

Numbers 26:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those that were numbered of them; who were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

Analysis

Fifty and three thousand and four hundred (53,400)—Asher's tribe increased from 41,500 in the first census (Numbers 1:41), a 28.7% growth rate, the third-highest in Israel. A "happy" tribe indeed: Asher's blessing materialized in multiplication. While Simeon nearly vanished and Ephraim declined, Asher thrived in the wilderness.

The growth pattern reveals spiritual fruitfulness (פְּרֹה): those who maintain covenant faithfulness multiply even in desert seasons. Asher's name means "blessed/happy," and God demonstrated the blessing tangibly. Abstract concepts become concrete numbers—53,400 warriors ready for conquest. Faith without works is dead; blessing without increase is questionable.

Historical Context

Asher's 11,900-person increase over 38 years occurred despite plagues, rebellions, and judgments that killed most of the older generation. Their growth rate (28.7%) far exceeded population sustainability, suggesting divine multiplication. This tribe would later occupy Galilee's richest agricultural region.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why did Asher increase 28.7% while Simeon decreased 62.6% in the same wilderness conditions? What spiritual factors determine fruitfulness?
2. How does Asher's growth demonstrate that God's blessings are not merely spiritual platitudes but concrete, measurable realities?
3. In what areas of your life should spiritual 'happiness/blessing' produce tangible, countable results?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	בְּנֵי	אֲשֵׁר	
H428	These are the families	of the sons	of Asher	
	H4940	H1121	H836	
	לְפִקְדֵיהֶם	שְׁלֹשׁ	וַחֲמִשָּׁים	אֶלְפִּי
	according to those that were numbered	and three	of them who were fifty	thousand
	H6485	H7969	H2572	H505
וְאַרְבָּע	מֵאוֹת:			
and four	hundred			
H702	H3967			

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