

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 הַפָּקָדִים לַמַּחֲנֶה הַיְּהוּדִי מֵאֹת אֶלֶף
H3605 All that were numbered in the camp of Judah hundred thousand
H6485 H4264 H3063 H3967 H505

וּשְׁמֹנֶה אֶלֶף וּשְׁשָׁתִּים אֶלֶף וָאַרְבַּע מֵאֹת
and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred
H8084 H505 H8337 H505 H702 H3967

לְצִבְאוֹתָם רִאשֹׁנִים יִסְעוּ:
throughout their armies These shall first set forth
H6635 H7223 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.