

# Numbers 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of the children of Gad according to those that were numbered of them, forty thousand and five hundred.

## Analysis

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**Forty thousand and five hundred** (אַרְבָּעִים אֶלֶף וַחֲמִשָּׁה מֵאוֹת)—Gad's census total shows a dramatic decrease of 5,150 men from the first census (45,650 in Numbers 1:25). This decline likely resulted from plague judgments during the wilderness rebellions, particularly Korah's rebellion (ch. 16) and Baal-Peor's immorality (ch. 25). Only Simeon suffered a larger percentage loss.

The phrase **according to those that were numbered** (le-pheqūdehem) emphasizes precision—this wasn't estimation but exact military registry of males twenty years and older. Despite population decline, Gad still fielded a substantial army, demonstrating that God's purposes don't depend on numerical superiority (cf. Gideon's 300).

## Historical Context

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This census occurred approximately 38 years after the first (Numbers 1), measuring the second generation who would conquer Canaan. The population decline served as sobering testimony to divine judgment—those who rebelled at Kadesh-Barnea died in the wilderness. Only Caleb and Joshua survived from the first generation of fighting men.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does Gad's population decline teach about the consequences of covenant unfaithfulness and corporate sin?
2. How does God's continued use of Gad despite their reduced numbers demonstrate that faithfulness matters more than strength?
3. In what ways do census numbers in Scripture serve both practical (land distribution) and theological (judgment/blessing) purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלֶּה	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	בְּנֵי	גָד	
H428	<b>These are the families</b>	<b>of the children</b>	<b>of Gad</b>	
	H4940	H1121	H1410	
לְפִקְדֵיהֶם	אַרְבָּעִים	אֶלֶף	וְחָמֵשׁ	מֵאוֹת:
<b>according to those that were numbered</b>	<b>of them forty</b>	<b>thousand</b>	<b>and five</b>	<b>hundred</b>
H6485	H705	H505	H2568	H3967

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