

Numbers 26:63

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.

Analysis

These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest—the census concludes with the counters named. Moses, now 120, began the wilderness journey by counting Israel with Aaron (Numbers 1:3). Aaron died (Numbers 20:28); Eleazar replaced him. Generational transition affects even census takers. The baton passes, but the counting continues.

Who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho—geography matters. Forty years earlier, they were numbered at Sinai, pre-wandering. Now they're at Moab, pre-conquest. Same nation, different generation, different location. The census frames the wilderness period: it began with a count at Sinai, ends with a count at Moab. Between the two censuses: rebellion, judgment, death, but also God's faithfulness to preserve a remnant for His purposes.

Historical Context

The plains of Moab opposite Jericho was Israel's staging ground for conquest. From these plains, they would cross Jordan, circle Jericho, and begin taking the land. This census numbered the army that would conquer—not the army that refused at Kadesh-Barnea. The new generation finally did what the old generation wouldn't.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What significance does the shift from Moses-and-Aaron to Moses-and-Eleazar have for understanding generational transitions in leadership?
2. How do the two census locations (Sinai and Moab) frame the wilderness period and demonstrate movement from law-giving to land-taking?
3. What does God accomplish in the 'between' times—the 38 years between censuses—that prepares His people for the next assignment?

Interlinear Text

כֶּה | וְאֶלְעָזָר מֶשֶׁה בְּפַקְדֵּן | אֲלֵהֶם | These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest | H428 H6485 H4872 H499 H3548

וְאַשְׁר	פֶּקְדֵּן	אֶת	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל
H834	These are they that were numbered	H853	the children	of Israel

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