

Exodus 12:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

Analysis

The journey from Rameses to Succoth begins the exodus. 'Six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children' indicates approximately 2-3 million total people—a nation in motion. The specification 'men' (gever, גֶּבֶר—warriors, able-bodied men) shows Israel could field a substantial army. This fulfills God's promise that Abraham's descendants would be numerous (Genesis 15:5).

Historical Context

Rameses was likely a city in the Nile Delta where Israel labored. Succoth was the first camp outside Egypt proper. The massive number made this the ancient world's greatest migration.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's multiplication of Israel from 70 persons to 2-3 million demonstrate His faithfulness to covenant promises?

2. What does the organization of this massive exodus teach about God's ability to orchestrate complex movements?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּסַע ו	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִרַעְמֵס	סֹכַךְ	כְּשֵׁשׁ
journeyed	And the children	of Israel	from Rameses	to Succoth	about six
H5265	H1121	H3478	H7486	H5523	H8337
מֵאֹת	אֶלֶף	בְּגָלָיִם	הַגְּבֻרִים	לְבֶדֶד	מִטָּף:
hundred	thousand	on foot	that were men	beside	children
H3967	H505	H7273	H1397	H905	H2945

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 38:26 (Parallel theme): A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.

Numbers 1:46 (Parallel theme): Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

Numbers 33:5 (References Israel): And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.

Numbers 11:21 (Parallel theme): And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.

Numbers 33:3 (References Israel): And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Genesis 47:11 (Parallel theme): And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

Exodus 1:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

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