

Taking a Census: The Power of the Individual

Numbers, Chapter One

1. The L-rd spoke to Moses in the Sinai *Desert*, in the Tent of Meeting on the first day of the second month, in the second year after the exodus from the land of Egypt, saying.
2. **Raise the head** of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by families following their fathers' houses; a head count of *every* male according to the number of their names.
3. From twenty years old and upwards, all who are fit **to go out to the army** in Israel, you shall count them by their legions **you and Aaron**.

Rashi

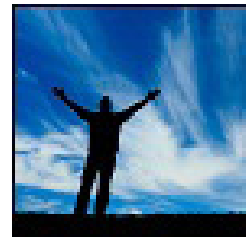
Because of G-d's great love for his people, He counts them all the time.

Nachmanides

This is reflected in the Hebrew word for "count," pakod, which also means to "remember" and "be concerned with."

Chassidic Masters

Each member of the community, from the greatest to the lowliest, counts for no less and no more than "one." G-d repeatedly commands Moses to count the Jewish people to emphasize both their individual worth—the fact that no single person's contribution is dispensable—as well as their inherent equality.



בְּמִדְבַּר פָּרָק א

- א. וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי בְּאַהֲל מוֹעֵד בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיָּת לְצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר:
- ב. שָׂאוּ אֵת רֹאשׁ כָּל עֵדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לְבֵית אֲבוֹתָם בְּמִסְפַּר שְׁמוֹת כָּל זָכָר לְגִלְגֻלָּתָם:
- ג. מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וּמַעְלָה כָּל יֶצֶא צָבָא בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל תִּפְקְדוּ אֹתָם לְצַבְּאֹתָם אֹתָהּ וְאֶהְרֵן:

SUMMARY

- Self Esteem = making you count, raises you up; **YOU** matter to G-d
- Empowers you to tackle your "**midbar**" (midbar=desert, i.e. periods of spiritual or emotional desolation, barrenness and challenge)
- "**Midbar**" can then be transformed into "**midaber**" (midaber=one who speaks, i.e. an expression or communication of spiritual growth)
- Importance of raising up another = counted by Moshe and Aharon