

Numbers 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

Analysis

Moses' obedience in numbering the Levites 'according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded' demonstrates faithful execution of divine commands even in seemingly mundane administrative tasks. Faithful stewardship appears not only in spectacular acts of faith but in careful obedience to detailed instructions. This challenges the modern tendency to dichotomize 'spiritual' and 'practical' work—for God's servants, all obedience is spiritual service.

Historical Context

The census results (recorded in Numbers 3:17-39) provided the foundation for organizing Levitical service, with each clan assigned specific tabernacle components to transport and maintain. This administrative work enabled Israel's worship, demonstrating that practical service facilitates spiritual purposes.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' careful obedience in administrative tasks challenge false distinctions between 'spiritual' and 'practical' work?
2. What does this teach us about the importance of faithful execution of detailed responsibilities in church ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְנַumerated	H853	וְאַתָּה	H4872	מִשְׁנָה	H5921	עַל	H6310	גַּם	H3068	יְהִי הָ
H6485			H4872							

כִּי	H834	צִוָּה	H6680
		as he was commanded	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 4:37 (Word): These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 3:39 (Word): 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.