

Parsha Bullets on Bamidbar, 5783

All Brothers and Sisters

Rabbi Efrem Goldberg

Find the 3 for 3 [here](#) for a printout of 3 great divrei torah you can share at your shabbos table.

Bullets:

- The **Otzar Peleos HaTorah** discusses different names that have been given for Bamidbar, such as Pekudim, Vayedaber, and Sefer Hayashar.

Bamidbar 1:1-2	במדבר א'א'-ב'
On the first day of the second month, in the second year following the exodus from the land of Egypt, Hashem spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, saying: Take a census of the whole Israelite community by the clans of its ancestral houses, listing the names, every male, head by head.	וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי בְּאֶהֱל מוֹעֵד בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי בַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיָּה לְצֵאתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר: שְׂאוּ אֶת־רֹאשׁ כָּל־עַדְת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵם לְבֵית אָבִתָּם בְּמִסְפָּר שְׁמוֹת כָּל־זָכָר לְגִלְגֻלְתָּם:

Bullets:

- The **Midrash** notes that we must make ourselves like a desert. Don't sit back and relax.
- According to the **Baalei Mussar**, we have to destroy our sense of self.
- **R. Yosef Sorotzkin** asks, "what does it mean שְׁמוֹת בְּמִסְפָּר?" Are we a name or number? Are we individual or part of the group? We are both.
- The **Ramban** notes that each and every one of us counts.
- The **Klausenberger Rebbe** notes that Moshe and Aharon had people give them names, like a chasidic rebbe.
- The **Gra** says people would go to the prophet to find out their mission in life.
- **R. Shlomo Wolbe** says we need to know that we each have a place when it comes to receiving the Torah.
- The **Rama MiPano** understands לְגִלְגֻלְתָּם as referring to gilgul. Moshe looked at the people's reincarnations.
- The **Maharsha** focuses on Moshe as a census taker. He made sure every Jew felt like they counted.

Bamidbar 1:6	במדבר א'ו'
From Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.	לְשִׁמְעוֹן שְׁלֹמִיאֵל בֶּן-צֹרִישַׁדָּי:

Bullets:

- The **Otzar Peleos HaTorah** says that שלמיאל is connected to the Yiddish term schlemiel.

Bamidbar 1:46-47	במדבר א'מ"ז
all who were enrolled came to 603,550. The Levites, however, were not recorded among them by their ancestral tribe.	וַיְהִי כֹל-הַפְּקֻדִים שְׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים וַחֲמִשָּׁן מֵאוֹת וַחֲמִשִּׁים: וַהֲלִינָם לְמִטָּה אֲבֹתָם לֹא הִתְּפַקְדוּ בְּתוֹכָם:

Bullets:

- **Ibn Ezra** says there was not one death in seven months, which was not normal. The **Ramban** notes that this showed Hashem's kindness to us.
- **R. Chaim Shmuelevitz** emphasizes why Levi needed to be separated and have a separate census. Being part of a certain sector can have a profound impact, both for the good and bad.

Bamidbar 3:16	במדבר ג'ט"ז
So Moses recorded them at the command of Hashem, as he was bidden.	וַיִּפְקֹד אֹתָם מֹשֶׁה עַל-פִּי ה' כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה:

Bullets:

- **R. Druck** asks why Moshe needed to go to each tent. He answers that Moshe needs to take initiative and Hashem would do the rest.