

Numbers 1:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Asher's 41,500 warriors positioned it in the mid-range of tribal military strength. The tribe's later sparse appearance in biblical narrative reminds us that covenant blessing and inclusion do not guarantee prominence or recognition. Many faithful members of God's kingdom serve quietly without recognition, yet their service is no less valuable to God. This challenges the modern obsession with visibility and impact, reminding us that faithful stewardship matters more than public acclaim.

Historical Context

Despite fertile territory and prophesied abundance (Genesis 49:20), Asher features rarely in biblical history. The tribe's most notable mention comes with Anna the prophetess (Luke 2:36), demonstrating God's preservation of tribal identity even for less prominent tribes.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Asher's relative obscurity despite covenant status challenge the modern pursuit of significance and recognition?
2. What does this teach us about the value of faithful, quiet service to God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

פְּקֻדֵּיהֶם	לְמִטֵּה	אֲשֶׁר	אֶחָד	וְאַרְבָּעִים
Those that were numbered	of them even of the tribe	of Asher	and one	were forty
H6485	H4294	H836	H259	H705
מֵאֹת:	וְחֲמִשָּׁה	אֶלֶף		
thousand	and five	hundred		
H505	H2568	H3967		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:47 (Parallel theme): These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those that were numbered of them; who were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.