



Placement of Tribes in Israelite Encampment

Numbers 1-4 and Ezekiel 24.

Set up in order:

Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle) by Gershonites in West while the Eastern tribes set camp. The **Furniture** by the Kohatites in South with Southern tribes. The **Frames** around the court by the Merarites in North while Western tribes set their tents. The **Elements** used (oils, incense, and grain) by the Sons of Moses and Aaron are placed while Northern tribes set camp.

Numbers 2:2

“The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their father’s houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side.” (ESV)

Gershonites: First, W

“...guard duty of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the hangings of the court, the screen for the door of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its cords—all the service connected with these.” (ESV)

West Third

Ephraim (*Elishama) 40,500
 Manasseh (Gamaliel) 32,200
 Benjamin (Abidan) 35,400
 Total: 108,100
 All are Rachel’s descendants.
 Notably: Joshua, Samuel and Jeroboam I came from Ephraim.

Merarites: Third, N

“...appointed guard duty...involved the frames of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, the bases, and all their accessories; all the service connected with these; also the pillars around the court, with their bases and pegs and cords.” (ESV)

North Last

Dan (Ahiezer) 62,700
 Asher (Pagiel) 41,500
 Naphtali (Ahira) 53,400
 Total: 157,600
 Bilhah’s descendants are Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah’s descendants are of Asher.

East First

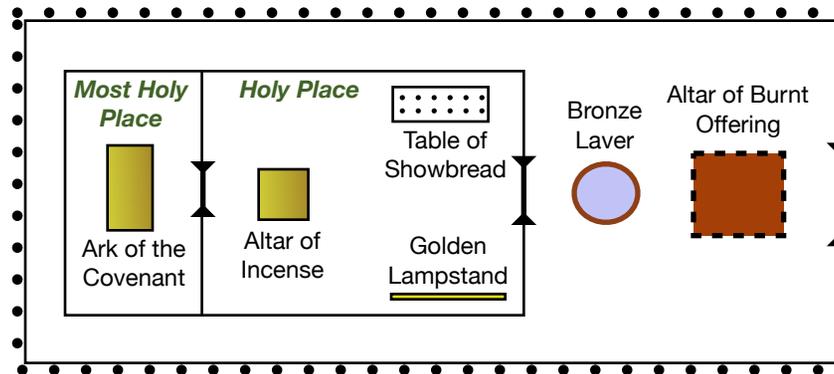
Judah (Nashon) 74,600
 Issachar (Nethanel) 54,400
 Zebulun (Eliab) 57,400
 Total: 186,400

Sons of Moses and Aaron: Last, E

“...guarding the sanctuary itself, to protect the people of Israel. And any outsider who came near was to be put to death.” “Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering, and the anointing oil, with the oversight of the whole tabernacle and all that is in it, of the sanctuary and its vessels.” “anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests.” (ESV)

All Levites and Eastern Tribes are descendants of Leah.

Notably: King David and Jesus came from Judah meaning, “praise.”



South Second

Reuben (Elizur) 46,500
 Simeon (Shelumiel) 59,300
 Leah’s descendants.
 Gad (Eliasaph) 45,650
 Zilpah’s other descendants.
 Total: 151,450

Kohatites: Second, S

“...guard duty involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these.” “...but they shall not go in to look on the holy things even for a moment, lest they die.” (ESV)

Census total = 603,550 excludes Levites, Num. 2. *Leader of tribe in parenthesis.

Non-Levites: every male counted, 20 yrs. old and up, able to go to war. Numbers 1.

Levi and Joseph were replaced by Joseph’s sons Manasseh and Ephraim (the younger blessed first by Jacob as he adopted both).

Levites: Males 1 month + = **22,000 total**. Males 30-50 yrs old able to serve in the Tabernacle = 8,580, Numbers 3-4.

sons of Kohath (Aaron’s sons were chief) = 2,750 to serve. Males 1 mo. + = 8,600 total.

sons of Gershon = 2,630 to serve. Males 1 mo. + = 7,500 total.

sons of Merari = 3,200 to serve. 6,200 total.

Ezekiel 24

“The bronze man” measuring the Temple lists the gates in the opposite order from the list of the Levite camp in Numbers 3.

Levite Camps: W S N E

Gates: E N S W