

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 הַפְּקָדִים הַלְמֵחֵי הָאֹוֶבֶן מֵאֹת אֶלֶף
H3605 All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben hundred thousand
H6485 H4264 H7205 H3967 H505

וְאֶחָד וְחֲמִשָּׁה אֶלֶף וְאַרְבַּע מֵאֹת וְחֲמִשָּׁה
and one and fifty thousand and four hundred and fifty
H259 H2572 H505 H702 H3967 H2572

לְצִבְאוֹתָם וּשְׁנֵי הָעָוִי:
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.