

Numbers 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Simeon, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, those that were numbered of them, according to the number of the names, by their polls, every male from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Analysis

The repetitive structure of the census ('by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers') emphasizes covenant continuity across generations. This pattern demonstrates that God's redemptive purposes work through families and generations, not merely individuals. The Reformed principle of covenant theology, which includes believers' children in the covenant community, finds clear precedent in this genealogical organization of Israel.

Historical Context

Simeon, Levi's full brother, shared in the curse against Levi for violence at Shechem (Genesis 34; 49:5-7). While Levi's descendants received priestly honor, Simeon's tribe was eventually absorbed into Judah, demonstrating differing outcomes from the same judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the consistent emphasis on family structure in the census inform our understanding of God's covenant dealings with believers and their children?
2. What does Simeon's eventual absorption into Judah teach us about God's sovereignty in directing tribal and family destinies?

Interlinear Text

לְבִית	לְמִשְׁפְּחָת	מִ	שָׁמָעַ	וְ	מִבְּ	אֶ
Of the children	of Simeon	by their generations			after their families	by the house
H1121	H8095	H8435			H4940	H1004
אֲבָתִים	פָּנִים	בְּמִסְפֵּט	רָ			
of their fathers	those that were numbered	of them according to the number				
H1	H6485	H4557				
שְׁמוֹת	כָּל	לְאַגְלָלָת	מִ	מִבְּ	יָמִים	עָשָׂר
of the names	by their polls	H3605	אֲכָרֶת	רָ	מִבְּ	מִבְּ
H8034	H1538		H2145	H1121	H6242	
שָׁנָה	כִּיל	יָמִם	עַלְהָ	אַ	אַ	אַ
years	and upward	H3605	all that were able to go forth	H3318	H6635	כְּבָאָן
H8141	H4605					

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