

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

לְחָדֶשׁ בְּאַפְּקָד	קָרְבָּן יְלִי	בְּעֵד הַקָּהָן	כָּל אֶת	וְאֵת
H2320	H6950	H5712	H3605	H853
מִשְׁפְּחָת מִ	עַל	וַיְתִּלְדּוּ	וְאֵת	בְּשָׁנָה יְנִינָה
H4940	H5921	H3205	H8145	day of the second
וְאֵת	בְּמִסְפָּר	אֲבָתֵּם	לְבָית	מִבְּ
H1121	H4557	H1	H1004	old names of that
לְגַלְגָּלָתֶם:	שָׁנָה וּלְהַלְלָה	וְאֵת יְמֵי	שָׁנָה וּלְהַלְלָה	from twenty years
H1538	H4605	H8141	H6242	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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