

Numbers 2:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

The exclusion of Levites from this military census (repeated from 1:47-49) emphasizes their distinct consecration to sacred service. Those set apart for tabernacle ministry didn't participate in warfare, illustrating the principle of specialized kingdom callings. While all Christians are spiritual warriors, some are called to specialized ministry requiring separation from certain activities. Pastoral ministry exemplifies this principle.

Historical Context

The Levites were counted separately by different criteria (all males from one month old, Numbers 3:15), producing a total of 22,000. This separate enumeration maintained their distinct status as those consecrated for tabernacle service rather than military duty.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Levi's exemption from military service to focus on tabernacle duties illustrate the principle of specialized callings in kingdom work?
2. What does this teach us about respecting different roles and callings within the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁרָא לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יָבֹל לְיִם					
But the Levites	H3808	were not numbered	among	the children	of Israel
H3881		H6485	H8432	H1121	H3478

מֹשֶׁה אָתָה יְהוָה צְדָקָה כִּי כִּי רְאֵשׁ					
H834	commanded	as the LORD	H853	Moses	
	H6680	H3068		H4872	

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