

Numbers 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls.

Analysis

The gathering of the congregation 'on the first day of the second month' demonstrates God's providential timing and orderly nature in covenant administration. The census was not random but occurred at God's appointed time for a specific purpose. This careful timing reflects the broader biblical principle that God accomplishes His purposes in the fullness of time, ultimately sending Christ 'when the fullness of the time was come' (Galatians 4:4).

Historical Context

The census took place exactly one month after the tabernacle's completion (Exodus 40:17), showing the connection between worship structure and military organization. The people assembled by families and clans, emphasizing covenant community rather than individualism.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's careful timing of the census encourage patient waiting for His purposes to unfold in your life?
2. What does the connection between tabernacle completion and census taking teach us about the relationship between worship and service?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	הָעֵדָה	הִקְהִילוּ	בְּאֶחָד	לַחֹדֶשׁ
H853	H3605	H5712	H6950	H259
	all the congregation	And they assembled	on the first	month
			H259	H2320
הַיּוֹם	וַתִּגְדְּלוּ	עַל	מִשְׁפְּחֹתָם	
H8145	H3205	H5921	H4940	
day of the second	and they declared their pedigrees	after	their families	
לְבֵית	אֲבוֹתָם	בְּמִסְפָּר	שְׁמוֹת	מִבְּנֵי
H1004	H1	H4557	H8034	H1121
by the house	of their fathers	according to the number	of the names	old
מִעֶשְׂרִים	שָׁנָה	וְעַד	לְגִלְגָּלָתָם:	
H6242	H8141	H4605	H1538	
from twenty	years	and upward	by their polls	

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 2:59 (Parallel theme): And these were they which went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:

Hebrews 7:3 (Parallel theme): Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Nehemiah 7:61 (Parallel theme): And these were they which went up also from Tel-melah, Tel-haresha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.

Hebrews 7:6 (Parallel theme): But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

Numbers 1:1 (Parallel theme): And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

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