

Order & Anointing: How Numbers 1-3 prove these go hand-in-hand

Parashat B'midbar ([B'midbar/Numbers 1-4:20](#)) 5782 B"H

[Numbers chapter 1](#) begins in the wilderness of Sinai. We are given the very *specific* date when the LORD spoke to Moses regarding a census.

It is a very orderly book, with very specific details and instructions. Truly, all of God's Word and, especially the Torah, is well-ordered, and I hope you will be able to see how the divinely-established orderliness goes hand-in-hand with the anointing upon the Israelites.

There was to be a census of those men who could fight for Israel.

Simply, every Israelite son aged 20+ would have to serve in the Israelite army ([Numbers 1:3](#)).

It had been 2 years after the Exodus from Egypt. Specifically, the first day of the second month, 2 years later.

The encampment at Mount Sinai would have been taking shape as a full-fledged community meaning Israelite families and their assets would require protection as the community grew.

Men were looked to as protectors. They were numbered so that they could be assigned to their military divisions.

I am aware of feminist interpretations of this passage suggesting that God is somehow "unfair." Feminists make the mistaken claim that the LORD "ignored" all the women because [Numbers 1](#) only talks about men. Well, I grew up under feminist

theology, so let me tell you plainly: **it's a bunch of nonsense.** *If God didn't value women, He wouldn't have gathered up the men to do the protecting: women would've been left to fend for themselves.*

Men are naturally stronger. This doesn't make women inferior, just different. We have different roles, that's all. We do well to live in the order YHWH has established. We will experience the anointing of the LORD on our households when we live as He has prescribed.

The Bible says there were 603,550 men able to go out with the army of Israel ([Numbers 1:46](#)).

Certainly, that would suggest a large number of women and children! What a blessing that so many men would be able to protect them.

Numbers 2 defines the expected order for each of the military groups.

I love how the Scriptures are very **orderly**.

The fact that the Scriptures are so orderly reflects the **orderliness of our Heavenly Father**.

He has everything well thought out, organized, and He cares about how each facet of how His creation functions.

Sometimes passages like these from Numbers seem tedious or irrelevant, but if you will slow down and look at the wider context, you will discover many treasures even in these words. Likewise, for [what to do when the Scriptures make you squirm](#), check out this recent post on "[The Value of Human Life](#)".

[Numbers 3](#) gives greater depth to a theme introduced in [Leviticus 1:47-51a](#) regarding the roles of the Levites. Here is

that passage:

The Levites, however, were not counted by the tribe of their ancestors, for ADONAI told Moses saying, “Definitely you are not to number the tribe of Levi, nor take the sum of them among *Bnei-Yisrael*. Instead, you are to appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its implements and all pertaining to it. They are to carry the Tabernacle and all its utensils, tend to it and camp around it. Whenever the Tabernacle sets out, the Levites are to dismantle it, and whenever the Tabernacle is pitched, the Levites are to set it up. Leviticus 1:47-51a

Numbers 3 addresses the duties assigned to the Levites (and *their families*). See, the women weren’t neglected or ignored!

The tragic death of Aaron’s two oldest sons

Before the specifics of the Levitical assignments are addressed, we find out in Numbers 3:2 about the tragic death of Aaron’s two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu.

Numbers 1 and 2 had us thinking about the military, but these two young men didn’t die in battle.

They were Levites, so they weren’t fighting in the army.

Instead, Nadab and Abihu offered “unauthorized fire” before the LORD. (Numbers 3:4)

The New Living Translation (NLT) simplifies this to the “wrong kind of fire.” (Num.3:4)

Nadab and Abihu died before the presence of the LORD that day due to carelessness. They didn’t do their assigned task in the **orderly** manner required.

How often are we guilty of something similar?

The LORD had given specific instructions, but Nadab and Abihu somehow made a mistake that cost them their lives.

I am thankful for the LORD's grace today! I am also thankful that **ADONAI** is a [God of order \(1 Corinthians 14:33\)](#). Order has to do with understanding and lack of confusion. **He has redeemed us so we do not have to live confused, disordered, disoriented lives.**



We must also be careful that we **honor the Holy Spirit**. When we **worship**, we must **seek to be filled with the Holy Fire** that comes from heaven alone and reverence His glorious presence.

Because Nadab and Abihu died, Aaron's younger sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, served as priests under Aaron, their father ([Numbers 3:4b](#)).

Nadab and Abihu were *replaced* because the community still needed priestly leaders. May we learn from this tragedy to be faithful in all of our ways and to seek God's guidance in every action we take. If we allow our lives to be ordered by the LORD, we will make right decisions and live in *shalom*.

The Levite families' unique giftings



Each Levite family was assigned different duties that ranged from caring for the implements of the sanctuary (such as the menorah, the Ark of the Covenant, and the altars) to the Tent of Meeting and its coverings to the care of the sanctuary itself.

Each family seems to have been anointed with a particular gifting, because as you read, you can observe that they were responsible for **specific areas**.

The Gershonites

If we analyze it plainly, the **Gershonites** were responsible for the fabrics. They were responsible for the curtains and the ropes used around the Tabernacle and altar ([Num.3:25-26](#)). They had an anointing for working with textiles.

The Kohathites

The **Kohathites** were responsible for “caring for the sanctuary.” ([Numbers 3:28](#)). They were assigned to care for the implements including the menorah, the Ark of the Covenant, and the altars. Perhaps they were anointed in metalworking, able to polish and repair any utensil as needed.

The Merarites

The **Merarites** held the responsibility to care for the structure of the Tabernacle. Their anointing was in engineering! They were to care for the posts and frames and crossbars, bases, pegs, and ropes.

Each clan had to follow the orderly instructions given by the LORD. If they didn't, a job would go undone. A mistake could be made.

And we know from Nadab and Abihu that mistakes can prove instantly fatal.

If a non-Levite approached the Tabernacle area, the consequence was also death.

["You are to appoint Aaron and his sons to maintain the priesthood; any commoner who approaches must be executed." Numbers 3:10](#)

[That's another one of those verses that makes me say, "WHAT?"](#)

But we must understand. The Tabernacle was set-up to teach us about the holiness of God. He is unapproachable without our [Mediator \(1 Timothy 2:5\)](#).

["For there is one God and there is one Mediator between God and men - a human, Messiah Yeshua, who gave Himself as a ransom for all -the testimony at the proper time." 1 Timothy 2:5-6](#)

Had our Messiah never come, we would still bear the consequence of death. But praise be to our LORD who has sent His Son, *Messiah Yeshua*, (Jesus Christ) to save us from sin and death!

Anointing and giftings today

Throughout the Bible, we find all sorts of examples of people having received special anointing and giftings. The purpose of the anointing was so that a person would be [divinely empowered](#) or inspired to carry out a task that would be of blessing. The Spirit of the LORD rested on people for a time, and today, the Spirit of the LORD infills believers to accomplish the Great Commission!

God remains a God of order.

If we seek the blessings of the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*), we must do so in an orderly manner, with a spirit of gentleness. He will fill us with His supernatural giftings if we seek to use those gifts to bless the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps there is no census of believers taken on tablets of stone or sheets of papyrus, and we haven't all had to enlist for military service. But we *are* (as believers) members of the royal priesthood, and [even the hair on our head has been numbered \(Luke 12:7\)](#).

Today, I encourage you to seek to order your life, your every step, on the Biblical pattern God has established for a full and abundant life!

And I believe if you submit to His vital instructions and guidance, He will surely anoint you with His Holy Spirit to serve Him with success and joy!

Thanks so much for reading today! Please leave a comment below and subscribe to our monthly newsletter!

The value of human life

Parashat B'chukotai ([Leviticus 26:3-27](#)) 5782 B"H

The Supreme Court's Draft opinion: Will our nation finally stop killing babies?

The leaked Supreme Court draft opinion is captivating the nation's attention and has brought the discussion about the value of human life front and center.

Wouldn't it be an answer to prayer if our nation reversed course and stopped shamelessly killing babies?

As God's own children, we know that there is inherent value and worth in every child, born and not-yet-born.

And yet this week's parashat is one of those Scriptures that makes me uncomfortable!



What to do when the Scriptures make you squirm

As soon as one of my sons overheard that I was studying [Leviticus 27](#)'s unsettling "valuations" of human beings he immediately said,

"Oh great. God supports slavery?"



It is more complicated than that, but . . . any monetary amount placed on the value of human life is very hard for us to understand.

And pretty much the only time I ever hear the word, “valuation” is on [Shark Tank](#). ☐

So what should you do if you read a passage that just really bothers you?

First, don’t jump to any conclusions.

Pause, and pray.

Ask the LORD to speak to you and teach you through.

Be willing to do some research. Learn about history, context, culture, and any other details that the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) leads you to.

Talk to trusted believers such as your pastor, ministry leaders, and other reliable Bible teachers.

And finally, pray some more!

You will almost always arrive at a place of peace, if you will surrender to the LORD's leading, and He will instruct you from His very Word about why the Bible says what it does! There are some mysteries, of course, that we will just have to wait until we are in the heavenly kingdom to ask about, but I assure you, if you are willing to put in the work, you will find many answers that you seek!

Back to our disconcerting passage:

If a person made a special vow, these were the *valuations* for redemption:

Men ages 60+: 15 shekels

Women ages 60+: 10 shekels

Men ages 20–60: 50 shekels

Women ages 20–60: 30 shekels

Boys/young men ages 5–20 years: 20 shekels

Girls/young women ages 5–20: 10 shekels

Boys ages 1 month – 5 years: 5 shekels

Girls ages 1 month – 5 years: 3 shekels

This seems to be way outside of anything we are used to in America.

We wonder immediately, *how could someone be worth more or worth less than someone else?*

And are men worth more than women?

Why are 20-60 year olds worth the most?

Notice, these were the valuations for [redemption](#) related to a special vow. (We discussed a bit about redemption last week; you can read about it [here](#)). The redemption price **didn't actually have to do with inherent worth**. All humans have

inherent worth:

"God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27

Well, that is reassuring . . .



So then what was this about?

The redemption valuation wasn't about ***inherent*** worth. Personhood and value was assumed, and Torah commands us to *preserve* and cherish life!

The valuation had to do with how much a person could *produce*, how much they were worth *as a worker*. What I find surprising is that a value is placed even on one month olds!

The 20-60 year old age group naturally would include the strongest, most productive workers.

We value the ability of each person to contribute to the success of the wider community.

However, this still seems somewhat unsettling.

What about those with dis-ability?

What about the poor?

The valuation list doesn't make a distinction. This is actually highly inclusive! Ability didn't matter! The valuations are based on age alone! As for the poor, there is no discrimination either: If a poor person made a vow, but could not afford the redemption prices, an exception would be made. The poor person would go before the priest, and the priest would set a value that would be manageable. ([Leviticus 27:8](#))

No one is ever left out in God's economy.

He makes a way, for each and every person, who seeks redemption.

Human life is worth so very much that God our Father sent His Son, Yeshua (Jesus) to die on the cross to take away your sin. You are worth so much, but sin has tainted His beautiful creation. You are a precious treasure, but there is a tarnish until you allow Him to wipe you clean and polish you up anew.

The Scriptures are so very clear that the LORD loves you and made you with a purpose!

Remember, whenever you come across something that makes you question that Truth, be sure to pray, and to seek more deeply answers to your questions in the Word of God.

Have you ever questioned your worth? Do you pray for new generations to live and to learn to love the LORD and His Word? Do you know how valuable you are? Will you join us in praying for our nation and for each other? Please, comment or send an email to adonaishalomusa@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you! And subscribe to our monthly newsletter! We promise not to overwhelm your inbox!

