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Parsha Bamidbar
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-05-20

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This parsha is basically about how Jews don't count people as in 1, 2, 3, etc. G-d wanted Moses and Aaron to get a count of how many men were around b/c there would be lots of battles for the Jews against their enemies. G-d wanted to have an idea of how many people specifically the men. There was a plethora of Jews who set up the Sanctuary in the center of the area they chose to live. Once it was set up they started to set up their own tents as well. The last people mentioned who set up their tents was Moses, Aaron and Aaron's sons. Personally I wrote out the specifics, but it makes the parsha too long and it's not so interesting the numbers of people who were eligible to go off to fight at the right time.

There is a part I want to focus on, it's not so much about the parsha but a famous Chabad Rabbi named Schneerson. He was quite a gem when he was alive, G-d really knew what He was doing with him. That man made every Jew feel special. Schneerson used to stand in line for 8 hours a day or longer to bless another Jew. All of these people used to wait until it was their turn and when they had their chance, they felt like their self-confidence got higher than it was before. There was a Canadian philosopher sixty years ago who said, "The medium is the message he was proposing that the medium affects society not so much because of the characteristics of the medium itself, but the content it carries. In the parsha, the census was the actual medium.

It was the message and through it, it would become known how many people could fight the battles the Jews would need to go through. It would also help the Jews figure out how they could share the land of Israel and live there together peacefully. At the end of the day the Jews came together as a whole. Counting everyone out helped because every person was not seen just as a number. They were seen as an essential component of a greater whole that was the Jewish nation. A famous Rabbi named Nachmanadies once shared the idea the reason this census was so important, is it gave every Jew an opportunity to benefit from the attention of coming forward in front of Moses and Aaron. Those Jews back then had an essential role to play in a greater collective journey and this has spanned generations.