

***Bamidbar (IN THE WILDERNESS) Num 3:1- 4:20, Isaiah 43:8-13, Eph 4:71-15***

Bamidbar or “in the wilderness” is about the trip out of Egypt and the testing’s of the wilderness (Midbar מִדְבָּר), we are on a journey (spiritual) and are being tested right now! It seems like what happens in this book will be repeated when **YHWH** brings us into the land again (physically)...

**Ezek 20:34-38** *I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you were scattered, with a mighty hand, with a stretched-out arm and with poured-out fury; then I will bring you into the wilderness (Midbar מִדְבָּר) of the peoples and judge you face to face. Just as I judged your ancestors in the desert of the land of Egypt, so will I judge you,' says **YHWH** Elohim . 'I will make you pass under the crook and bring you into the obligations of the covenant. I will rid you of the rebels who are in revolt against me — I will bring them out from the land where they are living, but they will not enter the land of Isra'el; then you will know that I am **YHWH.**'*

Just like in the Exodus from Egypt, so will it be during the Exodus from amongst the nations, now lets start the parsha...

**Num 3:1-13** *These are the descendants of Aharon and Moshe as of the day when **YHWH** spoke with Moshe on Mount Sinai. The names of the sons of Aharon are: Nadav the firstborn, Avihu, El'azar and Itamar. These were the names of the sons of Aharon the cohen, whom he anointed and ordained as cohanim. But Nadav and Avihu died in the presence of **YHWH** when they offered unauthorized fire before **YHWH** in the Sinai Desert, and they had no children; El'azar and Itamar served as cohanim in the presence of Aharon their father. **YHWH** said to Moshe, "Summon the tribe of Levi, and assign them to Aharon the cohen, so that they can help him. They are to carry out his duties and the duties of the whole community before the tent of meeting in performing the service of the tabernacle. They are to be in charge of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting and to carry out all the duties of the people of Isra'el connected with the service of the tabernacle. Assign the L'vi'im to Aharon and his sons; their one responsibility in regard to the people of Isra'el is to serve him. You are to appoint Aharon and his sons to carry out the duties of cohanim; anyone else who involves himself is to be put to death." **YHWH** said to Moshe, "I have taken the L'vi'im from among the people of Isra'el instead of every firstborn male that is first from the womb among the people of Isra'el; the L'vi'im are to be mine. All the firstborn males belong to me, because on the day that I killed all the firstborn males in the land of Egypt, I separated for myself all the firstborn males in Isra'el, both human and animal. They are mine; I am **YHWH.**"*

Because Nadav and Avihu died with no descendants, It seems that the firstborn blessing goes to El'azar, when study his lineage this becomes very clear... **YHWH** makes a covenant with his son Pinchas and his descendants forever...

**Num 25:10-13** ***YHWH** said to Moshe, "Pinchas the son of El'azar, the son of Aharon the cohen, has deflected my anger from the people of Isra'el by being as zealous as I am, so that I didn't destroy them in my own zeal. Therefore say, 'I am giving him my covenant of shalom, making a covenant with him and his descendants after him that the office of cohen will be theirs forever.' This is because he was zealous on behalf of his Elohim and made atonement for the people of Isra'el."*

Another descendant of descendants of El'azar and Pinchas is Tzadok... **1Ch 6:4-8 (5:30-34)** Tzadok was loyal to David when his son Avshalom rebelled and took the kingdom from David (**2Sam 15 & 19**) Also Tzadok remained faithful to David's wish that Solomon become king and not Adoniyah...

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**1Ki 1:8-11** But **Tzadok** the cohen, B'nayah the son of Y'hoyada, Natan the prophet, Shim`i, Re`i and David's elite guard were not on Adoniyah's side. One day Adoniyah killed sheep, oxen and fattened calves at the Stone of Zochelet, by `Ein-Rogel. He summoned all his brothers the king's sons, and all the men of Y'hudah the king's servants; but he did not summon Natan the prophet, B'nayah, the elite guard or Shlomo his brother. Natan went to Bat-Sheva the mother of Shlomo and said, "Haven't you heard that Adoniyah the son of Haggit has become king without the knowledge of David our lord?"

Another direct descendant of El'azar is Ezra, who helped rebuild the Temple and was first Cohen Gadol of that Temple (**Ezra 7:1-5**)

Much later in scripture during the Temple period, the service of the inner sanctuary was divided into 24 lots... 16 lots for El'azar and 8 for Itamar (**1Chron 24:4**) = [See **Rev 4:4, 4:10, 5:8, 11:16 & 19:14**]. Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptist) father Zechariah served under Aviyah (**Luke 1:5**) Aviyah was a descendant of/served under El'azar's lot (**1Chron 24:10**) so Zechariah and his son Yochanan the "Baptist" were descendants of El'azar.

So lets recap the lineage of El'azar and highlight what they did...

- **Pinchas** – Zealous for **YHWH** [**Num 25:10-13**]
- **Tzadok** – Loyal to David during two rebellions (who is David a picture of?) [**2Sam 15, 19, 1Kings 1:8-11**]
- **Ezra** – Helped rebuild the Temple was the first Cohen Gadol [**Ezra 7**]
- **Yochanan** – Paved the way for Messiah, refine the sons of Levi [**Isa 40:3 & Mal 3:1= Mat 3:1-3 & 11:10**]

Now lets look at a key prophecy of Ezekiel's Temple...

**Ezek 43:18-19** He said to me, "Human being, **YHWH** Elohim says, 'These are the regulations for the altar when the time comes to construct it, offer burnt offerings on it and splash the blood against it: you are to give to the cohanim, who are L'vi'im descended from Tzadok and who approach to serve me,' says **YHWH** Elohim, 'a young bull as a sin offering.

**Ezek 44:9-15** Here is what **YHWH** Elohim says: 'No foreigner, uncircumcised in both heart and flesh, is to enter my sanctuary — no foreigner living among the people of Isra'el. " 'Rather, the L'vi'im, who went far away from me when Isra'el went astray, going astray after their idols — they will bear the consequences of their guilt, but they are to serve in my sanctuary. They will have charge of the gates of the house and of serving in the house; they will slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people; and they will attend and serve them. Because they served them in the presence of their idols and became an occasion of sin for the house of Isra'el, I am raising my hand against them,' says **YHWH** Elohim, 'and they will bear the consequences of their guilt. They will not approach me to serve me in the office of cohen or approach any of the holy things or the especially holy things; but they will bear their shame for the disgusting practices they committed. Yet I will put them in charge of the house and all its maintenance and everything to be done in it. " 'However, the cohanim, who are L'vi'im and descendants of Tzadok, who took care of my sanctuary when the people of Isra'el went astray from me — they are the ones who will approach me and serve me; it is they who will attend me and offer me the fat and the blood,' says **YHWH** Elohim.

Or in other words, those were faithful to his servant David (Yeshua HaMeshiac) will enter the Holies, the Pharisees/Orthodox (Unbelievers) will simply be doing the work, and not entering!

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In v12 it says, "I have taken the Levites instead of (or in place of) the firstborn of Israel" it seems that originally all the firstborn of all the tribes of Israel were to serve as Cohanim, this is derived from...

**Exo 13:2** "Set aside for me all the firstborn. Whatever is first from the womb among the people of Israel, both of humans and of animals, belongs to me." (This is also made clear in the next section of this parsha...)

Now back to the parsha...

**Num 3:14-51** **YHWH** said to Moshe in the Sinai Desert, "Take a census of the tribe of Levi by clans and families. Count every male a month old or over." Moshe counted them in the manner **YHWH** had said, as he had been ordered. The names of the sons of Levi were Gershon, K'hat and M'rari. The names of the sons of Gershon were Livni and Shim'i; they fathered their respective clans; likewise the sons of K'hat — Amram, Yitz'har, Hevron and Uzi'el — and the sons of M'rari — Machli and Mushi. These fathered the clans of the L'vi'im. Gershon fathered the clans of Livni and Shim'i; these were the Gershon clans. Of them, 7,500 males a month old and over were counted. The Gershon clans were to camp behind the tabernacle, toward the west. The chief of the Gershon clan was Elyasaf, the son of La'el. In connection with the tent of meeting, the descendants of Gershon were to be in charge of the following: the tabernacle itself, its inner and outer coverings, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the curtains surrounding the courtyard, the screen for the entrance of the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle and the altar, all the fixtures and ropes for these items, and their maintenance. K'hat fathered the clans of Amram, Yitz'har, Hevron and Uzi'el; these were the K'hat clans. Of them, 8,600 males a month old and over were counted; they were in charge of the Holy Place. The K'hat clans were to camp next to the tabernacle, toward the south. The chief of the K'hat clan was Elitzafan the son of Uzi'el. They were responsible for the ark, the table, the menorah, the altars, the utensils the cohanim use when they serve in the Holy Place, the curtain, and everything involved with the maintenance of these things. El'azar the son of Aharon the cohen was first among the chiefs of the L'vi'im and supervised those in charge of the Holy Place. M'rari fathered the clans of Machli and Mushi; these were the M'rari clans. Of them, 6,200 males a month old and over were counted. The chief of the M'rari clan was Tzuri'el the son of Avichayil. They were to camp next to the tabernacle, toward the north. The M'rari clans were assigned responsibility for the frames of the tabernacle, along with its crossbars, posts, sockets and fittings, together with their maintenance; also the posts of the surrounding courtyard, with their sockets, pegs and ropes. Those who were to camp in front of the tabernacle on the east, in front of the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, were Moshe, Aharon and his sons who were in charge of the Holy Place. They carried out their responsibility on behalf of the people of Israel, and anyone else who involved himself was to be put to death. The total number of L'vi'im whom Moshe and Aharon counted by their clans, all the males a month old and over, was 22,000. **YHWH** said to Moshe, "Register all the firstborn males of the people of Israel a month old and over, and determine how many there are. Then you are to take the L'vi'im for me, **YHWH**, in place of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the L'vi'im in place of the firstborn of the cattle belonging to the people of Israel." Moshe counted, as **YHWH** had ordered him, all the firstborn among the people of Israel. The total number of firstborn males registered, a month old and over, of those who were counted, was 22,273. **YHWH** said to Moshe, "Take the L'vi'im in place of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the L'vi'im in place of their cattle; the L'vi'im are to belong to me, **YHWH**. Since there were 273 more firstborn males from Israel than male L'vi'im, in order to redeem them, you are to take five shekels [two ounces] for each of these (use the sanctuary shekel, which is equal to twenty gerahs). Give the redemption money for these extra people to Aharon and his sons." Moshe took the redemption money from those who were over and above those redeemed by the L'vi'im; the amount of money he took from the firstborn of the people of Israel was 1,365 shekels, using the sanctuary shekel. Moshe gave the

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*redemption-money to Aharon and his sons, in keeping with what YHWH had said, as YHWH had ordered Moshe.*

Even though Gershon was firstborn from the sons of Levi, Aaron, Moses, El'azar, Pinchas, Tzadok, Ezra, and Yochanan were all descendants of K'hat the second born...

**Exo 6:20** *Amram married Yokheved his father's sister, and she bore him Aharon and Moshe. `Amram lived to be 137 years old.*

**M'rari North**

**Gershon (West)**

**TABERNACLE**

**Moses, Aaron & Family (East)**

**K'hat (South)**

In **v39** all the sons of Levi one month and older were 22,000 vs the next census 23,000 (**Num 26:62**)

In **v40-51** illustrates how the original intention of having the firstborn of all Israel serve as Cohanim which is now replaced by the sons of Levi being dedicated, so now the difference between the firstborn of Israel that exceed the sons of Levi must be redeemed ...

<u>Firstborn of all 12 tribes</u> (Levi not included)	22,273
<u>ALL the sons of Levi</u> (not just firstborn)	- <u>22,000</u>
	= 273 Israelites that must be redeemed
	X 5 Shekels per firstborn = 1,365 Shekels

With all this census taking it's important to realize what our goal should be... To be counted amongst Israel!

**Num 23:9-10** *"From the top of the rocks I see them, from the hills I behold them — yes, a people that will dwell alone and not think itself one of the nations."Who has counted the dust of Ya`akov or numbered the ashes of Isra'el? May I die as the righteous die! May my end be like theirs!*

**Rev 7:4** *I heard how many were sealed — 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:*

**Rev 14:1-4** *Then I looked, and there was the Lamb standing on Mount Tziyon; and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of rushing waters and like the sound of pealing thunder; the sound I heard was also like that of harpists playing on their harps. They were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living beings and the elders, and no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who have been ransomed from the world. These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; they follow the Lamb wherever he goes; they have been ransomed from among humanity as firstfruits for Elohim and the Lamb;*

**Rev 21:12** *It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels; and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra'el.*

Back to the parsha...

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**Num 4:1-20** **YHWH** said to Moshe and Aharon, "Take a census of the descendants of K'hat, who are among the descendants of Levi, by clans and families, all those from thirty to fifty years old; these will enter the corps doing the work in the tent of meeting. "Here is how the descendants of K'hat are to serve in the tent of meeting and deal with the especially holy things: when the time comes to break camp, Aharon is to go in with his sons, take down the curtain which serves as a screen, and cover the ark of the testimony with it. On that they are to place a covering of fine leather, and on top of that spread an all-blue cloth. Then they are to insert the carrying-poles. On the table of showbread they are to spread a blue cloth and place on it the dishes, incense pans, offering bowls and pitchers. The perpetual bread is to remain on the table. They are to spread on these things a scarlet cloth, cover them with a covering of fine leather and insert the poles. They are to take a blue cloth and cover the menorah for the light, its lamps, its tongs, its trays and the jars used to add oil to it. They are to wrap it and all its accessories in fine leather and place them on a carrying-frame. On the gold altar they are to spread a blue cloth, cover it with a covering of fine leather and insert its carrying-poles. They are to take all the utensils they use when serving in the sanctuary and put them in a blue cloth, cover them with fine leather and place them on a carrying-frame. After removing the greasy ashes from the altar, they are to spread a purple cloth over it and place on it all the utensils required for their altar service — the fire pans, meat-hooks, shovels, basins and other utensils for the altar. Then they are to spread over it a fine leather covering and insert its carrying-poles. When Aharon and his sons have finished covering the holy furnishings and all the holy utensils, when the camp is about to move forward, then the descendants of K'hat are to come and carry them. But they are not to touch the holy things, so that they won't die. These things are the responsibility of the descendants of K'hat in the tent of meeting. "El'azar the son of Aharon the cohen is to be responsible for the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the continuing grain offering and the anointing oil. He is to be in charge of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, including the sanctuary and its furnishings." **YHWH** said to Moshe and Aharon, "Do not cut off the clan of K'hat from among the L'vi'im; rather, do this for them, so that they will live and not die: when they approach the especially holy things, Aharon and his sons are to go in — and you are to assign each one his task; but the descendants of K'hat are not to go in and look at the holy things as they are being covered; if they do, they will die."

**v20** Levites began their service in the Tabernacle/Temple when they became thirty years old...

**1Ch 23:2-3** Then he assembled all the leaders of Isra'el, with the cohanim and L'vi'im. A census of L'vi'im thirty years old and over was taken, and their number came to 38,000.

Thirty years old seems to be a significant age to begin a ministry, kingship, priesthood etc... we will study this more in depth next week...

The coverings of BLUE, PURPLE, and SCARLET are consistent with and match the existing colors of the Tabernacle and all its drapery (**Exo 25 & 26**) the leather is from tanned ram's skin (**Exo25:5**). These colors represent...

**Blue** = Heavenly (Not exactly known in scripture see **Exo 28:31 Num 15:38**)

**Purple** = Royalty (See **Jdg 8:26, Pro 31:21-25, Song 3:9-10, Lam 4:5, Dan 5:7,16 & Mark 5:17**)

**Scarlet** = Redemption from Sin (**Lev 14 & Isa 1:18**)

It is interesting that the whore of Babylon uses the same colors as prescribed for the Tabernacle/Temple...

**Blue, Purple, Scarlet, and Gold (Exo 28)**, but is missing one color... **BLUE**...

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**Rev 17:4** *The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. In her hand was a gold cup filled with the obscene and filthy things produced by her whoring.*

On the surface there seems to be a conflict of commandments, Aaron and his son El'azar are to care for the inner sanctuary and its items (**v16**), but then in **v20** the son's of K'hat are not to even look at these things and can only carry them once they are covered... Aaron and El'azar are descendants of K'hat (**Exo 6:20**)! Or it looks more like Aaron and his sons are separate or called out from their family (K'hat) and are not a part of them anymore but rather are their own family of Levites.

In **v18** we read *"Do not cut off the clan of K'hat from among the L'vi'im; rather, do this for them, so that they will live and not die: when they approach the especially holy things, Aharon and his sons are to go in — and you are to assign each one his task; but the descendants of K'hat are not to go in and look at the holy things as they are being covered; if they do, they will die."*

They must not look upon the ark or they will die, this is illustrated in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel...

**1Sa 6:19** *for [YHWH] struck the people of Beit-Shemesh for looking at the ark of YHWH. He killed 50,070 of the people; the people mourned because YHWH had struck them with such a terrible slaughter.*

### **Haf Torah**

**Isa 43:8-21** *Bring forward the people who are blind but have eyes, also the deaf who have ears. All the nations are gathered together, and the peoples are assembled. Who among them can proclaim this and reveal what happened in the past? Let them bring their witnesses to justify themselves, so that others, on hearing, can say, "That's true." "You are my witnesses," says YHWH, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you can know and trust me and understand that I am he — no god was produced before me, nor will any be after me. I, yes I, am YHWH; besides me there is no deliverer. I have declared, saved and proclaimed — not some alien god among you. Therefore you are my witnesses," says YHWH. "I am Elohim. Since days began, I have been he. No one can deliver from my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?" Here is what YHWH, your redeemer, the Holy One of Isra'el, says: "For your sake I have sent [an army] to Bavel and knocked down the fleeing Kasdim, all of them; their songs of triumph are now lamentations. I am YHWH, your Holy One, the Creator of Isra'el, your King." Here is what YHWH says, who made a way in the sea, a path through the raging waves; who led out chariot and horse, the army in its strength — they lay down, never to rise again, snuffed out and quenched like a wick: "Stop dwelling on past events and brooding over times gone by; I am doing something new; it's springing up — can't you see it? I am making a road in the desert, rivers in the wasteland. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I put water in the desert, rivers in the wasteland, for my chosen people to drink, the people I formed for myself, so that they would proclaim my praise.*

### **Brit Chadesha**

**Eph 4:11-16** *Furthermore, he gave some people as emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers. Their task is to equip Elohim's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah, until we all arrive at the unity implied by trusting and knowing the Son of Elohim, at full manhood, at the standard of maturity set by the Messiah's perfection. We will then no longer be infants tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in every respect grow up into him who is the head, the Messiah. Under his control, the whole body is being fitted*

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*and held together by the support of every joint, with each part working to fulfill its function; this is how the body grows and builds itself up in love.*

Shabbat Shalom!

Written by Jesse Himango, Tabernacle of David Ministries 9-14-11

