

Numbers 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, were eight thousand and six hundred, keeping the charge of the sanctuary.

Analysis

The enumeration of 8,600 Kohathite males from one month old demonstrates that consecration to God's service begins from infancy, not from personal choice or maturity. This pictures covenant theology—God sets apart His elect before they can choose Him, as He knew Jeremiah before formation in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). The substantial size of this clan shows God's provision of sufficient workers for sacred duties. The charge of the sanctuary emphasizes that the Kohathites bore responsibility for the most holy objects.

Historical Context

Males were counted from one month old because infant mortality was high in ancient times, and this age marked survival likelihood. The Kohathites would later produce prominent figures including Samuel the prophet, Heman the singer, and the sons of Korah who wrote Psalms 42-49, 84-85, 87-88.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does being set apart for God from birth shape our understanding of Christian identity?
2. What responsibilities come with being entrusted with sacred things?
3. How does God's sovereignty in calling precede our ability to respond?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִסְפָּר	כָּל	זָכָר	מִבֶּן	חֹדֶשׁ	וְעַלֶּה	שְׁמֹנֶת
In the number	H3605	of all the males	old	from a month	and upward	were eight
H4557		H2145	H1121	H2320	H4605	H8083
אֲלָפִים	וּשְׁשִׁים	מֵאֹת	שָׁמַר	מִשְׁמֶרֶת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ:	
thousand	and six	hundred	keeping	the charge	of the sanctuary	
H505	H8337	H3967	H8104	H4931	H6944	

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