

Numbers 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Gershon was the family of the Libnites, and the family of the Shimites: these are the families of the Gershonites.

Analysis

The enumeration of Gershonite families continues the systematic organization of Levitical service, demonstrating that God's order extends to the most detailed levels. No family was overlooked or assigned haphazardly; each received specific responsibilities contributing to the whole. This comprehensive organization reflects the New Testament principle that the body of Christ has many members, each with assigned functions, all necessary for the body to function properly (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Historical Context

The Libnites and Shimites (also called Shimeites) were the two families descended from Gershon through his sons Libni and Shimei. Together these families numbered 7,500 males from one month old and upward (Numbers 3:22).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed organization of Gershonite families illustrate that God assigns specific responsibilities even within larger service groups?
2. What does this teach us about the importance of each member knowing and faithfully executing their assigned role in the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

אֶלָּה הַשְׁמָעֵוּ מִשְׁפָּחָת לְגַדְעָן וְ

Of Gershon and the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimites H428

H1648

H4940

H3846

H4940

H8097

מִשְׁפָּחָת הַגִּשְׁׂׂנִי

and the family of the Gershonites

H1992

H4940

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