

# Numbers 3:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle northward.

## Analysis

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The Merarites' camp assignment on the north side of the tabernacle completed the four-sided Levitical enclosure around God's dwelling. Each clan's position had purpose and dignity, with no location considered inferior. This equal dignity across varying responsibilities illustrates that in God's kingdom, worth comes from faithful service in assigned roles, not from human hierarchies of importance.

## Historical Context

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The north side, while not carrying the prominence of east or traditional honor of south, was nonetheless essential for complete protection of the tabernacle. The Merarites' position ensured all four sides had Levitical guardians preventing unauthorized approach.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

1. How does the equal dignity of all four Levitical positions teach us that every role in Christ's body has inherent worth regardless of visibility?
2. What does the complete encirclement of the tabernacle teach us about comprehensive ministry covering all aspects of church life?

## Interlinear Text

אַזְרִיאֵל	מִכְרֵי	לִמְשָׁפֵחָה	תְּאֵב	בֵּית	וְנִשְׁׁיָּא
<b>And the chief</b>	<b>of the house</b>	<b>of the father</b>	<b>of the families</b>	<b>of Merari</b>	<b>was Zuriel</b>
H5387	H1004	H1	H4940	H4847	H6700
<b>the son</b>	<b>of Abihail</b>	<b>on the side</b>	<b>of the tabernacle</b>	<b>these shall pitch</b>	<b>יבְּנֵי</b>
H1121	H32	H5921	H3409	H4908	H2583
<b>אֶפְנָה:</b>					
<b>northward</b>					
H6828					

## Additional Cross-References

**Numbers 2:25** (Parallel theme): The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

**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.