

Numbers 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Kohath was the family of the Amramites, and the family of the Izeharites, and the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites: these are the families of the Kohathites.

Analysis

This verse identifies the Kohathite clan descended from Kohath, one of Levi's three sons. The Hebrew mishpachot (families/clans) emphasizes tribal organization under divine order. The Kohathites received the most sacred duty—caring for the holy things of the tabernacle—demonstrating God's sovereign distribution of service roles. This principle applies to New Testament ministry gifts, where God appoints each member according to His purpose (1 Corinthians 12:18). The specific naming of clans shows God's attention to detail in organizing worship.

Historical Context

The Levitical census occurred in the wilderness of Sinai during the second year after the Exodus (Numbers 1:1). The three Levite clans—Gershonites, Kohathites, and Merahlites—descended from Levi's sons, creating a structured priesthood to serve approximately 600,000 fighting men plus women and children.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign assignment of service roles encourage you in your specific calling?
2. What does the careful organization of tabernacle service teach about corporate worship?
3. How should we view church service as sacred duty rather than mere volunteerism?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| וְלִקְהָתַּת | מִשְׁפַּחַת | הָעֲמִרָמִי | מִשְׁפַּחַת | הִזְהָרִי | |
| And of Kohath | and the family | of the Amramites | and the family | of the Izeharites | |
| H6955 | H4940 | H6020 | H4940 | H3325 | |
| מִשְׁפַּחַת | הֶחֱבֹרֹנִי | מִשְׁפַּחַת | הָעֲזִיזִילִי | הֵם | אֵלֶּה |
| and the family | of the Hebronites | and the family | of the Uzzielites | | |
| H4940 | H2276 | H4940 | H5817 | H428 | H1992 |
| מִשְׁפַּחַת | הַקֹּהֲתִי | | | | |
| and the family | of the Kohathites | | | | |
| H4940 | H6956 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 26:23 (Parallel theme): Of the Amramites, and the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites: