Numbers 1:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> These are those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers.

Analysis

The summary statement emphasizes Moses and Aaron's role in executing God's command, supported by the twelve tribal leaders. This hierarchical yet collaborative structure demonstrates biblical leadership principles: ultimate authority derives from God, primary leaders receive and communicate divine revelation, and secondary leaders assist in implementing God's purposes. This pattern appears throughout Scripture and reaches perfection in Christ's headship over the church, with pastors and elders assisting in shepherding God's people.

Historical Context

The twelve tribal leaders (one per tribe excluding Levi) formed Israel's primary administrative structure under Moses and Aaron. This system balanced centralized authority under Moses with distributed leadership across tribes, preventing both tyranny and anarchy.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's leadership structure inform biblical principles for church government today?
2. What does the collaboration between Moses, Aaron, and tribal leaders teach us about the balance between centralized authority and distributed leadership?

Interlinear Text

אֵ לֶּה	פָּקֻ ד	אֲשֶׁר
H428	These are those that were numbered	H834
	H6485	

פָּקֻ ד	מֹשֶׁ ה	וְאַהֲרֹן	וּנְשִׂיאֵ י
These are those that were numbered	which Moses	and Aaron	and the princes
H6485	H4872	H175	H5387

לְ יִשְׂרָאֵ ל	שְׁנֵ ים	עָשָׂ ר	אִ יש	אִישׁ	אֶחָ ד	לְבֵית
of Israel	H8147	being twelve	each	H582	one	was for the house
H3478		H6240	H376		H259	H1004

אֲבֹתָ יו	הָיוּ:
of his fathers	H1961
H1	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:64 (References Moses): But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.