

Numbers 1 - They Were Counted Because They Count

Num 1:2 "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. 3 You and Aaron are to count according to their divisions all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army. 4 One man from each tribe, each of them the head of his family, is to help you.

We count what is important to us - because "They Count"

- Ask any grandma or grandpa how many grandchildren he has
- How does a shepherd he know if one of 100 sheep is missing? (see Mat 18:12)

God's Greater Purpose in the Census

Not to get a number - The LORD knew how many there were

1) "To Lift the Head"

- The Hebrew language has several verbs that mean 'to count' – but in this case the LORD chose to use a phrase that means, 'to lift the head.' for, "Count" or "take a census"

The same word is used here

- Gen 40:13 NIV Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and *restore you to your position*, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

You can see the comparison

- Cupbearer was a prisoner, Pharaoh "lifted up his head" - freed him and restored his position
- The Israelites were slaves, the LORD "lifted up their heads" made them freemen & soldiers

In counting them or "lifting their head" - he is taking a people who had been slaves for as long as any of them who are alive could remember...he is giving them freedom, dignity and purpose again.

He takes us who were without hope, slaves in the truest sense of the word

- Gal 4:6-7 NIV Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are *no longer a slave, but God's child*; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

He is still the one who lifts our head - WE HAVE BEEN COUNTED

- Psa 3:2-3 KJV Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah. 3 But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

2) To Instill the importance of family

The were counted by Clans and Families

the whole Israelite community by their clans and families

God calls us into families...there is a sense of belonging...a sense of identity

- Though they had been slaves - and they are now wandering BUT there is family
- There is a long history (ancestors), and there is a future (new babies)

- Everybody else may be giving you a hard time, but you come home to FAMILY
- Funerals and festivities - there is family

Don't diminish the importance of the nuclear family - it is there by God's design

There is also family of God - a larger group to which we belong

- Psa 68:5-6 NIV A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. 6 **God sets the lonely in families**, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- Eph 3:14-15 NIV For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom **every family in heaven and on earth derives its name**.

3) To establish the uniqueness of each person - Every man by Name

God counts us by NAME, - He knows us - he identifies us, He calls us by name which is linked to a purpose for which God has made us - we are not just a face in the crowd - we are not just one of a few million million in the families of Israel we are UNIQUE with a specific PURPOSE

- Though we are part of a family and a tribe - we are UNIQUE
 - Mat 1:21 NIV She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, **because** he will save his people from their sins."
 - Gen 32:28 NIV Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, **because** you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Psa 147:4 NIV He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Isa 43:1 NIV But now, this is what the LORD says-- he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; **I have summoned you by name; you are mine**.

Joh 10:3-4 NIV The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. **He calls his own sheep by name** and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Rev 20:15 NIV Anyone **whose name was not found** written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

4) To prepare them for battle

According to divisions, every man able to serve in the army

- They were going into the promised land, and there would be battles to fight

The head of his family is to help you

- Sending your children or relatives to battle is a powerful thing

Total number of those able to serve in the army

- **46 The total number was 603,550**

5) To highlight the significance of every person's role

47 The ancestral tribe of the Levites, however, was not counted along with the others. 48 The LORD had said to Moses: 49 "**You must not count** the tribe of Levi or include them in the census of the other Israelites. 50 **Instead, appoint** the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the covenant law--over all its **furnishings** and **everything** belonging to it. They are to **carry** the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they are to **take care** of it and **encamp around it**. 51 Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to **take it down**, and whenever the tabernacle is **to be set up**, the Levites shall do it. **Anyone else who approaches it is to be put to death.**

- DON'T **COUNT** them -- rather **APPOINT** them - **Count** and **Appoint** same Hebrew word
- The Levites were appointed **to be in charge of the tabernacle**

The significance of each person's role

- Each person counts - The church as a body
- ACC is equipped and resourced to do whatever it is that God wants us to do - what is your role

6) One By One

Num 1:2 NIV "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, **one by one.**

- Ex 16 - they were to gather an omer of manna for EVERY MAN
- Count - 1 Ch 23 - Levites were numbered by their POLLS (to take a poll - a head count)
- Judges 9 a women dropped a millstone on Abimelek and broke his SKULL

ONE-BY-ONE in Hebrew = gul-go'-leth By reduplication from H1556; a skull (as round); by implication a head (in enumeration of persons): - **head, every man, poll, skull.**

It is no surprise that the place of Jesus' death is GOLGOTHA

Every man woman and child is counted...by name...ONE by ONE and is linked to Calvary

Golgotha - Chaldee origin (compare [H1538]); the skull; a knoll near Jerusalem: - Golgotha.

- Luk 23:33 NIV When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.

Every child born - every person alive- He counts...

<http://www.worldometers.info/watch/world-population/>

- 1Jn 2:2 NIV He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also **for the sins of the whole world.**
- Heb 2:9 KJV But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; **that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**