

Numbers 3:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the chief of the house of the father of the families of the Kohathites shall be Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

Analysis

Elizaphan (meaning 'God has protected') as chief of the Kohathite families demonstrates that leadership in sacred service requires divine appointment and protection. The Hebrew *nasi* (prince/leader) indicates authority derived from God, not popular election. His title 'prince of the house of the father' shows patriarchal structure under divine ordering. This becomes the pattern for church eldership—appointed by God through recognized spiritual qualifications, not democratic process (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5).

Historical Context

Elizaphan son of Uzziel was Moses' cousin (Exodus 6:18-22). His appointment shows that Israelite leadership came through family lineage under the Mosaic covenant, but always required divine confirmation. Later, Elizaphan's descendants included Heman the singer (1 Chronicles 6:33) and leaders in Hezekiah's reforms (2 Chronicles 29:13).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What qualities make someone qualified for spiritual leadership according to Scripture?
2. How does God-ordained authority differ from worldly leadership structures?
3. Why does God often work through family lines in redemptive history?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֵׂה יְאֹהֶן	בֵּית	אֶבֶן	לְמִשְׁפָּחָה תְּ	בְּקָהָת
And the chief	of the house	of the father	of the families	of the Kohathites
H5387	H1004	H1	H4940	H6956
אֶלְيָזָף	בֶּן	עָזִיאָל:		
shall be Elizaphan	the son	of Uzziel		
H469	H1121	H5816		

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