

Numbers 02 - The Camp of Israel; Mysteries of Dan

I. Preparation of the first generation at Sinai to enter Canaan (Num 1:1—10:36)

(1) Organization of Israel (Num 1:1—4:49)

(A) Organization of the tribes (Num 1:1—2:41)

(b) Census and arrangement (Num 2:1-41)

(i) East (2:1-9)

(ii) South (2:10-17)

(iii) West (2:18-24)

(iv) North (2:25-32)

(v) Levites (2:33-41)

Numbers 2

(b) Census and arrangement (Num 2:1-41)

(i) East (2:1-9)

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

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1 Later, the LORD told Moses and Aaron,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

2 "The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own flag, with the banners of their fathers' households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.

2 "The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.

2 "Every single Israeli is to encamp beneath his standard with the emblem of his ancestral house. The Israelis are to encamp in front of and surrounding the Tent of Meeting."

2 Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.

3 Now those who camp on the east side toward the sunrise *shall be* of the flag of the camp of Judah, by their armies; and the leader of the sons of Judah: Nahshon the son of Amminadab,

3 Now those who camp on the east side toward the sunrise *shall be* of the standard of the camp of Judah, by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Judah: Nahshon the son of Amminadab,

3 "The encampment of Judah is to settle east toward the sunrise under their standard. The leader of Judah is to be Amminadab's son Nahshon.

3 And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the Camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.

4 and his army, their numbered men: 74,600.

4 and his army, even their numbered men, 74,600.

4 Those in his division number 74,600.

4 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

- Note: east side; ensign = Lion of Judah

5 Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Issachar; and the leader of the sons of Issachar: Nethanel the son of Zuar,

5 Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Issachar, and the leader of the sons of Issachar: Nethanel the son of Zuar,

5 "The tribe of Issachar is to encamp beside Judah. The leader of Issachar is to be Zuar's son Nethanel.

5 And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar.

6 and his army, their numbered men: 54,400.

6 and his army, even their numbered men, 54,400.

6 Those in his division number 54,400.

6 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and four thousand and four hundred.

7 *Then follows* the tribe of Zebulun; and the leader of the sons of Zebulun: Eliab the son of Helon,

7 *Then comes* the tribe of Zebulun, and the leader of the sons of Zebulun: Eliab the son of Helon,

7 "Next is to be the tribe of Zebulun. The leader of Zebulun is to be Helon's son Eliab.

7 Then the tribe of Zebulun: and Eliab the son of Helon shall be captain of the children of Zebulun.

8 and his army, his numbered men: 57,400.

8 and his army, even his numbered men, 57,400.

8 Those in his division number 57,400.

8 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

9 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Judah: 186,400, by their armies. They shall set out first.

9 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Judah: 186,400, by their armies. They shall set out first.

9 All those numbered by division in the camp of Judah total 186,400. They are to be the first to travel."

9 All that were numbered in the Camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

The Camp of Judah (East Side)

Judah	74,600
Issachar	54,400
Zebullun	<u>57,400</u>
	186,400

(ii) South (2:10-17)

10 "On the south side *shall be* the flag of the camp of Reuben by their armies; and the leader of the sons of Reuben: Elizur the son of Shedeur,

10 "On the south side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Reuben by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Reuben: Elizur the son of Shedeur,

10 "Toward the south is to be the division of the camp of Reuben under their standard. The leader of Reuben is to be Shedeur's son Elizur.

10 On the south side shall be the standard of the Camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur.

11 and his army, their numbered men: 46,500.

11 and his army, even their numbered men, 46,500.

11 Those in his division number 46,500.

11 And his host, and those that were numbered thereof, were forty and six thousand and five hundred.

- Note: south side; ensign = Man

12 And those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Simeon; and the leader of the sons of Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai,

12 Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Simeon, and the leader of the sons of Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai,

12 "The tribe of Simeon is to camp beside Reuben. The leader of Simeon is to be Zurishaddai's son Shelumiel.

12 And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon: and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

13 and his army, their numbered men: 59,300.

13 and his army, even their numbered men, 59,300.

13 Those in his division number 59,300.

13 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

14 Then *follows* the tribe of Gad; and the leader of the sons of Gad: Eliasaph the son of Deuel,

14 Then *comes* the tribe of Gad, and the leader of the sons of Gad: Eliasaph the son of Deuel,

14 "Next is to be the tribe of Gad. The leader of Gad is to be Deuel's son Eliasaph.

14 Then the tribe of Gad: and the captain of the sons of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel.

15 and his army, their numbered men: 45,650.

15 and his army, even their numbered men, 45,650.

15 Those in his division number 45,650.

15 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and five thousand and six hundred and fifty.

16 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Reuben: 151,450 by their armies. And they shall set out second.

16 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Reuben: 151,450 by their armies. And they shall set out second.

16 All those numbered by division in the camp of Reuben total 151,450. They are to be the second to travel."

16 All that were numbered in the Camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

The Camp of Reuben (South Side)

Reuben	46,500
Simeon	59,300
Gad	<u>45,650</u>
	151,450

17 "Then the tent of meeting shall set out *with* the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; just as they camp, so they shall set out, every man in his place by their flags.

17 "Then the tent of meeting shall set out *with* the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; just as they camp, so they shall set out, every man in his place by their standards.

17 "Then the Tent of Meeting is to travel with the camp of the descendants of Levi in the middle of the camps. They are to travel just as they have camped, each as designated under his standard."

17 Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the Camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.

(iii) West (2:18-24)

18 "On the west side *shall be* the flag of the camp of Ephraim by their armies; and the leader of the sons of Ephraim: Elishama the son of Ammihud,

18 "On the west side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Ephraim by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Ephraim *shall be* Elishama the son of Ammihud,

18 "Toward the west is to be the division of the camp of Ephraim under their standard. The leader of Ephraim is to be Ammihud's son Elishama.

18 On the west side shall be the standard of the Camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud.

19 and his army, their numbered men: 40,500.

19 and his army, even their numbered men, 40,500.

19 Those in his division number 40,500.

19 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty thousand and five hundred.

20 Next to him *shall be* the tribe of Manasseh; and the leader of the sons of Manasseh: Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur,

20 Next to him *shall be* the tribe of Manasseh, and the leader of the sons of Manasseh: Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur,

20 "The tribe of Manasseh is to encamp beside them. The leader of Manasseh is to be Pedahzur's son Gamaliel.

20 And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

21 and his army, their numbered men, 32,200.

21 and his army, even their numbered men, 32,200.

21 Those in his division number 32,200.

21 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.

22 Then *follows* the tribe of Benjamin; and the leader of the sons of Benjamin: Abidan the son of Gideoni,

22 Then *comes* the tribe of Benjamin, and the leader of the sons of Benjamin: Abidan the son of Gideoni,

22 "Next is to be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader of Benjamin is to be Gideoni's son Abidan.

22 Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni.

23 and his army, their numbered men, 35,400.

23 and his army, even their numbered men, 35,400.

23 Those in his division number 35,400.

23 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

24 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Ephraim: 108,100, by their armies. And they shall set out third.

24 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Ephraim: 108,100, by their armies. And they shall set out third.

24 All those numbered by division in the camp Ephraim total 108,100. They are to be the third to travel."

24 All that were numbered of the Camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank.

The Camp of Ephraim (West Side)

Ephraim 40,500

Manasseh 32,200

Benjamin 35,400

(iv) North (2:25-32)

25 "On the north side *shall be* the flag of the camp of Dan by their armies; and the leader of the sons of Dan: Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai,

25 "On the north side *shall be* the standard of the camp of Dan by their armies, and the leader of the sons of Dan: Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai,

25 "Toward the north is to be the division of the camp of Dan under their standard. The leader of Dan is to be Ammishaddai's son Ahiezer.

25 The standard of the Camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 and his army, their numbered men: 62,700.

26 and his army, even their numbered men, 62,700.

26 Those in his division number 62,700.

26 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and two thousand and seven hundred.

27 Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Asher; and the leader of the sons of Asher: Pagiel the son of Ocran,

27 Those who camp next to him *shall be* the tribe of Asher, and the leader of the sons of Asher: Pagiel the son of Ocran,

27 "The tribe of Asher is to encamp beside them. The leader of Asher is to be Ocran's son Pagiel.

27 And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran.

28 and his army, their numbered men: 41,500.

28 and his army, even their numbered men, 41,500.

28 Those in his division number 41,500.

28 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty and one thousand and five hundred.

29 Then *follows* the tribe of Naphtali; and the leader of the sons of Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan,

29 Then *comes* the tribe of Naphtali, and the leader of the sons of Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan,

29 "Next is to be the tribe of Naphtali. The leader of Naphtali is to be Enan's son Ahira.

29 Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan.

30 and his army, their numbered men: 53,400.

30 and his army, even their numbered men, 53,400.

30 Those in his division number 53,400.

30 And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

31 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Dan was 157,600. They shall set out last by their flags."

31 The total of the numbered men of the camp of Dan was 157,600. They shall set out last by their standards."

31 All those numbered by division in the camp of Dan total 157,600. They are to be the last to travel under their standards."

31 All they that were numbered in the Camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards.

The Camp of Dan (North Side)

Dan 62,700

Asher 41,500

Naphtali 53,400

157,600

32 These are the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households; the total of the numbered men of the camps by their armies, 603,550.

32 These are the numbered men of the sons of Israel by their fathers' households; the total of the numbered men of the camps by their armies, 603,550.

32 Here is a summary of the census of the Israelis according to the tribes of their ancestral houses: All the divisions in the camps numbered 603,550,

32 These are those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

(v) Levites (2:33-41)

33 The Levites, however, were not counted among the sons of Israel, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

33 The Levites, however, were not numbered among the sons of Israel, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

33 but the descendants of Levi were not numbered along with the other Israelis, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

34 So the sons of Israel did *all this*; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they camped by their flags, and so they set out, everyone by his family according to his father's household.

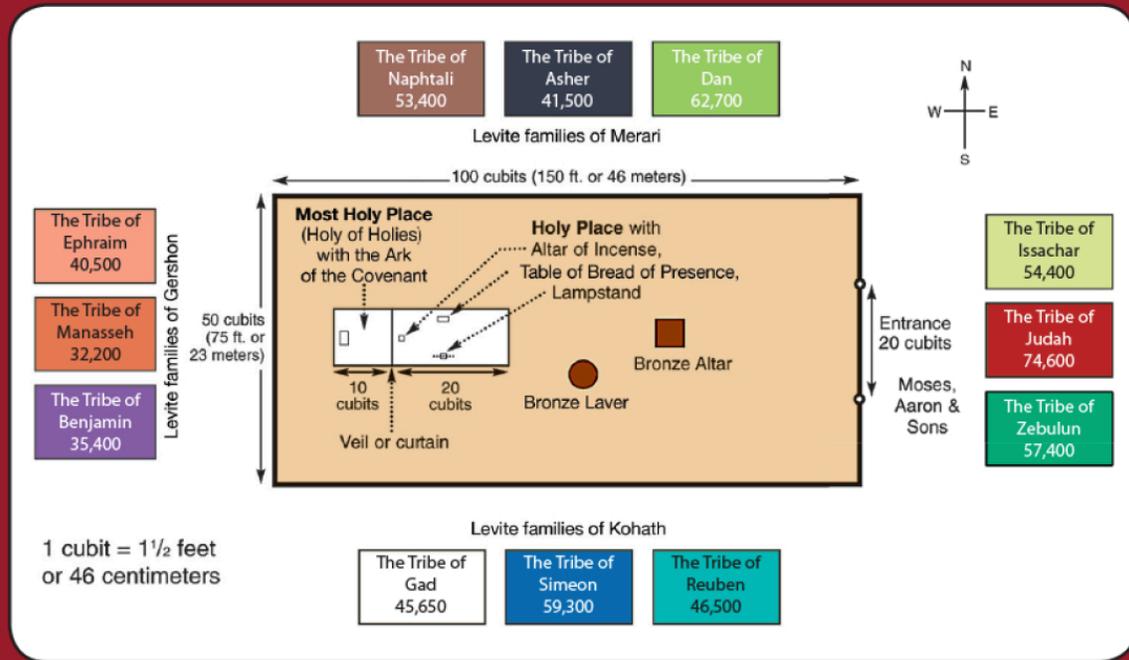
34 Thus the sons of Israel did; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they camped by their standards, and so they set out, every one by his family according to his father's household.

34 So the Israelis did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses; that is, they encamped under their standard as each person traveled with his own tribe and ancestral house."

34 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.

THE TABERNACLE

At Sinai and during the 40 years of wilderness wanderings, the tribes camped around the tabernacle under their family banners. The priests and Levites camped around all four sides of the tabernacle. The figures shown here are from the first census, taken after Moses led God's people out of Egypt (Num. 1-3).



The Order of March

- Judah - 74,600
- Issachar - 54,400
- Zebulun - 57,400
- Reuben - 46,500
- Simeon - 59,300
- Gad - 45,650
- Levites - 22,000 (see Num 3)
- Ephraim - 40,500
- Manasseh - 32,200
- Benjamin - 35,400
- Dan - 62,700
- Asher - 41,500
- Naphtali - 53,400

Every Detail by Design?

What might be hidden behind the details of the Camp of Israel?

Judah 74,600

Issachar 54,400

Zebulun 57,400

186,400

Reuben 46,500

Simeon 59,300

Gad 45,650

151,450

Ephraim 40,500

Manasseh 32,200

Benjamin 35,400

108,100

Dan 62,700

Asher 41,500

Naphtali 53,400

157,600

The Camp of Israel

Numbers 2

Judah	74,600	Ephraim	40,500
Issachar	54,400	Manasseh	32,200
Zebulun	<u>57,400</u>	Benjamin	<u>35,400</u>
	186,400		108,100
Reuben	46,500	Dan	62,700
Simeon	59,300	Asher	41,500
Gad	<u>45,650</u>	Naphtali	<u>53,400</u>
	151,450		157,600

Rabbinical Precision

The Camp of Judah was located East of Levites

The Camp of Reuben, South of Levites

**Strict obedience denies camping in the area Southeast; thus, only cardinal directions ordained—only the width of Levite's camp was allowed, with each camp's length proportional to population.

Gen 49:16-17:

16 Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.

17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.

Tribe of Dan

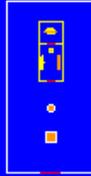
By camping adjacent to each other, the tribes of Reuben and Gad became "chums" (apparently also with some of those from Manasseh)

W

Levites

Gershonites

Kohathites



Merarites

Moses & Priests

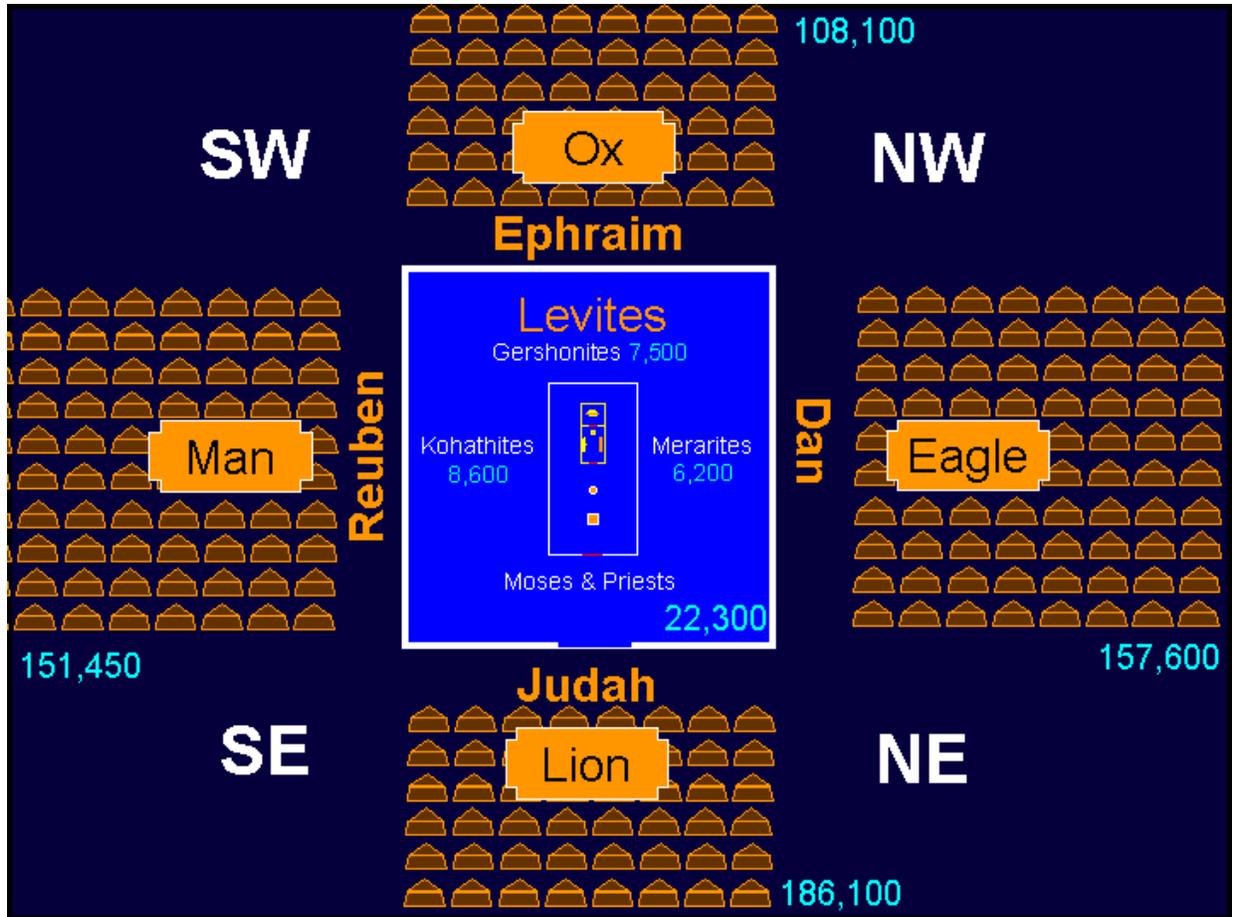
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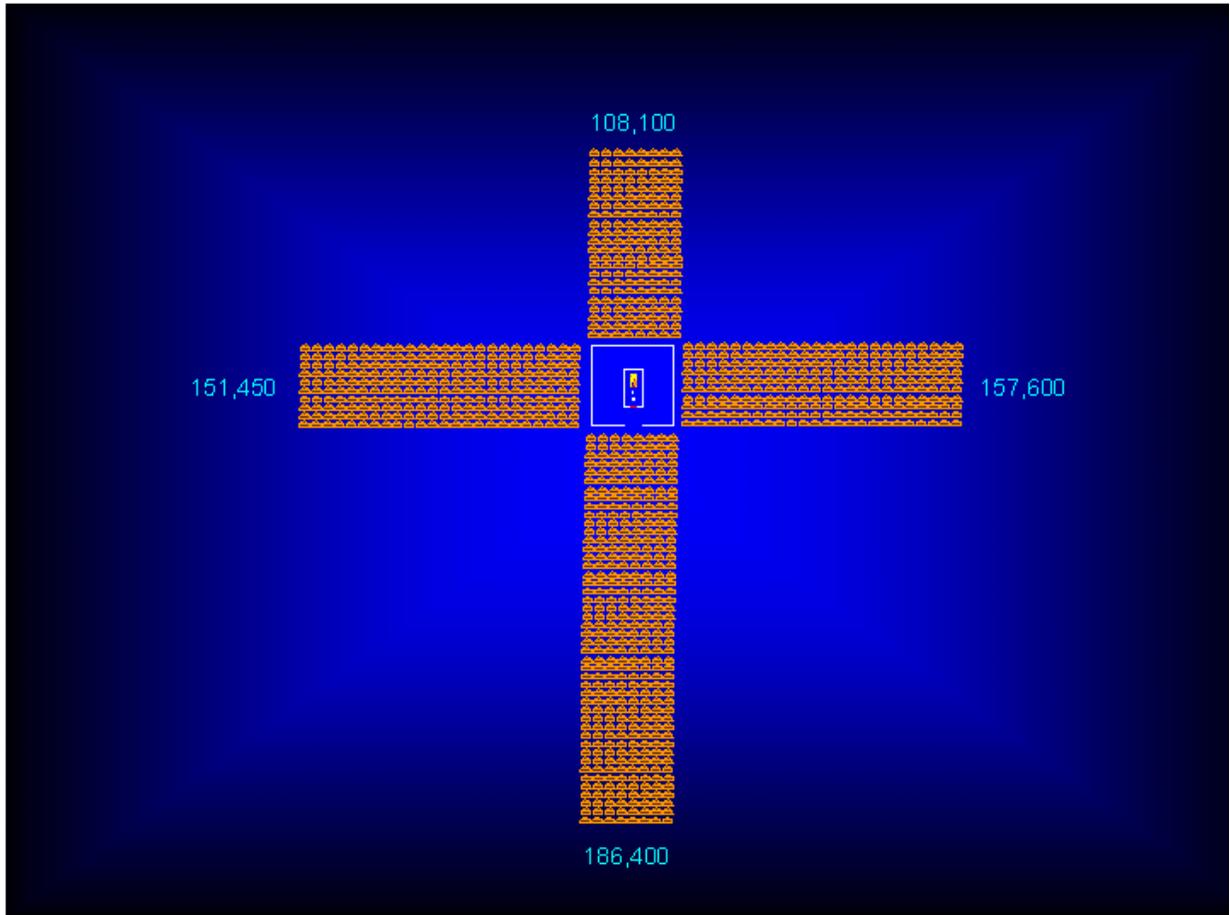
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Rabbinical Precision

- The Camp of Judah: **East** of Levites
- The Camp of Reuben: **South** of Levites
- Strict obedience denies area **Southeast**
- Thus, only **cardinal directions** ordained
- Only **width** of Levite's camp allowed
- Length **proportional** to population





Dan's tribal ensign was originally the serpent (Gen 49:16-17) and they camped North of the Camp (Num 2:25); "Sides of north" Cf. Is 14:12-13. Ahiezer, their chief at the time of the Exodus (Num 1:12; 2:25; 10:25; 1 Chr 12:3) replaced the serpent with the eagle as their ensign, always the ensign of Israel's enemies... [Eagle replacement: Merrill F. Unger, Unger's Bible Dictionary, Moody Press, Chicago, 1966, pp.235-236.]

The tribe of Dan had the largest population (Num 1:39) but the smallest land allocation, W of Benjamin. It lost territory after the death of Samson (Judges 16-21) and resettled at Laish in the North; "Leap from Bashan" (Deut 33:22).