

Numbers 1:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Benjamin, were thirty and five thousand and four hundred.

Analysis

Benjamin's 35,400 warriors made it one of the smaller tribes, yet this small size did not diminish its significance in God's purposes. The tribe that would produce King Saul, the apostle Paul, and remain faithful to Judah demonstrates that God's choice is not determined by human strength or numbers. This pattern repeats throughout Scripture: God chooses the weak to shame the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27), directing glory to Himself rather than human achievement.

Historical Context

Despite small numbers, Benjamin produced fierce warriors known for ambidextrous skill with slings and bows (Judges 20:16; 1 Chronicles 12:2). The tribe's fighting prowess exceeded its size, showing that God's blessing matters more than numerical strength.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Benjamin's combination of small size with significant impact challenge assumptions about what God requires to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does this teach us about the source of effectiveness in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

פְּקֻדֵּיהֶם	לְמִטֵּה	בְּנֵימִן	חֲמִשָּׁה
Those that were numbered	of them even of the tribe	of Benjamin	and five
H6485	H4294	H1144	H2568
וְשָׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	אַלְפֵי	וְאַרְבָּעַ עָ	מֵאוֹת:
were thirty	thousand	and four	hundred
H7970	H505	H702	H3967

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:41 (Parallel theme): These are the sons of Benjamin after their families: and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and six hundred.