

# Numbers 26:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel.

## Analysis

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Nearly forty years after the first census (ch 1), God commands a second: 'Take the sum of all the congregation... from twenty years old and upward.' This new count excluded the first generation who died in the wilderness due to unbelief (v.64-65), except Caleb and Joshua. The census demonstrated God's faithfulness despite judgment - Israel's population remained similar (601,730 vs. 603,550), showing God preserved His people. This numbering prepared for Canaan's conquest and land distribution. It illustrates God's justice (judging unbelieving generation) and mercy (preserving the nation). The remnant principle continues: God always preserves a faithful remnant (Rom 11:5).

## Historical Context

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This census occurred on Moab's plains after the wilderness wanderings concluded. Every person from the first census (except Caleb and Joshua) had died, fulfilling God's judgment (Num 14:26-35). The new generation proved readier for Canaan's conquest. Tribal numbers shifted significantly - Simeon decreased from 59,300 to 22,200 (possibly due to Baal-Peor plague, ch 25), while Manasseh increased from 32,200 to 52,700. These changes would affect land distribution proportions (v.52-56). The census shows God's sovereign control over populations and His faithfulness to covenant promises despite human failure.

## 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 seeing God's faithfulness to preserve Israel despite their failure encourage your confidence in His promises to you?
2. Are you preparing yourself to enter your 'Promised Land' - the calling and inheritance God has for you - or wandering in unbelief like the first generation?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיִשְׂרָאֵל:	מִן	עַד	כָּל	רֹאשׁן	אֶת	שָׂא
in Israel	of the children	of all the congregation	the sum	Take		
H3478	H1121	H5712	H3605	H853	H5375	
אֲבֹתָם	לְבֵית	וְעַד	שְׁנֵי	עֶשְׂרִים	מִן	
throughout their fathers	house	and upward	years	from twenty	of the children	
H1	H1004	H4605	H8141	H6242	H1121	
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:	צָבָא	יָצְא	כָּל			
in Israel	to war	all that are able to go				
H3478	H6635	H3318	H3605			