

# Numbers 26:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those that were numbered of them, threescore thousand and five hundred.

## Analysis

**Threescore thousand and five hundred** (60,500)—Zebulun's census reveals an increase of 3,100 men from the first census (57,400 in Numbers 1:31), placing them as the sixth-largest tribe. This 5.4% growth demonstrates covenant blessing despite the wilderness rebellions that decimated other tribes. The round number (60,500) may reflect the precision of military organization—each clan subdivided into hundreds and fifties (Exodus 18:21).

Zebulun's moderate size suited their strategic role bridging Galilee's interior and coast. Unlike dominant tribes (Judah, Dan, or Ephraim), Zebulun never pursued political preeminence, yet their faithfulness earned them prophetic honor—Isaiah 9:1-2 prophesies Messiah's light shining on 'Zebulun and Naphtali,' fulfilled when Jesus began His Galilean ministry (Matthew 4:13-16).

## Historical Context

This census positioned Zebulun for the conquest of Lower Galilee (c. 1406 BC). Their 60,500 fighting men successfully subdued Canaanite strongholds in their allotment. Seven centuries later, Zebulun's territory became the primary location of Jesus's public ministry—the Messiah dwelt among them at Capernaum, and they were first to see 'great light' (Matthew 4:16).

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Zebulun's consistent population growth without political ambition model humble faithfulness that receives greater honor than self-promotion?
2. What does God's choice of Zebulun's territory for the Messiah's primary ministry teach about the honor given to faithful, 'ordinary' servants?
3. In what ways does Zebulun's commercial prosperity combined with military strength provide a model for Christians engaging both economic and spiritual warfare?

## Interlinear Text

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H428

These are the families of the Zebulunites

H4940

H2075

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according to those that were numbered of them threescore thousand and five

H6485

H8346

H505

H2568

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hundred

H3967