

Numbers 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Zebulun, were fifty and seven thousand and four hundred.

Analysis

Zebulun's 57,400 fighting men positioned it solidly in the middle of tribal sizes, with neither special prominence nor obvious weakness. This average status did not prevent the tribe from producing the judge Elon (Judges 12:11-12) and contributing significantly to Israel's military efforts. The biblical pattern consistently shows God using ordinary means and average resources to accomplish extraordinary purposes, undermining human pride and directing glory to Himself alone.

Historical Context

Zebulun's territory included valuable trade routes and productive land, contributing to the tribe's economic stability. The tribe remained loyal to David during Absalom's rebellion and provided substantial forces to make David king (1 Chronicles 12:33, 40).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Zebulun's faithful service despite average prominence challenge the modern obsession with being exceptional or outstanding?
2. What does this teach us about the value of faithful, steady service to God's kingdom regardless of recognition?

Interlinear Text

פְּקָדֵיהֶם	לַמִּטָּה	זְבוּלֹן	שִׁבְעָה
Those that were numbered	of them even of the tribe	of Zebulun	and seven
H6485	H4294	H2074	H7651
מֵאֲוֹת	וָאַרְבַּע	אֶלֶף	וְחֲמִשָּׁים
hundred	and four	thousand	were fifty
H3967	H702	H505	H2572

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:27 (Parallel theme): These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those that were numbered of them, threescore thousand and five hundred.