsha Pinchas Add-on Facts:

- The sons of Qorah did NOT die when the ground opened up and swallowed Qorah, Dathan and Abiram - 26:9-11 (Num.16)
- One of Menashsheh's descendants, Tselophhad had no sons, but 5 daughters (**bat**). Their names (**shem**) were (26:33):

- Mahlah
- No'ah
- Hoglah
- Milkah
- Tirtsah



- One of Asher's daughters, Serah was named along with his sons - 26:46
- Lewi's son Qehath had Amram, who married Lewi's daughter Yokebed - 26:57-59
- Amram and Yokebed were the parents of Mosheh, Aharon and Miryam - 26:59
- Aharon's sons were Nadab, Abihu, El'azar and Ithamar - 26:60
- Aharon's sons, Nadab and Abihu died because they brought strange (unauthorized) fire before Yahweh - 26:61

# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In this parsha, Yahweh asks for a fresh census of the New Generation. Notice how the numbers changed over time for some of the tribes. For example, Shim'on's numbers have dramatically declined from their numbers in the first generation, whereas Menashsheh has quite an increase. What are your thoughts on these vast differences? Could Shim'on's decrease be a fulfillment of Ya'aqob's prophecy in Gen. 49:5-7?
- Discuss Yahweh's purpose for this new census. Did He want to determine how many soldiers each tribe had available, and the size of the territory each tribe would be allotted in the land of Kena'an? Think about the nearly 100% population turnover, all because the first generation repeatedly tested Yahweh; and in the end they were sentenced to death for lacking faith in Him and believing the report of the 10 unfaithful spies.
- What did daughters receive when they were married that sons did not? Do you feel Yahweh took care of females in all circumstances?
- Why do you think the Lewites were not numbered after their 8<sup>th</sup> day circumcisions, but after one whole month? Could it have to do with infant mortality rates being higher the first month?

