

Likkutei Sichos

Volume 18 | Bamidbar | Sicha 2 Source Sheet

א.

1. במדבר ג':י"ד-ט"ז

וַיִדבֶּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי לֵאמְר: פְּקֹד ֹ אֶת־בְּנֵי לֵוֹי לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵם כָּל־זָכֶר מִבֶּן־חָדֶשׁ וָמַעְלָה תִּפְקְדֵם: וַיִּפְקָד אֹתֶם מֹשָה עַל־פֵּי ה' כַּאַשָּׁר צוּה:

Bamidbar 3:14-16

Hashem spoke to Moshe in the wilderness of Sinai, saying: Record the Levites by ancestral house and by clan; record every male among them from the age of one month up. So Moshe recorded them at the command of Hashem, as he was bidden.

2. רש"י על במדבר ג׳:ט״ו

מבן חדש ומעלה . מְשֶּיָצָא מִפְלַל נְפָלִים הוּא נִמְנֶה לְקְּרֵא שׁוֹמֵר מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ; אֶ"רַ יְהוּדָה בְּרַבִּי שָׁלוֹם לְמוּד הוּא אוֹתוֹ הַשֵּבֶט לְהִיוֹת נִמְנֶה מִן הַבָּטֶן, שָׁנֶּאֱמַר "אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה אֹתָהּ לְלֵוִי בְּמִצְרָיִם" (במדבר כ״ו:נ״ט), — עם כְּנִיסְתָהּ בְּפֶתַח מִצְרַיִם יָלְדָה אוֹתָהּ וְנְמְנֵית בִּשְׁבָעִים נֵפֵשׁ, שַׁכְּשֻׁאַתָּה מוֹנֵה חֵשְׁבּוֹנָם לֹא תִמְצָאֵם אֵלָּא שְׁבָעִים חָסֵר אֶחָד, וְהִיא הִשְׁלִימָה אֶת הַמִּנָיֵן (תנחומא) :

Rashi on Bamidbar 3:15

NUMBER THE CHILDREN OF LEVI ... EVERY MALE] FROM A MONTH OLD AND ONWARDS — As soon as it passed the age of a non-viable child (a full month was regarded as the utmost time such a child can live) it can be counted to come under the term "keeper of the holy charge". — R. Judah the son of R. Shalom said: It is quite the usual thing with this tribe to be included in a census from their very birth, for it is said, (Bamidbar XXVI 59) "[And the name of Amram's wife was Yocheved, the daughter of Levi], whom her mother bore to Levi in Egypt" — which is explained to mean that she bore her just as she entered the gates of the border-city of Egypt and yet she is counted among the seventy souls which came down with Jacob into Egypt (cf. Bereishis 46:27 and Rashi thereon), because if you count their number (as set forth in Bereishis 46:8—27) you will find that they were one short of seventy, and it was she whose name is not mentioned there who made up the number seventy.

2. במדבר א':ב'-ג'

שָּאוּ אֶת־ראשׁ כָּל־עֲדָת בְּנֵי־יִשְׁרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם בְּמִסְפַּר שֵׁמֹוֹת כָּל־זָכֶר לְגַלְגְּלֹתָם: מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְמַׁעְלָה כָּל־יַּצֵא צָבֶא בִּישְׂרָאֵל תִּפְקְדָוּ אֹתֶם לְצִבְאֹתָם אַתָּה וְאַהָּרְן:

Bamidbar 1:2-3

Take a census of the whole Israelite community by the clans of its ancestral houses, listing the names, every male, head by head. You and Aaron shall record them by their groups, from the age of twenty years up, all those in Israel who are able to bear arms.

4. רש"י על במדבר א׳:ג׳

כל יצא צבא .מַגִּיד שָׁאֶין יוֹצֵא בַּצָּבָא פָּחוּת מְבֵּן עֲשְׂרִים:

Rashi on Bamidbar 1:3

כל יצא צבא [FROM TWENTY YEARS OLD AND UPWARDS] **all who are fit to go out to the army:**— This informs [us] that no one went out to the army below the age of twenty.

5. ויקרא כ"ז:ב'-ו'

דַבַּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶׁם אִּישׁ כִּי יַפְּלָא נֶדֶר בְּעֶרְכְּךָּ נְפָשָׁת לַה': וְהָיֶה עֶרְכְּךְּ הַזְּלֶר מִבֶּן עֶשְׁרִים שָׁלָה וְעַד בֶּן־שִּשִּׁים שְׁנָה וְעָד בָּן־שִּשִּׁים שְׁנָה וְנִיב בָּסְף וְלִּנְּקֵבְּה וְמָשִׁים שֶׁקֶל בָּסֶף בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקְּדֶשׁ... וְאָם מִבֶּן־חֹדֶשׁ וְעַד בָּן־חָמֵשׁ שְׁלִים וְהָיֵה עֶרְכְּךְ הַזְּלֶר חֲמִשֶּׁה שְׁקְלִים בָּסֶף וְלֹנְּקֵבְה עֶרְכִּךְ שִׁלְשֶׁת שְׁקְלֵים בָּסֶף. עַרְכִּךְ שִׁלְשֶׁת שְׁקְלֵים בָּסֶף:

Vayikra 27:2-6

Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: When anyone explicitly vows to Hashem the equivalent for a human being, the following scale shall apply: If it is a male from twenty to sixty years of age, the equivalent is fifty shekels of silver by the sanctuary weight... If the age is from one month to five years, the equivalent for a male is five shekels of silver, and the equivalent for a female is three shekels of silver.

6. ויקרא כ"ב:כ"ו-כ"ז

וַיִדְבָּר ה' אל־משה לָאמֹר: שוֹר אוֹ־כָשֹב אוֹ־עַזֹ כִּי יַוְלֶּד וֹהָיָה שׁבַעַת יָמִים תַּחָת אָמוֹ וּמִיוֹם הַשּׁמִינִי וְהַלָּאָה יַרְצֶּה לֹקַרבָּן אָשָּה לָה':

Vayikra 22:26-27

Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall stay seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be acceptable as an offering by fire to Hashem.

7. במדבר ג':מ'

וַיּאמֵר ה' אֱל־מֹשֶׁה פָּקָּד כָּל־בָּכָּר זָכָר לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִבֵּן־חְדֵשׁ וָמֶעְלָה וְשָּׁא אֵת מִסְפַּר שְׁמֹתֶם:

רש"י: פקד כל בכר זכר מבן חדש ומעלה . מַשֶּׁיָצָא מִכְּלֵל סְפֵק נְפָלִים:

Bamidbar 3:40

Hashem said to Moshe: Record every first-born male of the Israelite people from the age of one month up, and make a list of their names.

Rashi: NUMBER ALL THE FIRSTBORN OF THE MALES [OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL] FROM A MONTH OLD AND UPWARDS — as soon as he (the firstborn) has passed the age when it might possibly prove non-viable.

8. במדבר ג*'*:ה'-י'

וִיִדבֵּר ה' אֶל־משֶׁה לֵּאמְר: הַקְּרֵב´ אֶת־מִּשֵּה לֵּוֹי וְהַעֲמַדְתָּ אֹתוֹ לְפְנֵי אַהֶלָן הַכּּהָן וְשֵׁרְתָּוּ אֹתְוֹ: וְשְׁמְרָוּ אֶת־מִשְׁמַרְתּוֹ וְאֶת־מִשְׁמֶּרְתּוֹ וְשְׁמְרָוּ וְשָׁמְרָוּ וְשְׁמְרָוּ אָת־כְּלּ־כְּלֵי אָהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת־מִשְׁמֶרְתּ הַמִּשְׁכֵּן: וְשְׁמְרֹּוּ אֱת־כְּל־כְּלֵי אָהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת־מְּלְה לְעֲבָד אֶת־עֲבַדָת הַמִּשְׁכֵּן: וְשְׁמְרָוּ אֶת־כְּלַלְי אָהֶלְן וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ תְּחִנִּם הָמִּהְ לוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְּׁרָאֵל: וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ תְּחִנִּם הָמָה לוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְּׁרָאֵל: וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ נְתוּנָם הָמָה לוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל: וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ נְתוּנָם הָמָה לוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל: וְאֶת־בְּנָיוֹ וְאֶת־בְּנִיוֹ וְתוּלָם נְתוּנָם הַמָּהְהֹ לוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל: וְאֶת־בְּנִיוֹ וְאֶתְ־בְּנִיוֹ נְתוּנִם הַמָּהְרֹ הַוֹּתְהַ הַּמְּבְּיִי יִשְׁרָאֵל.

Bamidbar 3:5-10

Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: Advance the tribe of Levi and place them in attendance upon Aaron the priest to serve him. They shall perform duties for him and for the whole community before the Tent of Meeting, doing the work of the Tabernacle. They shall take charge of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting—a duty on behalf of the Israelites—doing the work of the Tabernacle. You shall assign the Levites to Aaron and to his sons: they are formally assigned to him from among the Israelites. You shall make Aaron and his sons responsible for observing their priestly duties; and any outsider who encroaches shall be put to death.

9. במדבר ג':ל"ב

ּוּנָשִׂיאֹ נָשִׂיאֵי הַלֵּוֹי אֵלְעָזֶר בֶּן־אַהַרְו הַכֹּהֵן פִּקְדַּת שֹׁמְרֵי מִשְׁמֵרֵת הַקְּדֵשׁ:

רש"י: ונשיא נשיאי הלוי. מְמֻנֶּה עַל כֻּלְּם, וְעַל מַה הִיא נְשִׂיאוּתוֹ — פקדת שמרי משמרת — עַל יָדוֹ הִיא פְּקֻדַּת כֻּלְּם:

Bamidbar 3:32

The head chieftain of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, in charge of those attending to the duties of the sanctuary.

Rashi: THE PRINCE OVER THE PRINCES OF THE LEVITES — i.e. he was appointed over all of them. And in regard to what was his overship? פקדת שמרי משמרת THE OVERSIGHT OF THEM THAT KEEP THE CHARGE [OF THE SANCTUARY] — i.e. by him was the appointment of all of these.

10. במדבר א':מ"ט

ָאָך אֶת־מַטֵּה לֵוִי לָא תִפְּקָּד וְאֶת־רֹאשָׁם לָא תִשָּׂא בְּתָוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

רש"י: אך את מטה לוי לא תפקד . כְּדַאי הוּא לִגְיוֹן שֶׁל מֶלֶךְ לִהְיוֹת נִמְנֶה לְבַדּוֹ (תנחומא); דָּ"אַ, צָפָה הַקְּבָּ"ה שֶׁעֲתִידָה לַעֲמֹד גְּזֵרָה על כָּל הַנָּמְנִין מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וָמַעְלָה שֵׁיָּמוּתוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר, אָמַר אַל יִהְיוּ אֵלוּ בִכְלָל, לְפִי שֶׁהֵם שֶׁלִּי, שֶׁלֹא טָעוּ בַעֵּלָ:

Bamidbar 1:49

Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, and you shall not reckon their sum among the children of Israel.

RASHI: ONLY THOU SHALT NOT NUMBER THE TRIBE OF LEVI — The legion of the King is worthy to be numbered by itself (cf. Midrash Tanchuma, Bamidbar 15). — Another explanation is: The Holy One, blessed be He, foresaw that a decree would once be made against all those that had been numbered from twenty years and upwards, viz., that they should die in the wilderness (Bamidbar 14:29). He therefore said: Let these (the Levites) not be included amongst those now counted, in which case they must die, because they are Mine, since they did not sin by worshipping the golden calf.

ג.

11. במדבר ג':י"א-י"ג

ווִדבֵּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמְר: וַאָנִּי הִנָּה לָקַחְתִּי אֶת־הַלְוּיָּם מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תַּחַת כָּל־בְּכָוֹר פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהֵיוּ לֵי הַלְוּיָם: כִּי לִי כָּל־בְּכוֹר בִּיוֹם הַכֹּתִּי כָל־בְּכוֹר בָאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הִקְרַּשְׁתִּי לֵי כָל־בְּכוֹר בִּיִשְׁרָאֵׁל מֵאָדֶם עַד־בְּהֵמֶה לֵי יִהֶיוּ אֲנֵי ה':

Bamidbar 3:11-13

Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: I hereby take the Levites from among the Israelites in place of all the first-born, the first issue of the womb among the Israelites: the Levites shall be Mine. For every first-born is Mine: at the time that I smote every first-born in the land of Egypt, I consecrated every first-born in Israel, man and beast, to Myself, to be Mine, Hashem's.

12. במדבר ג׳:מ׳-מ״א

וּ'אֹמֶר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה פְּלֶּד כָּל־בְּכָׂר זָכָר ֹלְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִבֶּן־חָדֶשׁ וְמֶעְלֶה וְשָׁא אֵת מִסְפַּר שְׁמֹתֶם: וְלְקַחְתָּּ אֶת־הַלְוּיֶם לִי אֲנֵי ה' תַּחַת כָּל־ בִּכֹּר בִּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וִאָת ֹ בָּהֵמֵת הַלְוּיֶּם תַּחַת כָּל־בָּלוֹר בִּבָהֵמֵת בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Bamidbar 3:40-41

Hashem said to Moshe: Record every first-born male of the Israelite people from the age of one month up, and make a list of their names; and take the Levites for Me, Hashem, in place of every first-born among the Israelite people, and the cattle of the Levites in place of every first-born among the cattle of the Israelites.

ה.

13. מדרש תנחומא, במדבר ט״ז:א

ַרַבִּי יְהוּדָה בַּר שָׁלוֹם אָמַר, לָמוּד הוּא הַשֵּׁבֶט הַזֶּה לְהִיוֹת הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא מוֹנֶה אוֹתוֹ בְּכָל מָקוֹם עַד שֶׁהֵן קְטַנִּים. מִנַּין, שֶׁבְּשָׁעָה שָׁאָמַר לוֹ הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא לְיַעֲלְב שֶׁיֵּרֵד לְמִצְרַיִם, אוֹתָהּ שָׁעָה סְפַר יַעֲלְב וּבָנְיו וְנִמְצְאוּ כֻּלָּם שִׁשִּׁים וְשִׁשֶּׁה, שֶׁנֶּאֲמַר: כָּל הַנֶּפֶשׁ לְבֵית יַעֵּלְב הַבָּאָה מִצְרַיְמָה שִׁשִּׁים וְשֵׁשׁ (בראשית מו, כו), וּשְׁנֵי בָנָיו שֶׁל יוֹסֵף, הֲרֵי שִׁבְעִים חָסֵר אֶחָת. וְהוּא אוֹמֵר, כָּל הַנֶּפֶשׁ לְבֵית

יַעֲקֹב הַבָּאָה מִצְרַיִמָה שָׁבִעִים (שם פסוק כז).

13. Midrash Tanchuma, Bamidbar 16:1

R. Judah bar Shalom said, "The Holy One, blessed be He, is accustomed to numbering [the children of] this tribe in every case while they are young. How is it shown? When the Holy One, blessed be He, told Jacob to go down to Egypt, at that time he numbered Israel and his children; and all of them were found [to number] sixty-six, as stated (in Gen. 46:26), "And all the souls of the House of Jacob that came that came to Egypt... were sixty-six." [In addition were] Joseph's two sons, plus Joseph, for a total of seventy minus one. But it says (in vs. 27), "all the souls of the House of Jacob, which came to Egypt, were seventy."

14. סוטה י״ב א'

וא"ר חמא בר' חנינא זו יוכבד שהורתה בדרך ולידתה בין החומות שנאמר (במדבר כו, נט) אשר ילדה אותה ללוי במצרים.

Sotah 12a

Yocheved's age is established based on a tradition concerning the number of the descendants of Jacob who came to Egypt, as follows: While the verse states that Leah had thirty-three descendants (Bereishis 46:15), only thirty-two were enumerated. This was explained as Rabbi Ḥama, son of Rabbi Ḥamina, says: The "daughter of Levi" is Yocheved, whose conception was on the road, as the family of Jacob descended to Egypt, and she was born between the walls, i.e., in Egypt, as it is stated: "And the name of Amram's wife was Yocheved, the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt" (Bamidbar 26:59).

15. בראשית מ״ו:ח׳-כ״ז

וְאֵלֶה שְמְוֹת בְּנֵי־יִשְׁרָאֵל הַכָּאִים מִצְרָיִמָה יַעֲקָב וּבָנֵיו בְּכָּר יַעֲקָב רְאוּבָן... אֲלֶה וּ בְּנֵי לֵאָה אֲשֶׁר יֵלְדֶה לְיַעֲקֹב בְּפַדָּן אֲרֶם וְאֵת דִּינְה בְּתְיֹביוֹ שְׁלְשִׁים וְשְלְשׁ... בְּנֵי רָחֵל אֲשֶׁת יֵעֲקָב יוֹסֵף וּבִנְיָמְוּ וַיִּזְלֵד לְיוֹסֵף בְּנֵיְטְ מִצְרִיִם אֲשֶׁר יֵלְדָה־לוֹ אָסְלֹת בַּת־פָּוֹטִי פֶּרִשׁ בָּנָי וְשָלְשׁ... כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַבָּאָה לְיַעֲקָב מִצְרַיִמְה וֹצְאֵי יְרֵכוֹ מִלְּבָד נְשֵי בְנֵי־יַעֲקָב כָּל־נֻפֶשׁ שִׁשִּׁים וְשְׁשׁ: פִּוֹטִי פֶּרַע כֹּהָן אֵן אֶת־מְנַשֶּה וְאֶת־אֶפְרָיִם... כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַבָּאָה מִצְרַיִמָה שְׁבְעִים: וּבְנֵי יוֹמֵף אֲשֶׁר־יַלָּד-לָוֹ בְּמִצְרָיִם נֵפֶשׁ שְׁנָיִם כָּל־הַנָּפֶשׁ לְבֵית־יַעְלֶּב הַבָּאָה מִצְרַיִמָה שָׁבְעִים:

Bereishis 46:8-27

These are the names of the Israelites, Jacob and his descendants, who came to Egypt. Jacob's first-born Reuben... Those were the sons whom Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, in addition to his daughter Dinah. Persons in all, male and female: 33... The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin. To Joseph were born in the land of Egypt Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath daughter of Poti-phera priest of On bore to him... All the persons belonging to Jacob who came to Egypt—his own issue, aside from the wives of Jacob's sons—all these persons numbered 66. And Joseph's sons who were born to him in Egypt were two in number. Thus the total of Jacob's household who came to Egypt was seventy persons.

16. רש"י על בראשית מ״ו:ט״ו

שלשים ושלש . וּבִפְּרָטָן אִי אַתָּה מוֹצֵא אֶלָּא שְׁלשִׁים וּשְׁנַיִם, אֶלָּא זוֹ יוֹכֶבֶד שָׁנּוֹלְדָה בֵין הַחוֹמוֹת בִּכְנִיסְתָן לְעִיר, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה אֹתָהּ לְלֵוִי בִּמִצְרִיִם – לֵדָתָהּ בִּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵין הוֹרָתָהּ בִּמִצְרַיִם:

16. Rashi on Bereishis 46:15

שלשים ושלש THIRTY THREE — But in the enumeration above you will find only thirty-two. The one whose name is omitted is Yocheved who was born "between the walls" just as they entered the border city, as it is said (Bamidbar 26:59) "Yocheved, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bore to Levi in Egypt — she was born in Egypt, but she was not conceived in Egypt (Bava Batra 123).

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17. במדבר כ"ו:נ"ט

ָוֹשֵׁם וֹ אֲשֶׁת עַמָּרָם יוֹכַבֶּד בַּת־לַוִּי אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה אֹתָהּ לְלֵוֵי בִּמִצְרָיִם וַתַּלֵד לְעַמְרָם אֵת־אַהַרֹן וְאֵת־מֹשֶׁה וְאֵת מִרְיֵם אַחֹתָם:

Bamidbar 26:59

The name of Amram's wife was Yocheved daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; she bore to Amram Aaron and Moshe and their sister Miriam.

18. במדבר כ"ו:נ"ט

וְשֵׁם וֹ אֲשֶׁת עַמְרָׁם יוֹכֶּבֶד בַּת־לֵוִי אֲשֶׁר יָלָדָה אֹתָהּ לְלֵוִי בְּמִצְרֵיִם וַתַּלֶּד לְעַמְרָם אֶת־אַהֶרֹן וְאֶת־מֹשֶׁה וְאָת מִרְיָם אֲחֹתָם: רש"י: אשר ילדה אתה ללוי במצרים . לֵדְתָהּ בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵין הוֹרֶתָהּ בְּמִצְרַיִם, כְּשֶׁנַּכְנְסוּ לְתוֹךְ הַחוֹמָה יְלָדַתָּה, וְהִיא הִשְׁלִימָה מִנְיַן שָׁבְעִים, שֶׁהָרֵי בִפְּרָטָן אֵי אַתָּה מוֹצֵא אֶלֶּא שִׁשִּׁים וְתָשַׁע:

Bamidbar 26:59

The name of Amram's wife was Yocheved daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; she bore to Amram Aaron and Moshe and their sister Miriam.

RASHI: אשר ילדה אתה ללוי במצרים WHOM HER MOTHER BORE TO LEVI IN EGYPT— she was born in Egypt but was not conceived in Egypt; when they came "between the walls" (within the confines of Egypt), she gave birth to her, and she (Yocheved) made up the number of seventy; because in the enumeration of them (Bereishis 46:8—27) you will find only sixty-nine.

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19. רש"י על במדבר ג*י*:י״ב

ואני הנה לקחתי . וַאֲנִי מֵהֵיכָן זָכִיתִי בָהֶן - מתוך בני ישראל . שֶׁיִּהְיוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל שׁוֹכְרִין אוֹתָן לְשֵׁרוּת שֶׁלִּי? עַ"יְ הַבְּכוֹרוֹת זָכִיתִי בָהֶם וּלְקַחָתִּים תִּמוּרָתָם. לְפִי שֶׁהָיָתָה הָעֲבוֹדָה בַּבְּכוֹרוֹת, וּכְשֵׁחָטָאוּ בָעֵגֵל נִפְּסְלוּ, וְהַלְוִיִּם שֵׁלֹא עְבָדוּ עַ"ִזְ נִבְחֵרוּ תַּחְתִּיהַם:

Rashi on Bamidbar 3:12

אני הנה לקחתי AND I, BEHOLD I HAVE TAKEN [THE LEVITES FROM AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL] — This means: And I — whence do "I" claim the right on them from among the children of Israel, that the Israelites should have to hire them (cf. Rashi on v. 8) for My service? It is through the firstborn — to whom I surely have a title — that I have a claim on them (the Levites) and so I take them in their (the firstborns') stead. For originally the service (the priestly functions) was performed by the firstborn, but when they (the Israelites and among them their firstborn too) sinned by worshipping the golden calf they became disqualified, and the Levites who had not worshipped the idol were chosen in their stead.

20. תלמוד ירושלמי ראש השנה פ"א ה"א

ו כתיב (מלכים א ב׳:י״א) והימים אשר מלך דוד על כל ישראל ארבעים שנה וגו' וכתיב (שמואל ב ה׳:ה׳) בחברון מלך על יהודה שבע שנים וששה חדשים ובירושלם מלך וגו' בכלל חסירים ובפרט יתירים... א"ר יודן בי ר' שלום כתיב (מלכים א י״א:ט״ז) כי ששת חדשים ישב שם יואב וכל ישראל אמר לו הקב"ה אני אמרתי לך (דברים ב׳:ה׳) אל תתגרו בם וביקשת להתגרות בם חייך שאינן נימנין לך.

Jerusalem Talmud Rosh Hashanah Chapter 1, Halacha 1

(Question:) The Pasuk states (Melachim 1, 2, 11), "The days that David reigned over all of Israel were 40 years etc.", And the Pasuk states (Shmuel 2, 5, 5), "In Hebron he ruled over Yehudah for 7 years and 6 months and in Yerushalayim he ruled [33 years]...?

Answer #1: When the 1st Pasuk speaks generally, it says 40 years. The 2nd Pasuk is more specific and says 40 years and 6 months...

...R. Yudan bei R. Shalom answers: The Pasuk states (Melachim 1, 11, 16), "For 6 months Yoav and all of Yisrael stayed there (until he had cut off every male in Edom)". The Holy One said to him - I said to you (Devarim 2, 5), "Do not provoke them (the nation of Edom)" and you wished to provoke them (by attacking and destroying them). Therefore, this time will not be counted for you.

י"א.

21. משנה נדרים ג׳:י״א

ָּקוֹנָם שָׁאֵינִי נֶהֶנֶה לִבְנֵי נֹחַ, מֻתָּר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָסוּר בְּאֻמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם. שָׁאֵינִי נֶהֱנֶה לְזֶרַע אַבְרָהָם, אָסוּר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָסוּר בְּאַמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם. שָׁאֵינִי נֶהֱנֶה לְזֶרַע אַבְרָהָם, אָסוּר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וּמֻתָּר בְּאַמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם...

Mishnah Nedarim 3:11

If one says: The property of the descendants of Noah is *konam* for me, and for that reason I will not benefit from it, he is permitted to derive benefit from a Jew but prohibited from deriving benefit from the nations of the world. If one says: The property of the offspring of Avraham is forbidden to me, and for that reason I will not benefit from it, he is prohibited from deriving benefit from a Jew but permitted to derive benefit from the nations of the world.

22. תלמוד ירושלמי נדרים ג:ח

ואין ישמעאל בכלל זרעו של אברהם. (בראשית כח) כי ביצחק יקרא לך זרע. ואין עשו בכלל זרע יצחק. א"ר יודן בר שלום ביצחק במקצת יצחק. ר' הונא אמר בי"ת תרי בן שהוא עתיד לנחול שני עולמות העולם הזה והעולם הבא .

Jerusalem Talmud Nedarim 3:8

Question: (Why in the above case is it permitted to derive benefit from all gentiles?) Is not Yishmael included in 'the seed of Avraham'?!

Answer: [Indeed, he is not, as we see that the verse states (Bereishis 28) -] "for in Isaac will be called your seed."

Question: Is Esav not included in the seed of Yitzchak?!

R. Yudan bar Shalom answers: [Indeed, he is not -] the above verse states: in Isaac, i.e. but not all of Isaac...

23. במדבר א':נ"ג

ּוָהַלְוּיָּם יַחֲנָוּ סָבִיבֹ לְמִשְׁכֵּן הָעֵדָׁת וְלָא־יִהְיֶה לֶּצֶף עַל־עֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְשָׁמְרוּ הַלְוּיָם אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדְוּת:

Bamidbar 1:53

The Levites, however, shall camp around the Tabernacle of the Pact, that wrath may not strike the Israelite community; the Levites shall stand guard around the Tabernacle of the Pact.

י"ד.

24. שמואל ב כ׳:י״ט

ָאָנֹלִּי שָׁלָמֵי אֱמוּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתָּה מְבַלֵּשׁ לְהָמִּית עִיר וְאֵםֹ בִּיִשְׂרָאֵל לֶמָה תְבַלַּע נַחֲלֶת יָהוֶה:

II Samuel 20:19

I am one of those who seek the welfare of the faithful in Israel. But you seek to bring death upon a mother city in Israel! Why should you destroy Hashem's possession?"