

Numbers 26:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To many thou shalt give the more inheritance, and to few thou shalt give the less inheritance: to every one shall his inheritance be given according to those that were numbered of him.

Analysis

The repeated emphasis on proportional distribution—"according to those that were numbered of him shall his inheritance be given"—demonstrates that God's allocation is based on actual circumstances, not arbitrary preference. The census provided objective data for fair distribution. This teaches that God's providence operates through means, not apart from them. The Reformed doctrine of divine concurrence—God works through natural processes while sovereignly directing outcomes—is illustrated. The lot determined location; the census determined size.

Historical Context

The specific verse numbers from the census determined exactly how much land each tribe received. This objective standard prevented favoritism and provided transparent, verifiable justice. Future disputes could be resolved by reference to the census and lot, not by subjective claims or political maneuvering.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of means (census and lot) teach about providence working through natural processes?
2. What does objective standard-setting prevent in terms of favoritism and corruption?
3. In what ways should church decisions be based on transparent, verifiable information?

Interlinear Text

לֹא בְ	תְּרַבֵּה	נְסָלָתָן	וְלֹא מֵעַט	תְּמַנֵּעַ יְהֹוָה
To many	thou shalt give the more	inheritance	and to few	thou shalt give the less
H7227	H7235	H5159	H4592	H4591
נְסָלָתָן	אֵשׁ	לֹפֶת	פָּקַד יְהֹוָה	וְתַּמְנַע
inheritance	to every one	according	to those that were numbered	be given
H5159	H376	H6310	H6485	H5414
נְסָלָתָן:				
inheritance				
H5159				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 33:54 (Parallel theme): And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.