

Numbers 3:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the firstborn males by the number of names, from a month old and upward, of those that were numbered of them, were twenty and two thousand two hundred and threescore and thirteen.

Analysis

The phrase 'all the males...every male from a month old and upward' emphasizes completeness and thoroughness in God's census. No Levite was overlooked or considered insignificant. This reflects the biblical principle that God's call extends to all within the covenant community, not just the mature or capable. The inclusive counting foreshadows the Great Commission—making disciples of all nations, teaching everyone (Matthew 28:19-20). God's kingdom includes both young and old, weak and strong.

Historical Context

This census method differed from the military census of fighting men aged 20 and above (Numbers 1:3). Levites were counted from infancy because their tribal identity determined their sacred calling. They would not inherit land like other tribes but were set apart entirely for service to the Lord.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's inclusive count of all ages challenge age-segregated church models?
2. What does it mean that even infants belonged to God's consecrated tribe?
3. How should we view children in covenant families according to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

מִבְּנֵי שְׁמֹת בְּמִסְפַּר זָכָר בְּכֹרֹת כָּל יְהוּי
H1961 H3605 **And all the firstborn** **males** **by the number** **of names** **old**
H1060 H2145 H4557 H8034 H1121

שְׁנֵי יָמִים לַפְּקֻדִּיָּה מִן עֲלֶה וּמִדָּשׁ
from a month **and upward** **of those that were numbered** **and two**
H2320 H4605 H6485 H8147

וּמֵאָתָּה: וְשִׁבְעִים וְשָׁלֹשׁ הָאֶלֶף וְעֶשְׂרִים
of them were twenty **thousand** **H7969** **and threescore and thirteen** **two hundred**
H6242 H505 H7657 H3967