

Numbers 26:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,

Analysis

Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab (עַרְבָּת מִזְרָחָה)—this second census occurs at the end of Israel's wilderness journey, nearly 40 years after the first census at Sinai (Numbers 1). The location **by Jordan near Jericho** places Israel on the threshold of conquest, poised to enter Canaan.

The census leadership transitions from Moses and Aaron (first census) to Moses and Eleazar—Aaron's son now serves as high priest after Aaron's death (Numbers 20:28). This generational shift mirrors the broader theme: the census counts a new generation born in the wilderness, for the original generation died under judgment (Numbers 14:29-35). The census prepares this new generation for conquest and land distribution.

Historical Context

The plains of Moab (east of the Jordan River, opposite Jericho) served as Israel's staging ground for the conquest of Canaan. Moses conducted the second census here in approximately 1406 BC, 38 years after the first census and just before his death. Eleazar had succeeded Aaron as high priest earlier that same year.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to raise up a new generation after the first generation's failure demonstrate His covenant commitment?
2. What transitions in your life mark the passage from old patterns of unbelief to new seasons of obedience?
3. How does the census's focus on military-age men 'from twenty years old and upward' reveal God's preparation for spiritual warfare in your own life?

Interlinear Text

רִידָבֶר	וַיַּדְבֵּר	אֶל-עֵזֶר	מֶשֶׁה	בְּכָה	אֶת-ם	בְּעָרֶב
spake	And Moses	and Eleazar	the priest		H854	with them in the plains
H1696	H4872	H499	H3548			H6160
בְּמוֹאָב	עַל	יְרֵחֹן	יְרֵחֹה	לְאָמַר:		
of Moab	H5921	by Jordan	near Jericho	saying		
H4124	H3383	H3405	H559			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 22:1 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.

Numbers 33:48 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the mountains of Abarim, and pitched in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.

Numbers 35:1 (References Moses): And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,

Numbers 26:63 (References Moses): These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.

