Class # 30– Parshat Bamidbar: Yom Yerushalayim & The first military base in Jewish History

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal

June 7th, 1967 – The recapturing of Jerusalem from the Jordanian Army

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7l1ol69rRxo>

1. Who was Rav Shlomo Goren?
2. What is shocking about the warrior rabbi image? Why is that strange?
3. Did Avraham go to war? Did he kill people? Did he have a militia?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fr_9ifsD7Qg>

Sayeret Matkal - ‎, (General Staff Reconnaissance Unit) is a [special forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_forces) unit of the [Israel Defense Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces) (IDF). First and foremost a field intelligence-gathering unit, conducting deep [reconnaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconnaissance) behind enemy lines to obtain strategic intelligence, Sayeret Matkal is also tasked with [counter-terrorism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-terrorism) and [hostage rescue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostage_rescue) beyond Israel's borders. The unit is modeled after the [British Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army)'s [Special Air Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service), taking the unit's motto "[Who Dares, Wins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who_Dares_Wins)". The unit is the Israeli equivalent of [Delta Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_Force) of the United States and to the UK's [Special Air Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Air_Service).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayeret_Matkal#cite_note-1) It is directly subordinate to the IDF's [Directorate of Military Intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aman_%28IDF%29).

1. What is the unique strategy that Sayeret Matkal developed beyond other countries’ Special Forces?
2. What is uniquely “start-up” nation about the Sayeret Matkal?

Bamidar

*Census*

1:1 God spoke to Moses in the Sinai Desert, in the Communion Tent on the [first [day] of the second month](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2751) in the second year of the Exodus, saying: 1:2 [Take a census of the entire Israelite community](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2752). [Do it] by families following the [paternal line](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2753), according to the names of each male, taken [individually](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2754). 1:3 You and Aaron shall take [a tally](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2755) of them by their divisions, [counting] every male over 20 years old who is [fit for military service](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2756). 1:4 Alongside you there shall be [one] man from each tribe, [and] he shall be the head of his paternal line….

*The Total*

1:44 These are the tallies made by Moses, Aaron, and the twelve men who were princes of Israel, one from each paternal family. 1:45 The tally of Israelites according to their paternal families [included] those over 20 years old, all fit for military service. 1:46 The entire tally was [603,550](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2771). 1:47 [However,] the men who were Levites according to their father's tribe were not tallied together with [the other] Israelites.

*The Levites*

1:48 God spoke to Moses, saying: 1:49 Do not take a tally or census of the Levites together with the [other] Israelites. 1:50 Put the Levites in charge of the [Tabernacle of Testimony](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2772), all its furniture, and everything pertaining to it. They shall carry the Tabernacle and all its furniture, and they will serve in it. They shall [therefore] camp around the Tabernacle. 1:51 When the Tabernacle is moved, the Levites shall take it down, and when it is to remain in one place, they shall set it up. Any non-Levite who [participates](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=1#C2773) shall die. 1:52 When the Israelites camp, each individual shall be in his own camp, each one designated by the banner for its military division. 1:53 The Levites, however, shall camp around the Tabernacle of Testimony, so that there will not be any divine anger directed against the Israelites. It shall be the Levites who safeguard the trust of the Tabernacle of Testimony. 1:54 The Israelites did all that God commanded Moses, [and] they did it exactly.

1. Why was the census taken now?
2. Why are only 20 year and up counted?
3. Why are they being organized by Tribe?
4. Why are the Levi Tribe surrounding the Mishkan?
5. Why are they being organized in a military fashion? Are the Jewish people now on a military base?!?

Rambam, Guide to the Perplexed, Book 3, Ch. 32

It is contrary to man's nature that he should suddenly abandon all the different kinds of Divine service and the different customs in which he has been brought up, and which have been so general, that they were considered as a matter of course; it would be just as if a person trained to work as a slave with mortar and bricks, or similar things, should interrupt his work, clean his hands, and at once fight with real giants. It was the result of God's wisdom that the Israelites were led about in the wilderness till they acquired courage. For it is a well-known fact that travelling in the wilderness, and privation of bodily enjoyments, such as bathing, produce courage, whilst the reverse is the source of faint-heartedness: besides, another generation rose during the wanderings that had not been accustomed to degradation and slavery. All the travelling in the wilderness was regulated by Divine commands through Moses; comp. "At the commandment of the Lord they rested, and at the commandment of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord and the commandment of the Lord by the hand of Moses" (Num. ix. 23).