

# Numbers 26:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of Naphtali according to their families: and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and four hundred.

## Analysis

**Forty and five thousand and four hundred** (45,400)—Naphtali maintained almost exactly its first census number (53,400 in Numbers 1:43 was likely a scribal error for 45,400, or this represents an 8,000 decline). Among the dramatic population shifts—Simeon's collapse, Manasseh's explosion—Naphtali held steady. Stability is sometimes the greatest miracle.

The Hebrew phrase וְנִצְחָן מִנּוּ ("and their numbered ones") emphasizes these aren't random people but counted, known individuals. God's people aren't a mob but a numbered flock. Jesus said, "I know my sheep" (John 10:14)—and He knows them by exact count, down to the hundred.

## Historical Context

Naphtali's 45,400 warriors would later produce Barak, the judge who defeated Sisera (Judges 4-5). This census numbered the grandfathers of those who would sing Deborah's victory song. Every census is a prophecy—these numbers represent future deliverers, future worshipers, future witnesses.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. Why might stability (maintaining numbers) be as significant as dramatic growth in God's economy?
2. How does God's precise numbering of Naphtali demonstrate that He knows and values each believer individually?
3. What future purposes was God preparing through these 45,400 Naphtalites that wouldn't be revealed for generations?

## Interlinear Text

---

לְמִשְׁפָחֹת מִנְפְּתַל יְהוָה אֵלֶּה  
These are the families of Naphtali These are the families  
H428 H4940 H5321 H4940

אֶרְבָּע אֶלְף וּמִשְׁבֵּת חֲמֵשׁ הַמִּשְׁפָחֹת וְאֶת־עֲשֵׂה  
and four thousand and five hundred families and they that were numbered  
H702 H505 H2568 H6485

מֵאָה  
hundred  
H3967