

Numbers 26:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of Manasseh, and those that were numbered of them, fifty and two thousand and seven hundred.

Analysis

These are the families of Manasseh, and those that were numbered of them, fifty and two thousand and seven hundred (דְּמִשִּׁים וּשְׁנַיִם אֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת)—Manasseh's census total of 52,700 represented a dramatic 64% increase from the first census (32,200 in Numbers 1:35), the largest growth of any tribe. This explosion vindicated Jacob's prophecy that Joseph's descendants would become 'a multitude' (Genesis 48:19).

The increase occurred despite 38 years of wilderness judgment, showing God's blessing transcends circumstances. While Ephraim decreased from 40,500 to 32,500, Manasseh surged—the younger remained greater in numbers but the elder grew in percentage terms. This growth prepared them for inheriting the largest territorial allotment, spanning both Transjordan and Cisjordan (Joshua 17:1-13). Fruitfulness proves calling; their numbers matched their geographical destiny.

Historical Context

Manasseh's growth from smallest of Joseph's tribes to largest reflects God's sovereignty in population dynamics. Their dual inheritance—Transjordan under Moses, western territory under Joshua—required larger numbers. The eastern half-tribe served as buffer against Aramean and Ammonite threats, while the western half controlled strategic valleys.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Manasseh's extraordinary growth despite wilderness wandering demonstrate that God's blessing operates even in seasons of corporate discipline?
2. What does the reversal between Ephraim and Manasseh's relative sizes teach about not presuming that early advantage guarantees continued prominence?
3. How might we discern God's calling for our ministries by observing where He grants 'increase' despite difficult circumstances?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	מְנַשֶּׁה	וּפְקֵי דִיָּהֶם	שְׁנַיִם
H428	These are the families	of Manasseh	and those that were numbered	and two
	H4940	H4519	H6485	H8147
וְנִמְשָׁם יֵם	אֶלֶף	וּשְׁבַע ע	מֵאוֹת:	
of them fifty	thousand	and seven	hundred	
H2572	H505	H7651	H3967	