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Isra'el at Sinai: Preparation for the Departure 1:1 to 10:10



This first section of **Numbers** in **Chapters 1** through **10** is dominated by a positive tone. The people of **Isra'el** obediently followed **God's** instructions to prepare for the march from Sinai to **the Promised Land**. **The twelve tribes of Isra'el** undergo a **census** in which all warriors are counted and then organized into a four-sided military camp with three tribes on each of the four sides. Mitzvot are given that preserve the holiness of the camp. The people dutifully prepare for a holy war against the pagan Canaanite inhabitants of **the Promised Land**. These preparations for the journey through **the wilderness** dominate this section.¹⁰