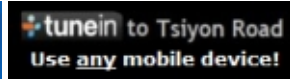


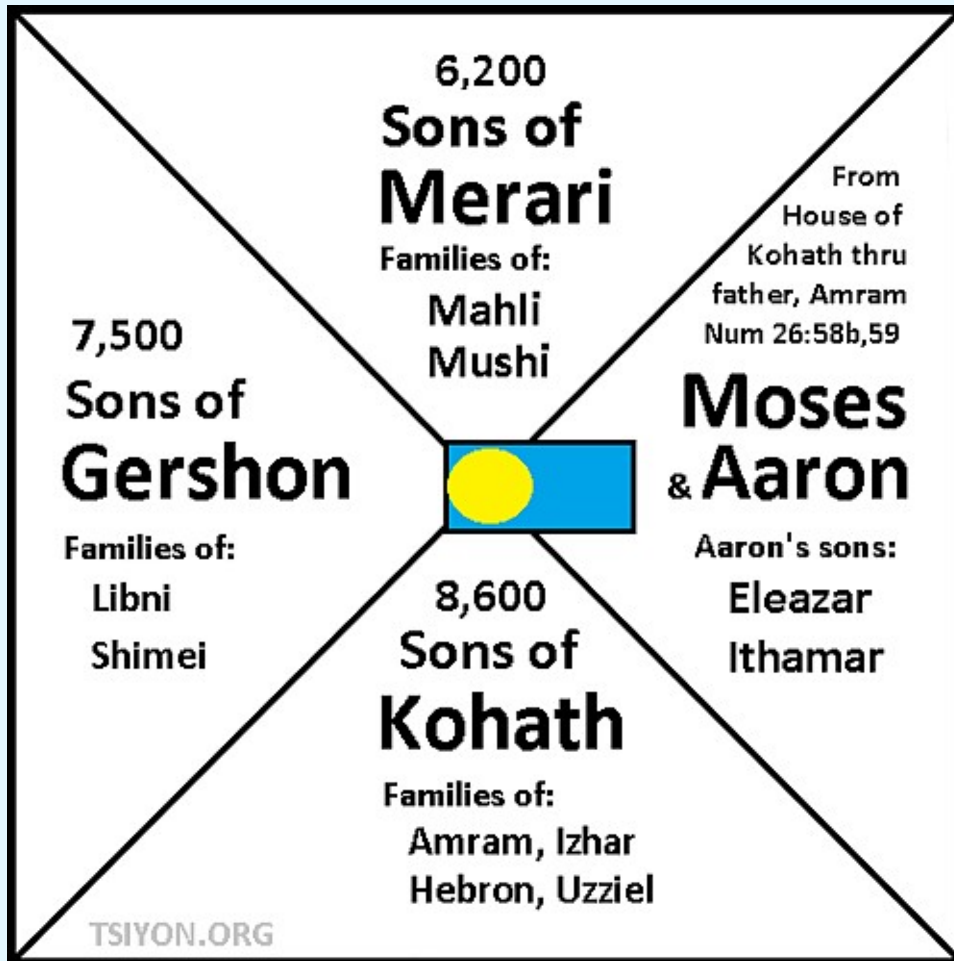


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## TSIYON NEWS

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**Ordered for Victory Charts** - Beginning with our study of Bamidbar /Numbers 2 we are offering free charts to help you visualize the camp of the tribes of Israel as explained in Scripture. You will find a link to the charts with the appropriate at [tsiyon.org](http://tsiyon.org).

## From Eliyahu

Dear friends,

So far Bamidbar/Numbers has been like one of those movies that starts with a wide shot from up above, that shows you the big picture. Maybe a whole battlefield with the armies arrayed against each other, cannons firing, troops charging, clouds of smoke rising and hanging in the air, while you hear the confusing din of soldiers yelling, shots firing, bombs going off and indiscriminate battlefield noises from every direction. Slowly the camera moves down, moves in, moves through the action of the battle, into the center of the movie, where you are suddenly looking the subject of the movie in the eye!

Similarly, in Numbers 1 + 2 we saw the big picture of the camp of Israel in the wilderness, with armies arrayed in a giant square. We learned who they were, who their commanders were, how many soldiers there were and where they were deployed around the camp. In all of this we saw YHWH preparing His people for war, equipping them with organization, technology and tactics that were literally hundreds of years ahead of their enemies. This big picture surrendered up important secrets showing how the earthly armies of faithful Israel are tied into and move with the heavenly armies, to achieve victory in Yah's Name! Perhaps, most importantly, we saw from this why the remnant of Israel today must abandon the every-man-for-himself mental construct, because the best we can do alone is to fight a

defensive battle to protect ourselves, while never actually overcoming the enemy. Now, we must change our thinking, to allow ourselves to be formed together into a holy nation, moving together with Him and with one another, in holy battle array. Only together, as His army, can we actually achieve victory - which means: not just defending ourselves, but actually pushing the enemy back, to take the ground away from the enemy! Indeed, this is the only definition of victory that can ever satisfy the overcomer!

Now, in Numbers 3, we are about to move closer to the very heart of the camp of Israel. Here, near the center, we enter into a more serene environment, protected by, while noticeably separated from, the rest of the camp of Israel. Here, as with the other tribes, we find a high degree of order. However, here in the camp of the Levites this order is focused on enabling the worship of YHWH in the Tabernacle rather than focusing outward to deal with mundane things. Here we meet those who are tasked with caring for the great treasure of Israel, the Source of all of her blessings and success. Indeed, everything depends on the nation's covenant and relationship with YHWH, who has chosen to be present in the midst of Israel, His people, at the spiritual center of the Tabernacle. The entire focus of the Levites is to maintain that holy place in a way that is appropriate to the very House of God!

Who are these Levites? How are they organized? What, exactly, are their duties? What is their relationship to YHWH and to the nation? Many of us have found the Levites to be somewhat mysterious. Now, in our latest EBDBM Bet Midrash, it's time to move to the center of the camp, to observe the Ministry in the Middle - the ministry of the Levites.

Blessings and Shalom,

Eliyahu Ben David

P.S. While I was putting this newsletter together I came across the news article below. Clearly, the enemies of the State of Israel in Syria are gaining strength, and this new accord between al-Qaida and ISIL could pave the way for a radical Muslim take-over of Syria, which would put these terrorists right on the Israeli border.

## IS, al-Qaida reach accord in Syria

Reprint from: Associated Press, Nov 13, 3:25 PM EST

ISTANBUL (AP) -- Militant leaders from the Islamic State group and al-Qaida gathered at a farm house in northern Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander have told The Associated Press.

Such an accord could present new difficulties for Washington's strategy against the IS group. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground. Those rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-hitting militant groups now are working together.



IS - the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year - and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The Associated Press reported late last month on signs that the two groups appear to have curtailed their feud with informal local truces. Their new agreement, according to the sources in rebel groups opposed to both IS and Nusra Front, would involve a promise to stop fighting and team up in

attacks in some areas of northern Syria.

Cooperation, however, would fall short of unifying the rival groups, and experts believe any pact between the two sides could easily unravel. U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon - if ever. A U.S. official with access to intelligence about Syria said the American intelligence community has not seen any indications of a shift in the two groups' strategy, but added that he could not rule out tactical deals on the ground. The official insisted on anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak publicly about the subject.

According to a Syrian opposition official speaking in Turkey, the meeting took place Nov. 2 in the town of Atareb, west of Aleppo, starting at around midnight and lasting until 4 a.m. The official said the meeting was closely followed by members of his movement, and he is certain that an agreement was reached. The official said about seven top militant leaders attended.

A second source, a commander of brigades affiliated with the Western-backed Free Syrian Army who is known as Abu Musafer, said he also had learned that high-ranking members of Nusra and IS met on Nov. 2. He did not disclose the exact location, but said it was organized by a third party and took place in an area where the FSA is active.

According to Abu Musafer, two decisions were reached: First, to halt infighting between Nusra and IS and second, for the groups together to open up fronts against Kurdish fighters in a couple of new areas of northern Syria.

The Nusra Front has long been seen as one of the toughest factions trying to oust Assad in a civil war estimated to have killed more than 200,000 since 2011. The Islamic State group entered the Syria war in 2012 from its original home in Iraq and quickly earned a reputation for brutality and for trying to impose itself as the leading faction in the rebellion behind which all pious Muslims should unite. Al-Qaida initially rejected IS's claims to any role in Syria, and Nusra and other factions entered a war-within-a-war against it. But the Islamic State group swelled in power and became flush with weapons and cash after overrunning much of northern and western Iraq over the summer.

According to the opposition official, the meeting included an IS representative, two emissaries from Nusra Front, and attendees from the Khorasan Group, a small but battle-hardened band of al-Qaida veterans from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also reported present at the meeting was Jund al-Aqsa, a hard-line faction that has sworn allegiance to IS; and Ahrar al-Sham, a conservative Muslim rebel group.

The official said IS and the Nusra Front agreed to work to destroy the Syrian Revolutionaries Front, a prominent rebel faction armed and trained by the United States and led by a fighter named Jamal Maarouf. They agreed to keep fighting until all of the force, estimated to be 10,000 to 12,000 fighters, was eliminated, the official said.

During the meeting, IS also offered to send extra fighters to Nusra Front for an assault it launched last week on Western-backed rebels from the Hazm Movement near the town of Khan al-Sunbul in northern Syria, the official said. IS sent about 100 fighters in 22 pickup trucks but Nusra ended up not needing the assistance, he said, because Hazm decided not to engage in the fight. Sixty-five Hazm fighters defected to Nusra, he said.

Tom Joscelyn, an American analyst who tracks terror groups for the website Long War Journal, said he hasn't seen any messaging that would confirm that the two groups have formally joined forces on the battlefield. But he said there has been information emerging before the reported Nov. 2 meeting "that would seem to fit in with that being what they were driving at. There has been a big push on the al-Qaida side to get this (alliance) through."

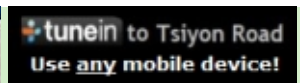
If they work together, the jihadis will be more effective in Syria, he said. "If there is less blood being spilled against each other and they don't have to worry about that, that's going to make it easier for the jihadis to go after Assad or any Western-backed forces."

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WITH  
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