

Lesson 26

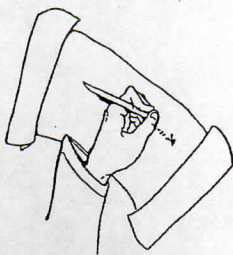
Leviticus 27:1-34 - The Census and the Flag
Theme - Identification

What did God say about dedicating and numbering?

God told the Children of Israel that they could dedicate certain people or animals to the service of the Lord. God commanded that the people and priests be numbered. Each tribe of Israel was to have its own standard (banner.)



A Census Being Taken



Numbers 1:1,2 - *And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai in the tabernacle of the congregation ... Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel...*

Numbers 1:52 - *And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.*

1. Why are people counted? (Lesson 26A)
2. What are standards? (Lesson 26B)



Lesson 26A Why are people counted?



Shaphan (History) **government concern.**

Counting people is called **taking a census**. A census can be taken to find the **number of tax payers**. It may also be conducted to find the **number of able-bodied soldiers**. The government has many reasons for wanting to know the size of its population. Sometimes, a census can ask personal questions about things that the government does not need to know. It is important that a census **only ask questions that are of rightful**

Something to think about:

Has your family been counted in a census?

What does Jesus have to do with counting people?

Jesus knows who belong to Him.



A Modern Census

Malachi 3:16-17 - *Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord...*

Questions:

1. What is it called when the government counts people?
2. Name two things the government may want to count.
3. What is important to remember about a census?

Are you one of those who belong to Jesus?

Lesson 26B



Shaphan (History)

What are standards and flags?

The standard of the United States is its **flag**. It has **red and white stripes** and **white stars** on a **blue background**. The stripes represent **the thirteen original colonies**. The stars represent the **fifty states**. The colors also stand for something. Red stands for **courage**. It reminds us of the blood that was shed to keep America free. White stands for **purity**, and the need to stand for what is just and right. Blue stands for **loyalty and justice**.

Something to do:

Examine an American flag.
Count its stripes and stars.

**The
American
Flag**

**What does Jesus have to
do with standards or flags?**

The Lord has a standard.

Isaiah 49:22 - *Thus saith the Lord God,
Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the
Gentiles, and set up my standard to
the people...*



Questions:

1. What is the standard of the United States?
2. What are the colors of the stripes on the U.S. flag?
3. What are the color of the stars on the U.S. flag?
4. What is the color of the background of the stars?
5. What do the stripes represent?
6. What do the stars represent?
7. What does the color red stand for?
8. What does the color blue stand for?
9. What does the color white stand for?

**Are you proud to follow and be identified with
the Lord's standard?**

The flag of the Tribe of Judah may have looked like this.



Junior Lesson 26A

The census in the United States is taken every ten years. The last time the census was taken was the year 2000. It will be taken again in the year 2010.

The census is taken by volunteer census takers. These individuals receive training and then are sent out to go door-to-door. They look for homeless people, migrants, and renters. As they go door-to-door, they ask such questions as "who lives here" and "how old are they?"

Census forms are also sent out by mail. Some people receive a short form that can be filled out in a few minutes. Others receive a long form with many questions. It may

take an hour to fill out the long form.

It takes a year to collect all the information. The information is then fed into computers and analyzed. **Computers** are able to complete thousands of mathematical operations in seconds. They are able to analyze the data and answer such questions as "What percentage of the people in a particular area such as a county or state are over sixty-five years of age?"

Because data is collected every ten years, it is possible to look for trends (changes). For example, it can be determined if the average age of people living in a certain

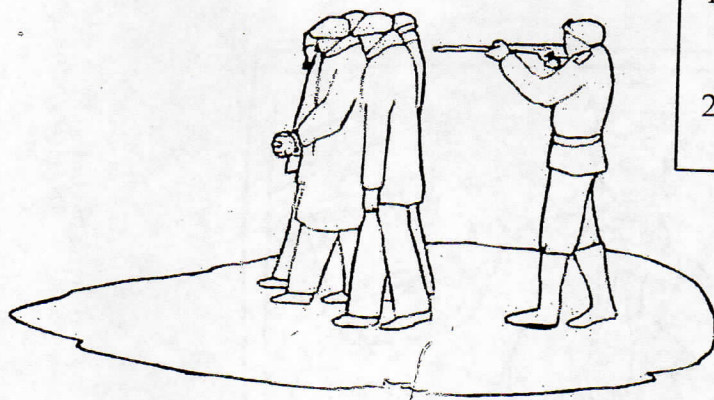
Computers Analyze Census Data



city is getting older or younger.

The taking of the census raises questions about privacy. Privacy means keeping personal information a secret. Often, personal questions are asked by the census. In the United States of America, people value their freedom. They feel that their freedoms may be lost if the government gathers too much information. For example, if the government knows who has a gun, the day may come when the government may want to take that gun away from its owner. This would be a violation of the Second Amendment of the Constitution.

Americans Fear Government Control of Their Lives.



JUNIOR QUESTIONS

1. How often is the census taken in the United States?
2. When will the census be taken again?
3. Who takes the census?
4. What kind of questions are asked by census-takers?
5. How are forms that are sent out by mail different?
6. What are trends?
7. Why do some people think they may lose their privacy through the census?

Intermediate Research Questions

1. What are examples of intrusive questions that are asked by the census?
2. What decisions are made on the basis of the census data?

Advanced Research Questions

1. How may information gathered by the census one day be used against the citizens of the United States?
2. Which departments of the government use the census data?

Junior Lesson 26B

There are certain rules that should be followed in caring for the flag. The flag should not be displayed at night, for instance, unless there is a light on it. The flag should not touch the ground. When folded, the red area of the flag should be covered. Only the blue field, with the stars, should be seen. Another flag should not be flown higher than an American flag. An American flag should not be thrown in the garbage. It should be solemnly disposed of by burning. **The American Legion** will dispose of an old flag if asked to do so.

From time to time, the federal government calls for the flag to be

flown at "half-mast." This means that the flag is flown at the middle of the flag pole. This is done to honor the death of an important person or to commemorate a sad event.

The American flag should not be disrespected. Sometimes, the flag will be used as clothing. This is disrespectful. Protestors have been known to burn the American flag. This is considered disgraceful. The American flag has a long history of honor.

Betsy Ross is given credit for designing the first American flag. The thirteen stripes on the flag represent the thirteen original

Betsy Ross



colonies. Each of the fifty stars represents a state.

When a person pledges allegiance to the flag, they are promising to be a good citizen. We do not worship the flag. We do not promise to obey the government when the government tells us to go against the Word of God. We can be very thankful, however, that in America there are very few times that the government has ever required its citizens to go against the Word of God. In other countries, Christians are often put in jail because they refuse to obey a certain law that violates the Word of God.

America is Still a Great Nation!

JUNIOR QUESTIONS

1. How may a flag be displayed at night?
2. How should a flag be folded?
3. What is the proper way to dispose of a flag?
4. What will the American Legion do?
5. Why is a flag flown at "half mast?"
6. What did Betsy Ross do?
7. What do the thirteen stripes and the fifty stars on the American flag represent?

Intermediate Research Questions

1. What is represented by the colors of the American flag?
2. In an auditorium, on which side should the American flag be placed?

Advanced Research Questions

1. What is the nature of the discussion concerning a flag burning amendment to the Constitution?

