

Numbers 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Merari by their families; Mahli, and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to the house of their fathers.

Analysis

The naming of Merari's sons completes the Levitical genealogical record, demonstrating that God's care extends to the seemingly least prominent. The Merarites transported the tabernacle's structural framework—boards, bars, pillars, and sockets (Numbers 3:36-37)—the heavy, foundational components. This illustrates that kingdom work includes both spectacular and mundane tasks, with the structural support work being as necessary as the more visible responsibilities.

Historical Context

The Merarites descended from Levi's third son Merari (Exodus 6:19). They camped on the north side of the tabernacle (Numbers 3:35) and handled the heavy structural components, receiving wagons and oxen to assist their work (Numbers 7:8) unlike the Kohathites who carried the holy furnishings on their shoulders.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the Merarites' structural support work illustrate that kingdom service includes necessary but less visible responsibilities?
2. What does this teach us about valuing the foundational support work that enables more visible ministries to function?

Interlinear Text

וּבָנָיו	מִשְׁפָחָת	מִרְכָּבָה	מִתְמָלֵא	וּמִוּשָׁבָה	אֵלָה	כִּי
And the sons	of Merari	by their families	Mahli	and Mushi	H428	These are
H1121	H4847	H4940	H4249	H4187		H1992
בְּלֹויִם	לְבִית	אֲבָתָם:	מִשְׁפָחָת	לְבִתְמָלֵא	וּבָנָיו	
by their families	of the Levites	according to the house	of their fathers			
H4940	H3881	H1004	H1			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:19 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Merari; Mahali and Mushi: these are the families of Levi according to their generations.

1 Chronicles 6:19 (Parallel theme): The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. And these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers.

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