

Numbers 3:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle southward.

Analysis

The Kohathites encamped on the south side of the tabernacle, positioning them for immediate access to the holy furnishings they would transport. This strategic placement reflects divine wisdom in organizing worship logistics. The Hebrew *teyman* (southward) positioned them near the altar and laver. God orders His people not randomly but with purpose—proximity to sacred objects required those who understood their holiness. This foreshadows how elders must be positioned near spiritual truth to guard and teach it (Titus 1:9).

Historical Context

The tabernacle arrangement formed a hollow square with the twelve tribes positioned around it. The Levite clans formed an inner square directly around the tabernacle, serving as mediators between God's holy presence and the people. This arrangement could span several miles given the size of the encampment.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does your spiritual position affect your service capacity?
2. What does it mean to be strategically placed by God for His purposes?
3. How should proximity to sacred things shape our reverence?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁפְּחֹת	בְּנֵי	קֹהַת	יָחִנוּ	עַל	יָרֵךְ
The families	of the sons	of Kohath	shall pitch	H5921	on the side
H4940	H1121	H6955	H2583		H3409
הַמִּשְׁכָּן	תִּימָנָה:				
of the tabernacle	southward				
H4908	H8486				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:53 (Temple): But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.