

Numbers 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sons of Simeon after their families: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites: of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites: of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites:

Analysis

The sons of Simeon after their families (בְּנֵי שִׁמְעוֹן לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם)—the census proceeds to Simeon, Jacob's second son. The enumeration **of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites** follows the same pattern as Reuben's listing. Nemuel (also called Jemuel in Genesis 46:10) heads the Simeonite clans alongside Jamin and Jachin.

Simeon's tribal fortunes had been cursed by Jacob for violence at Shechem (Genesis 34, 49:5-7): **I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.** The second census reveals dramatic fulfillment—Simeon suffers the largest numerical decline of any tribe, dropping from 59,300 (Numbers 1:23) to 22,200 (Numbers 26:14), a staggering loss of 37,100 men. This 63% decrease likely reflects divine judgment, possibly connected to the Baal-Peor incident involving Simeonite prince Zimri (Numbers 25:6-14).

Historical Context

Simeon's tribal territory became enclaved within Judah's inheritance (Joshua 19:1-9), fulfilling Jacob's prophecy of scattering. The tribe eventually lost distinct identity, being absorbed into Judah. The Simeonite prince Zimri's sin with a Midianite woman (Numbers 25) triggered a plague that killed 24,000—many likely from Simeon's tribe, explaining the census decrease.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Simeon's dramatic numerical decline illustrate the long-term consequences of generational sin and divine discipline?
2. What does the fulfillment of Jacob's 400-year-old curse teach about God's prophetic word and justice?
3. In what ways can corporate sin (like Zimri's action) bring judgment on an entire community?

Interlinear Text

לְנָמוֹאָה לְמַשְׁפֵּט חַת שְׁמַעוֹן בָּנָיו
The sons of Simeon after their families of Nemuel after their families
H1121 H8095 H4940 H5241 H4940

לְנִימָן יְנִימָן יְנִימָן יְנִימָן יְנִימָן יְנִימָן
of the Nemuelites of Jamin after their families of the Jaminites of Jachin
H5242 H3226 H4940 H3228 H3199

תְּכִינִים מַשְׁפֵּט חַת
after their families of the Jachinites
H4940 H3200

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 4:24 (Parallel theme): The sons of Simeon were, Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul:

Exodus 6:15 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman: these are the families of Simeon.

Genesis 46:10 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.

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