

Numbers 26:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those that were numbered of them, were threescore and four thousand and four hundred.

Analysis

Threescore and four thousand and four hundred (64,400)—the second-largest tribe in Israel, exceeded only by Judah's 76,500. Dan's remarkable size came from a single family, while most tribes had multiple clans. This disproportionate growth pattern reveals God's sovereign distribution of increase; He doesn't multiply uniformly but according to His purposes.

The Hebrew construction emphasizes exactness: שְׁשִׁים אַרְבָּעָה אֲלֵף (sixty-four thousand). These weren't estimates—God knows His own precisely. Every Danite warrior counted, every family registered, every inheritance calculated. Divine order requires specific knowledge, not approximation.

Historical Context

Dan's 64,400 represented an increase from 62,700 in the first census (Numbers 1:39)—a 2.7% growth. By comparison, some tribes declined drastically (Simeon lost 62.6%). Dan's modest but consistent growth over 38 wilderness years demonstrated steady faithfulness despite judgment on the nation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why would God allow one single-clan tribe to become larger than multi-clan tribes? What does this reveal about His sovereignty?
2. How does God's exact knowledge of each Danite encourage you that He knows and values each believer individually?
3. What spiritual principle governs why some ministries or churches grow while others decline, even in the same environment?

Interlinear Text

כָּל מִשְׁפַּחַת הַשֻּׁחַמִּים לְפִקְדֵיהֶם
H3605 All the families of the Shuhamites according to those that were numbered
H4940 H7749 H6485

מֵאוֹת: וָאַרְבַּע אֶלֶף וָשָׁשִׁים וָאַרְבַּע
and four of them were threescore thousand and four hundred
H702 H8346 H505 H702 H3967

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