



Parashat BaMidbar

2 Sivan 5784 – June 8, 2024

While we begin a new book of Torah, BaMidbar, we should explore what the English name, which is Numbers, and the Hebrew name, BaMidbar, which translates to “In the Wilderness” are trying to teach us. The English name Numbers refers to the many census’ taken. The Wilderness name refers to their location physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The wilderness; the place for this counting was not for political purposes or for the national economy, for which in “the wilderness” there could be no possible inducement. This counting was done in service of the Torah which was given on Sinai and had found a home in the Tabernacle.

After the Torah found a home among the children of Israel at Sinai they had sinned with the Golden Calf. Moses requested (with assertiveness) G-d to forgive the Children of Israel and presented the Torah (second set of Ten Commandments). Families, and “important individuals,” leaders of the tribes were counted and they were counted for this Torah and be its guards.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer