

# 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 YHVH 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!**

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# Could Tzelophehad's inheritance be given to daughters?

Parashat Pinchas ([B'midbar/Numbers 25:10 – 29](#)) 5781 B"H  
(Updated 7/19/22 5782)

## The Law had been given, but clarification was needed

By [Numbers 25](#), Israel had *Torah* (God's instructions), but different situations arose in Israel's history which needed clarification.

One such instance occurred in [Numbers \(B'midbar\) 27](#) when a man named Tzelophehad (commonly spelled, [Zelophehad](#), in English translations) died in the wilderness.

He was survived by **5 daughters**.

## Tzelophehad's family

It appears Tzelophehad had been a decent man.

Nothing is said about his wife, so she may have died many years earlier.

Yet somehow Tzelophehad managed to raise up 5 thoughtful daughters:

Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.



*Machlach's* name refers to "sickness." If she was the firstborn, as suggested by the name-order listing in the Bible, perhaps her mother struggled during childbirth. *Noah's* name is derived from a word meaning, "movement," referring to "trembling" or "quivering." Perhaps she was seen as "nervous" or "anxious." *Choglah's* name is a bit more obscure, probably meaning, "partridge" according to Strong's Hebrew Concordance. Maybe she was a crier as an infant, because, according to the [International Standard Bible Encyclopedia](#), partridges were known for their loud cries that attracted plenty of attention. *Milcah* is a form of *Malchah*, meaning "queen," and *Tirtzah* describes a "favored" one or one in whom there is "delight."

These women knew right from wrong and just from unjust. They were respectful of Moses and they concerned themselves with a legal matter, demonstrating that they also respected YHVH.

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The legal precedence was such that sons received a father's inheritance.

**But Tzelophehad had no sons!**

He did, however, have some independent thinkers!

His daughters concerned themselves with an issue of fairness, seeking justice, not only for themselves, but for the legacy of their father.

# TZELOPHEHAD'S FIVE DAUGHTERS

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## Moses & Eleazar hear the daughters' petition

Tzelophehad was never part of [Korah](#)'s clan. Tzelophehad's daughters made a special point to ensure their father's legacy would in no way be connected to Korah.

**Tzelophehad had nothing to do with the rebellious uprising.**

**[Read about Korah, the \(wicked\) Social Influencer of their day HERE](#)**

Machlah, Noah, Choglah, Milcah, and Tirzah appeared before Moses, Eleazar, and the princes of the entire Israelite assembly at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

No sickness or nervousness would keep them from walking in favor.

They did not seek attention for attention's sake.

The 5 sisters had in them the confidence that they were daughters of Israel, queens in the royal kingdom of a holy nation blessed by the Almighty One. They were bound as sisters, and they made their petition *together*.

[“Why should our father’s name diminish from his family just because he had no son? Give to us property among our father’s brothers.” \(Numbers 27:4\)](#)

## A verdict from on high

Moses didn't make a decision until he had consulted the Supreme Law-Giver, *ADONAI*. Moshe prayed and the LORD responded to him that Tzelophehad's daughters were right:

They ***should*** be given the inheritance of their father, and the commandment would stand for all of Israel.

There was only one caveat (described in [Numbers 36](#)) which was that the daughters had to marry within their tribe.

## Individual and community rights

These five brave women took a stand for their human rights. Some would say they remained limited due to the provision that they must marry within their clan, but culturally speaking, they were still granted significant freedom to marry whoever they wished within their tribal grouping.

Rabbi Johnathan Sacks, of blessed memory, delves deeper into the human rights discussion that arises from [Numbers 27](#) in his article titled, [Complexity of Human Rights](#). Of particular

interest, the dichotomy of the individual rights justly pursued by the five daughters of Tzelophehad and the group or tribal rights that are also an important part of wholesome justice.

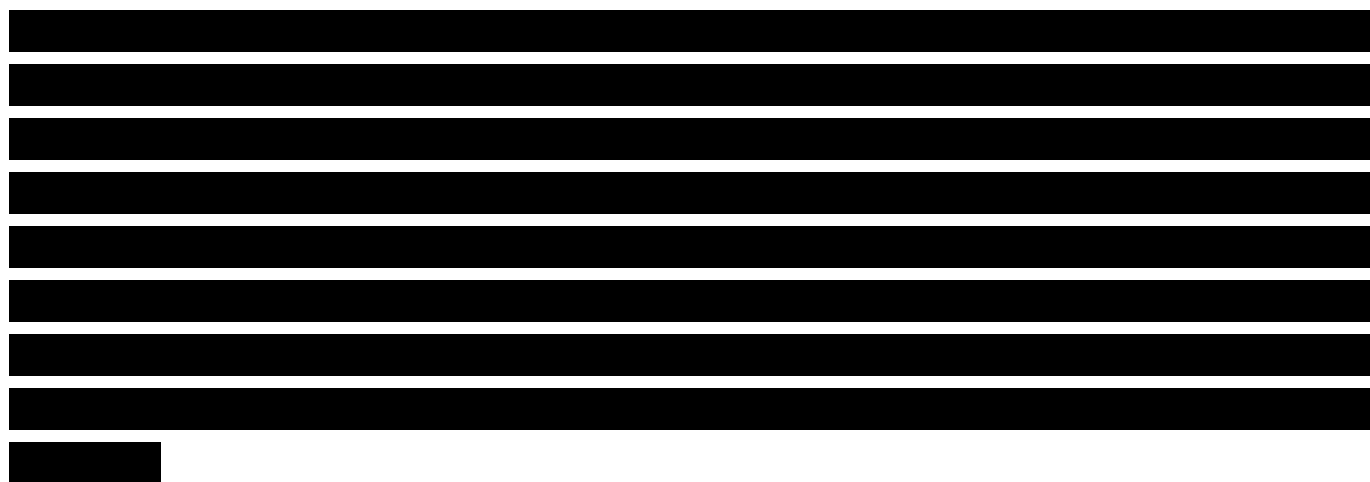
Today, most people are only focused on their *individual* rights, to the exclusion or disregard of the needs and rights of the wider society. This can lead to major distortions in appropriate social justice. The “me” culture of today forces wider society to adapt to *outlandish policies* demanded by at times defiant individuals, in a less-than-holy and unjust way.

The lesson from [Numbers 27](#) is that when an individual pursues justice in a righteous and holy way, then their needs can and should be addressed, and the wider society will benefit from that individual situation.

Machlah, Noah, Choglah, Milcah, and Tirzah would marry within the tribe, for their own benefit, but also for the benefit of the nation of Israel.

Families come first, and this Scripture passage illustrates that.

The 5 daughters of Tzelophehad were blessed and heard because of their faithfulness and obedience, and the nation of Israel prospered, even to this day.



[Korah: the Rebellious Social Influencer](#)