

Numbers 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his host, and those that were numbered of them, were threescore and fourteen thousand and six hundred.

Analysis

The specific census figure for Judah (74,600) represents God's precise knowledge and sovereign provision of strength for the tribe destined to lead Israel and produce the Messiah. Numbers in Scripture often carry theological significance beyond mere enumeration, and Judah's numerical superiority demonstrates God's providential preparation of the means necessary for His redemptive purposes. The abundance of fighting men from Judah foreshadowed the spiritual army Christ would gather from all nations.

Historical Context

Judah maintained its position as the largest or second-largest tribe throughout the wilderness period, providing military leadership in the conquest of Canaan. This strength enabled Judah to secure its inheritance and eventually become the dominant tribe in Israel.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of numerical strength for Judah demonstrate His principle of equipping those He calls?
2. What does Judah's military leadership prefigure about Christ's role as commander of the spiritual forces fighting against evil?

Interlinear Text

אֶרְבֶּעָה הַזְׁבָּחַ וְאֶצְבָּא וְ

And his host and those that were numbered of them were threescore and fourteen

H6635

H6485

H702

מֵאוֹת: וְשָׁשׁ אֶלָף וְשָׁבָע ימָ

thousand and six hundred

H7657

H505

H8337

H3967

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