

Numbers 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank.

Analysis

The summary total for Reuben's division (151,450) made it the second-largest division, demonstrating substantial military strength despite the tribes' mixed spiritual histories. God's providential blessing continued even toward those whose futures were uncertain, showing His common grace extends to all while His special saving grace preserves a remnant. This pattern appears throughout Israel's history and continues in the church today.

Historical Context

Reuben's division marched second in Israel's procession, following Judah's division. This maintained military strength on the right flank while Judah led the advance, creating a strong forward force for Israel's travels.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing on Reuben's division despite mixed spiritual futures illustrate the distinction between common and special grace?
2. What does this teach us about God's kindness to all while His saving purposes focus on the elect remnant?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	בְּפִקְדֵּן	הַמִּצְבֵּחַ	רְאֹבֶן	מֵא	לֶבֶן
H3605	All that were numbered	in the camp	of Reuben	hundred	thousand
	H6485	H4264	H7205	H3967	H505
and one	and fifty	thousand	and four	hundred	and fifty
H259	H2572	H505	H702	H3967	H2572
לְצִבְאֹת	בְּשִׁנְיַם			יְשֻׁעָה	
throughout their armies	in the second rank			And they shall set forth	
H6635	H8145			H5265	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:18 (Parallel theme): And the standard of the camp of Reuben set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

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