

Numbers 1:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Manasseh, 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

Manasseh's census, like Ephraim's, reflects Joseph's double portion through his sons. The tribe's division into eastern and western components (Numbers 32:33; Joshua 17:1-2) created unique circumstances, with half the tribe separated by the Jordan River. This geographic division would later prove problematic, illustrating the danger of fragmenting God's people. The unity of Christ's body must be jealously guarded, as division weakens witness and invites spiritual compromise.

Historical Context

Half of Manasseh settled east of the Jordan with Gad and Reuben (Numbers 32:33), while the other half received territory west of the Jordan in Canaan proper. This unusual arrangement created challenges for tribal cohesion and identity.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Manasseh's division across the Jordan River warn against allowing secondary matters to fragment God's people?
2. What does this teach us about the importance of maintaining unity in the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

מִבְּנֵי	מִנֶּשֶׁה	תּוֹלְדֹתָם	לְמִשְׁפַּחָתָם	לְבֵית
Of the children	of Manasseh	by their generations	after their families	by the house
H1121	H4519	H8435	H4940	H1004
אֲבוֹתָם	בְּמִסְפַּר	שֵׁם זֶה	מִבְּנֵי	עֶשְׂרִים
of their fathers	according to the number	of the names	Of the children	from twenty
H1	H4557	H8034	H1121	H6242
שָׁנָה	וְעַלֶּה	כָּל	יָצְאוּ	צָבָא:
years	and upward	all that were able to go forth	to war	
H8141	H4605	H3318	H6635	