

would be a good one. But now what is the second largest? The second largest is the tribe of Dan with 62,700 and the third is the tribe of Simeon with 59,300 and all the rest are smaller than these. And Judah the largest of the tribes went on to be the place from which the great leader came, the One which God used so mightly. But Dan and Simeon were the two tribes that accomplished the very least in the years ahead. They are the two tribes that pretty much disappeared in succeeding years. They did not utilize the potentialities they had, and we-- the question is are we going to be like Judah which stepped forward and was used of God, which had resources greater than any other, <sup>?</sup> ~~or~~ Are we going to be like some of the others, which were small, Levi the smallest of all with 22,000 which God used in such a marvellous way? Or are we going to be like Dan and Simeon right next to Judah in ~~the~~ size but not utilizing what they had, and even being omitted in some of the later list of tribes altogether?

I believe is

There-- The census ~~here~~ placed here I believe in order to show us that at a point, not immediately upon conversion, not when one is very young, but when one <sup>gets</sup> ~~gets~~ to a vital point in his training to make his life count for God, he should sit down and count the cost and count his own potentiality<sup>ties</sup>, see what his situation is, ~~and then~~ and ask the Lord to show him how he can make every ability, every aspect of his character, of his personality count so that at the end of his life, he will look ~~back~~ back not with regret saying, How I neglected this, how I failed to do that, how I failed to use this ability I had, how I took this particular activity (?) where I didn't have any ability and worked hard trying to accomplish and failed but I saw under God's leading how I could most effectively serve Him and make my <sup>made</sup> life count for Him. Let us pray, Our Father, We thank you for this Book of Num. and for all <sup>of the</sup> ~~that the~~ OT, and we thank you for the lesson that we can learn even in this census here-- the lesson that we are to evaluate <sup>ourselves</sup> ~~us~~ at a certain important stage in our pilgrimage journey, and study how we can make our life count the utmost for our Saviour. We ask in Jesus Name Amen.