

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 Merahrites—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

וְلִקְפָּת	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	פָּאָבָר
And of Kohath	and the family	of the Amramites	and the family	of the Izharites		
H6955	H4940	H6020	H4940	H3325		
וְלִקְפָּת	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	פָּאָבָר
and the family	of the Hebronites	and the family	of the Uzzielites			
H4940	H2276	H4940	H5817			
וְלִקְפָּת	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	תְּמִשְׁפָּחָה	פָּאָבָר
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: