

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

מִבְנֵי	שְׁמָת	בְּמִסְפֵּר	בְּכָר	בְּכָרֶב	כָּל	יְהִי
H1961	H3605	And all the firstborn	males	by the number	of names	old
		H1060	H2145	H4557	H8034	H1121
from a month	and upward	of those that were numbered	לְפָקְדִים	עַלְתָה	שְׁנַיִם	חֲדָש
H2320	H4605	H6485	H8147			
of them were twenty	thousand	H7969	and threescore and thirteen	שְׁלֹשׁ	עֶשֶׂר	מֵאוֹת
H6242	H505		and two hundred	הָעֶשֶׂר	יָמִים	מֵאוֹת
			H7657			H3967

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org