

Numbers 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were forty thousand and five hundred.

Analysis

Ephraim's census total (40,500) made it smaller than Manasseh at this census, yet Jacob's prophecy elevated the younger above the elder (Genesis 48:19). This ongoing reversal pattern—younger superseding elder—points ultimately to Christ, the second Adam, superseding the first Adam. God's sovereign election operates independently of natural advantages, directing glory to His grace rather than human merit.

Historical Context

Ephraim's numerical inferiority to Manasseh at this census (40,500 vs. 32,200) would reverse by the second census, with Ephraim growing while Manasseh declined. This demographic shift reflected God's sovereign purposes in establishing Ephraim's eventual preeminence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Ephraim's eventual preeminence despite initial smaller size illustrate God's sovereignty in reversing natural expectations?
2. What does this pattern of younger superseding elder throughout Scripture teach us about salvation by grace rather than merit?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| וְצִבָּא וְ | וְפָקְדִים מִ | אֶרְבֶּעָם | אֶלָּא שִׁמְעָם |
| And his host | and those that were numbered | of them were forty | thousand |
| H6635 | H6485 | H705 | H505 |
| מֵאוֹת: | | | H2568 |

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