

Numbers 26:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And those that were numbered of them were twenty and three thousand, all males from a month old and upward: for they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Israel.

Analysis

Twenty and three thousand, all males from a month old and upward—unlike other tribes (numbering warriors 20+), Levites counted infants. Why? Because Levites replaced Israel's firstborn (Numbers 3:11-13), and firstborn status begins at one month. The count of 23,000 compares to 22,000 in the first census (Numbers 3:39), a modest increase reflecting high infant mortality and wilderness judgments.

For they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them—Levites' exclusion from land inheritance meant exclusion from military census. They received 48 cities and tithes instead. Their "portion" was YHWH Himself (Numbers 18:20). Material landlessness purchased spiritual riches—they owned God. Better homeless with God than landed without Him.

Historical Context

The Levitical tithe system (Numbers 18:21-24) supported these 23,000. Israel's other tribes gave 10% of produce to sustain those who served the tabernacle full-

time. This census justified the tithe: 23,000 Levites served 600,000+ Israelites—roughly 1 minister per 26 families. Modern church staff ratios are similar.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why did God count Levites from infancy rather than military age? What does this reveal about viewing people as servants rather than warriors?
2. How does the Levites' landlessness but divine inheritance challenge modern Christianity's pursuit of material security?
3. What would it mean for your spiritual identity if 'the LORD is my inheritance' were literally true, with no backup plan?

Interlinear Text

וְהֵי ו	הַתִּפְקֹד ו	שְׁלֹשׁ ה	וְעֶשְׂרִים	אֶלֶף			
H1961	And those that were numbered	and three	of them were twenty	thousand			
	H6485	H7969	H6242	H505			
כָּל	זָכָר	בֶּן י	חֹדֶשׁ	וּמֵעַלָּה	כִּי	לֹא	
H3605	all males	old	from a month	and upward	H3588	H3808	
	H2145	H1121	H2320	H4605			
	וְהַתִּפְקֹד ו	בֵּת וְ	בֶּן י	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	כִּי	לֹא	נָתַן
	And those that were numbered	among	old	of Israel	H3588	H3808	given
	H6485	H8432	H1121	H3478			H5414
לָהֶם	בְּחֵל ה	בֵּת וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	כִּי	לֹא	נָתַן	
H1992	because there was no inheritance	among	old	of Israel			
	H5159	H8432	H1121	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:9 (Parallel theme): Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

Numbers 1:49 (References Israel): Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

Numbers 3:39 (Parallel theme): All that were numbered of the Levites, which Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, throughout their families, all the males from a month old and upward, were twenty and two thousand.

Joshua 13:14 (References Israel): Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.

Joshua 13:33 (References Israel): But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them.

Joshua 14:3 (Parallel theme): For Moses had given the inheritance of two tribes and an half tribe on the other side Jordan: but unto the Levites he gave none inheritance among them.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org