

Numbers 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Judah, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Analysis

Judah's census, with its emphasis on genealogical precision, takes on profound significance given this tribe's messianic destiny. Every detail of Judah's organization pointed forward to the coming King whose genealogy would be meticulously preserved (Matthew 1; Luke 3). The tribe's numerical strength and organization prefigured its spiritual leadership role, demonstrating that God was sovereignly preparing the royal line through which salvation would come.

Historical Context

Judah had been designated by Jacob as the royal tribe (Genesis 49:10), a prophecy being fulfilled in the tribe's prominent position in wilderness organization. Judah camped on the east side of the tabernacle (the position of honor) and would lead Israel's march.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the careful preservation of Judah's genealogy demonstrate God's meticulous preparation of Christ's coming across centuries?
2. What encouragement does this provide regarding God's faithfulness to His promises, even when fulfillment seems distant?

Interlinear Text

מֹתְּבָנִים	הַיּוֹדֵה	מִתּוֹלְדָתָם	וְהַזְּדִיקָתָם	לְמִשְׁפָּחָתָם	לְבֵיתָם
Of the children	of Judah	by their generations	after their families	by the house	
H1121	H3063	H8435	H4940	H1004	
מִמְּבֹרָתָם	אֲבָתָם	שְׁמָם תְּ	שְׁמָם תְּ	מִמְּבֹרָתָם	עָשָׂרִים
of their fathers	according to the number	of the names	of the names	Of the children	from twenty
H1	H4557	H8034	H1121	H6242	
שָׁנָה	כִּילְעָם	וְאַ	וְאַ	צְבָא	
years	and upward	H3605	all that were able to go forth	to war	
H8141	H4605	H3318		H6635	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 29:35 (Parallel theme): And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

2 Samuel 24:9 (Parallel theme): And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.