

Numbers 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth.

Analysis

The summary total for Judah's division (186,400) made it the largest of the four divisions, befitting the royal tribe's leadership role. This numerical superiority wasn't accidental but reflected God's providential preparation of the messianic line. The principle extends to Christ's church: God provides whatever resources His purposes require, whether numerical strength, spiritual gifts, or material provision.

Historical Context

Judah's division (Judah, Issachar, Zebulun) would lead Israel's marches throughout the wilderness period, setting the pace and direction for the entire nation. This early leadership foreshadowed Judah's later political dominance culminating in the Davidic dynasty.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of numerical strength for Judah's division illustrate His faithfulness to equip His people for their assigned tasks?
2. What does Judah's division leading Israel's marches prefigure about Christ leading His people through their wilderness journey?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	H3605	All that were numbered	H6485	בַּפְּקָדָה	H4264	וְנִמְנָה	H3063	הַיְהוּדָה	H3967	מֵא	H505	אֶלָף	H505	יָמִם	H3967	וְתַהֲוָה	H702	לְמִתְנָה	H8337	הַיּוֹם	H505	וְשָׁמְנָה	H3967	יָמִם					
and fourscore	H8084	thousand	H505	and six	H8337	thousand	H505	and four	H702	hundred	H3967	and	H3967	four	H3967	hundred	H3967	set forth	H5265	These shall first	H7223	throughout their armies	H6635	لְצִבְאֹת	H6635	הָרָאשָׁן	H7223	עַל	H5265

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:14 (Parallel theme): In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah according to their armies: and over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.