

Numbers 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were fifty and nine thousand and three hundred.

Analysis

Simeon's census total (59,300) made it one of the larger tribes at this first census, yet by the second census they had plummeted to 22,200—a devastating 63% loss, the most dramatic decline of any tribe. This foreshadows the judgment Simeon would experience, likely due to prominent involvement in the Baal-Peor incident (Numbers 25). Size without faithfulness means nothing; God requires both blessing and obedience.

Historical Context

Simeon's dramatic population collapse between censuses warns that covenant status doesn't prevent divine judgment for persistent rebellion. The tribe's eventual absorption into Judah (Joshua 19:1-9) fulfilled Jacob's prophecy about scattering (Genesis 49:7).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Simeon's massive population loss warn against presuming on covenant status without corresponding faithfulness?
2. What does this teach us about the danger of prominent sin even within the covenant community?

Interlinear Text

וּצְבָא וְ	וּפְקֻדֵּיהֶם	תִּשְׁעָה	וְנִמְשׁ יֵם	אֶלְף
And his host	and those that were numbered	and nine	of them were fifty	thousand
H6635	H6485	H8672	H2572	H505
וּשְׁלֹשׁ	מֵאוֹת:			
and three	hundred			
H7969	H3967			

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