

Numbers 2:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Naphtali's census total (53,400) gave the tribe average military strength. Paired with later prominence in Jesus's ministry, this teaches that God's purposes don't require exceptional human resources. Average believers in average circumstances can become instruments of extraordinary divine purposes when God chooses to work through them. This democratic principle encourages all Christians toward faithful stewardship regardless of perceived advantages.

Historical Context

Naphtali proved consistently faithful in Israel's struggles, contributing to Deborah's victory (Judges 4-5) and David's coronation (1 Chronicles 12:34). The tribe's steady service, though often unheralded, exemplified sustainable faithfulness across generations.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Naphtali's average strength paired with significant role in redemptive history encourage 'average' believers toward faithful service?
2. What does this teach us about God's ability to accomplish extraordinary purposes through ordinary people?

Interlinear Text

וּצָבָא וְ	וּפְקֻדֵּיהֶם	שְׁלֹשָׁה	וְחֲמִשָּׁים	אֶלְפִּי
And his host	and those that were numbered	and three	of them were fifty	thousand
H6635	H6485	H7969	H2572	H505
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מֵאוֹת:	וְאַרְבָּעַ			
and four	hundred			
H702	H3967			

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