

Numbers 26:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the families of the Levites: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korathites. And Kohath begat Amram.

Analysis

The family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites—these are sub-clans of the three main divisions, showing detailed organization. Libnites (לִבְנִי, "white/pure") handled tabernacle purification; Hebronites (חֶבְרוֹן, "association/fellowship") maintained community. The Mushites (מוֹשִׁי, possibly "drawn out," like Moses) and Korathites (not identical to Korah's rebels, but from Kohath) each had specific duties.

And Kohath begat Amram (קָרְתָּה הָלִיד אַתְּ עַמְּקָם)—suddenly the genealogy focuses. Why? Because Amram's children were Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. The census transitions from tribal demographics to salvation history. Kohath's son fathered Israel's deliverer and high priest. Every family tree contains potential world-changers.

Historical Context

The Kohathites carried the ark and holy vessels (Numbers 4:15). From this clan of ark-bearers came the man who spoke with God face-to-face (Moses) and the man who entered the Holy of Holies (Aaron). Function and lineage converged: those who carried holy things produced holy leaders.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does the census shift from listing families to highlighting Amram's lineage? What does this reveal about God's purposes in genealogies?
2. How does the Kohathites' role carrying holy things prepare them to produce Israel's holiest leaders?
3. What 'world-changers' might God be preparing in your family line that won't be revealed for generations?

Interlinear Text

פָּلְבִּנִּים מִשְׁפְּחָתִים לְיִהְוָה אֵת H428 These are the families of the Levites H4940 H3881 These are the families of the Libnites H4940 H3846

מִשְׁפְּחָתִים בְּנֵי קְרָבָרִים מִשְׁפְּחָתִים בְּנֵי מַהְלִים H4940 H2276 H4940 H4250 These are the families of the Hebronites These are the families of the Mahlites

מִשְׁפְּחָתִים בְּנֵי מָשָׁשׁ אֶת בְּנֵי קְרָתִים H4940 H4188 H4940 H7145 These are the families of the Mushites These are the families of the Korathites

וְקֹהַת הַזָּל בְּגַת אֶת עַמְּרָם H6955 H3205 H853 H6019 And Kohath begat Amram