

Numbers 1:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Ephraim, were forty thousand and five hundred.

Analysis

Ephraim's 40,500 warriors represented the beginning of the tribe's rise to prominence in Israel's northern territories. The specific number demonstrates God's providential preparation of this tribe for leadership, despite human expectations based on birth order. The census serves not merely as administrative record-keeping but as evidence of God's sovereign orchestration of tribal strengths according to His redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

Ephraim's territory in the central highlands included Shiloh, where the tabernacle would rest for centuries, giving the tribe spiritual significance. The tribe's central location and religious importance contributed to its later political prominence.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's elevation of Ephraim according to His purposes rather than natural order challenge our tendency to rely on worldly advantages?

2. What does this teach us about God's sovereignty in determining who rises to prominence in His kingdom?

Interlinear Text

פְּקֻדֵּיהֶם	לַמִּטָּה	אֶפְרַיִם	אַרְבָּעִים
Those that were numbered	of them even of the tribe	of Ephraim	were forty
H6485	H4294	H669	H705
<hr/>			
מֵאֹת:	וְחֲמִשָּׁה	אֶלֶף	
thousand	and five	hundred	
H505	H2568	H3967	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:37 (Parallel theme): These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those that were numbered of them, thirty and two thousand and five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph after their families.