

# Numbers 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sons of Simeon after their families: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites: of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites: of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites:

## Analysis

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**The sons of Simeon after their families** (בְּנֵי שִׁמְעוֹן לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם)—the census proceeds to Simeon, Jacob's second son. The enumeration **of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites** follows the same pattern as Reuben's listing. Nemuel (also called Jemuel in Genesis 46:10) heads the Simeonite clans alongside Jamin and Jachin.

Simeon's tribal fortunes had been cursed by Jacob for violence at Shechem (Genesis 34, 49:5-7): **I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.** The second census reveals dramatic fulfillment—Simeon suffers the largest numerical decline of any tribe, dropping from 59,300 (Numbers 1:23) to 22,200 (Numbers 26:14), a staggering loss of 37,100 men. This 63% decrease likely reflects divine judgment, possibly connected to the Baal-Peor incident involving Simeonite prince Zimri (Numbers 25:6-14).

## Historical Context

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Simeon's tribal territory became enclaved within Judah's inheritance (Joshua 19:1-9), fulfilling Jacob's prophecy of scattering. The tribe eventually lost distinct identity, being absorbed into Judah. The Simeonite prince Zimri's sin with a Midianite woman (Numbers 25) triggered a plague that killed 24,000—many likely from Simeon's tribe, explaining the census decrease.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Simeon's dramatic numerical decline illustrate the long-term consequences of generational sin and divine discipline?
2. What does the fulfillment of Jacob's 400-year-old curse teach about God's prophetic word and justice?
3. In what ways can corporate sin (like Zimri's action) bring judgment on an entire community?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי י	שִׁמְעוֹן	מִשְׁפַּחַת	לְנֶמוּאֵל	מִשְׁפַּחַת
The sons	of Simeon	after their families	of Nemuel	after their families
H1121	H8095	H4940	H5241	H4940
הֵנָּם וְאֵל י	לִיָּמִין	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַיָּמִינִי	לִיָּכִין
of the Nemuelites	of Jamin	after their families	of the Jaminites	of Jachin
H5242	H3226	H4940	H3228	H3199
מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַיָּכִינִי:			
after their families	of the Jachinites			
H4940	H3200			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 4:24** (Parallel theme): The sons of Simeon were, Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul:

**Exodus 6:15** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman: these are the families of Simeon.

**Genesis 46:10** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.

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