

Numbers 2:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

Analysis

The grand total (603,550) fulfills God's promise to Abraham of innumerable descendants 'as the stars of the heaven' (Genesis 15:5). From one man's faith grew a mighty nation in just four centuries, demonstrating God's power to multiply covenant blessings. This encourages faith that small beginnings—one believer, one family, one church—can grow mightily through God's blessing across generations.

Historical Context

This number represented only fighting-age males (20+), suggesting total population of 2-2.5 million including women, children, elderly, and Levites. Critics question whether the wilderness could support such numbers, but God's miraculous provision (manna, quail, water) sustained them for forty years.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the dramatic fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham encourage faith in His ability to fulfill seemingly impossible promises?
2. What does Israel's exponential growth teach us about God's power to multiply what we dedicate to Him?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	פְּקוּדֵי	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל			
H428	These are those which were numbered	of the children	of Israel			
	H6485	H1121	H3478			
לְבֵי יֵת	אֲבֹתָם	כָּל	פְּקוּדֵי			
by the house	of their fathers	H3605	These are those which were numbered			
H1004	H1		H6485			
הַמַּחֲנֵה	לְצִבְאוֹתָם	שֵׁשׁ	מֵאֹת	אֶלֶף	יָם	וּשְׁלֹשָׁת
of the camps	throughout their hosts	were six	hundred	thousand		and three
H4264	H6635	H8337	H3967	H505		H7969
יָם	וְחֲמֵשׁ	מֵאֹת	וְחֲמֵשִׁים			
thousand	and five	hundred	and fifty			
H505	H2568	H3967	H2572			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:46 (Parallel theme): Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

Exodus 38:26 (Parallel theme): A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.