

# Numbers 26:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of Issachar according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and four thousand and three hundred.

## Analysis

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**Threescore and four thousand and three hundred** (64,300)—Issachar's census shows an increase of 9,900 men from the first census (54,400 in Numbers 1:29), the largest percentage growth of any tribe except Manasseh. This dramatic expansion (18% growth) demonstrates divine blessing on a tribe characterized by wisdom and agricultural productivity. The Hebrew counting arba'ah ve-shishim eleph (sixty-four thousand) reflects substantial growth during the wilderness generation.

Issachar's population boom amid Israel's overall decline suggests that those who 'had understanding of the times' (1 Chronicles 12:32) avoided the rebellions that decimated other tribes. Their increase positions them as the fifth-largest tribe, strong enough to hold the strategic Jezreel Valley against Canaanite resistance.

## Historical Context

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Issachar's growth during the wilderness period (c. 1446-1406 BC) prepared them to conquer and settle the agriculturally rich but militarily contested Jezreel Valley. Their numerical strength enabled them to subdue Canaanite strongholds like Megiddo and Taanach, though some cities proved difficult to conquer (Judges 1:27). The tribe's increase fulfilled God's Exodus promise to multiply Israel.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Issachar's exceptional population growth correlate with their reputation for wisdom and discernment, and what does this teach about the blessing of godly understanding?
2. What does the contrast between Issachar's 18% growth and tribes that declined teach about the consequences of covenant faithfulness versus rebellion?
3. In what ways does Issachar's fruitfulness in the wilderness picture the spiritual fruitfulness available to believers who walk in wisdom despite hostile environments?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלֶּה	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	יִשָּׁשכָר	לְפִקְדֵיהֶם	
H428	These are the families	of Issachar	according to those that were numbered	
	H4940	H3485	H6485	
וְאַרְבָּעָה	וּשְׁשִׁים	אֶלֶף	וּשְׁלֹשָׁה	מֵאוֹת:
and four	of them threescore	thousand	and three	hundred
H702	H8346	H505	H7969	H3967

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