

# HEAVEN'S SYSTEM OF JUDGMENT

## Background

Less than a year after the giving of the Torah, HASHEM told Moshe to again count the Jewish People. The *Siforno* points out that this counting was unique as it counted each person by **name**, whereas thirty-eight years later, when the Jews were about to enter the land of Israel and were counted again, there is no mention of counting by name. The *Siforno* explains that this is because the generation that left Egypt was made up of unique individuals, each worthy of being singled out. The next generation, however, wasn't on that level, so everyone was counted only by number and not by name.

Therefore, it is clear from the *Siforno* that the generation that left Mitzrayim was greater than the generation that entered the Land of Israel.

### ספר במדבר פרק א

ב) שָׂאוּ אֶת רֹאשׁ כָּל עֵדֻת  
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לְבֵית  
אֲבֹתָם בְּמִסְפַּר שְׁמוֹת כָּל זָכָר  
לְגִלְגָּתָם:

*“Count the heads of the congregation of Israel according to their families, according to their fathers' houses, by the number of the names, every male according to the head count.”*

### ספורנו עה"ת ספר במדבר פרק א פסוק ב

במספר שמות. כי היה אז כל אחד מאותו הדור נחשב בשמו המורה על צורתו האשית, למעלתם, על דרך ואדעך בשם ולא כן קרה לדור באי הארץ, ובכן לא נמנו במספר שמו, ולא נזכרו זולתי ראשי המשפחות ומספר האישים. ועם זה הודיע שהיתה הכוונה שאותם האישים בעצמם יחיו וירשו הארץ ולא יפקד מהם איש

*In that generation, each individual's name was significant, as it reflected his inner personality and high spiritual level. Unlike the next generation that entered the Land of Israel, the people of the first generation were only counted by name. The later generation was significant, too, but not enough to be counted by name, but only by number.*

## Questions

This concept is very difficult to understand. The people who left Egypt were slaves their entire lives. They had almost no education or opportunity to learn. From the time they were children, they had little time to focus on anything other than survival. The generation that entered the Land of Israel had a very different upbringing. They were all born in the desert. Daily they observed the Glory of HASHEM encamped on the *Mishkan*. On a regular basis, they watched the Clouds of Glory ushering them from place to place. Each morning, they saw *man* being delivered to their doorstep. They experienced the miracle of a rock providing them millions of gallons of water daily. But even more, they weren't engaged in earning a living; their entire focus was on learning Torah. Taught by the greatest *rebbeim*, unencumbered by physical needs or distractions, they spend their days and nights in yeshiva. Clearly, they knew more Torah than the people who had just left Mitzrayim. How could the earlier generation have been greater than this one?