

BH. SICHA PINCHAS VOL 18

Numbers 26:1

It came to pass after plague, Hashem told Moshe to take a census of the Jewish people

Rashi:

It came to pass after the plague, etc:

This is analogous to a shepard, wolves entered his herd & killed some, so he counts to know how many are left

Assumption of "what's bothering Rashi"

Why is there a census taken at this time?

Rebbe's questions:

A.

We already know from Golden Calf (Exodus 30:16) that a census is taken when there is a loss. Why does Rashi repeat this, and at great length

B.

Why the differences between Exodus & here:

Exodus 30:16

Analogous to sheep, beloved to their master who suffered a plague, he then asks the shepard to count them to show his love

Exodus - Golden Calf:

Numbers - Plague of Zimri:

Master requested count

Shepard makes count

Plague

Wolves

Beloved

To know how many remain

Rebbe's explanation - "what's bothering Rashi"

**Why Torah links census to plague?
So many more died due to Idolatry**

600,000 Jews

Judges of 1000

600

Judges of 100

6000

Judges of 50

12000

Judges of 10

60000

TOTAL JUDGES

78600

Deaths due to Idolatry:

157,200

Deaths from Plague:

24,000

Exodus - Golden Calf:

Moshe bears no responsibility

This answers both Rebbe's questions:

Final question:

Lesson:

Numbers - Plague of Zimri:

Moshe is somewhat responsible

- A. Rashi not repetitive, making a different point
- B. This explains differences in RASHIS

Why did HASHEM focus this census on plaque?
Seems He wasn't feeling "the love" now...

Even when Hashem isn't "loving" a Jew, Moses (& all of us) must take responsibility for him