

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

H428

These are those which were numbered

H6485

פָּנִים

בָּנִים

H1121

וְשָׁבָא לְ

H3478

בְּבֵית

H1004

אֲבֹתָם

H1

כָּל

H3605

פָּנִים

H6485

These are those which were numbered

by the house of their fathers

H1004

בְּמִצְחָנָה

H4264

לְצִבְאֹתָם

H6635

שָׁשׁ

H8337

מֵא

H3967

וּתְ

H505

אֶלְף

H7969

וְשָׁלְשָׁת

אֶלְף יָם

וְתִמְשִׁים: מֵא וּתְ

thousand

H505

and five

H2568

hundred

H3967

and fifty

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.