

Numbers 3:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And under the custody and charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto,

Analysis

The Merarites' specific charge over boards, bars, pillars, sockets, and tent pegs represents the foundational structural work enabling the tabernacle to stand. Without these components, the fabric elements (Gershonite responsibility) and holy furnishings (Kohathite responsibility) would have no structure to support them. This teaches that kingdom work includes essential but less visible support functions undergirding more prominent ministries.

Historical Context

The tabernacle's structural components were heavy and cumbersome, requiring significant physical labor to transport and erect. The Merarites' work was less ceremonially delicate than the Kohathites' but equally necessary for the tabernacle to function as God's dwelling among Israel.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the Merarites' foundational structural work illustrate that kingdom advancement requires essential support ministries enabling more visible service?
2. What does this teach us about valuing the often-unseen work that provides the foundation for prominent ministries?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל־ And under the custody	וְעַל־ and charge	בְּנֵי־ of the sons	מִשְׁמְרָת־ of Merari	תִּשְׁלַח־ shall be the boards
H6486	H4931	H1121	H4847	H7175
וְעַל־ of the tabernacle	וְעַל־ and the bars	וְעַל־ thereof and the pillars	וְעַל־ thereof and the sockets	וְעַל־ H3605
H4908	H1280	H5982	H134	
כָּל־ thereof and all the vessels	כָּל־ H3605	כָּל־ thereof and all that serveth		
H3627		H5656		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 26:37 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, and their hooks shall be of gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them.

Exodus 26:32 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.