

Numbers 3:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses took the redemption money of them that were over and above them that were redeemed by the Levites:

Analysis

The phrase 'as the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them' demonstrates complete obedience to divine instruction. Moses' faithful execution of God's commands establishes him as the model mediator until Christ. The Hebrew *pakad* (numbered/appointed) carries connotations of oversight and care—God numbers His people not merely for census but as a shepherd knows his flock (John 10:14). This meticulous obedience foreshadows Christ who perfectly fulfilled all righteousness (Matthew 3:15).

Historical Context

Moses' consistent obedience throughout Numbers contrasts with his later failure at Meribah (Numbers 20:11-12), which cost him entry into Canaan. This shows that even faithful servants can fall, highlighting our need for Christ's perfect obedience imputed to us (Romans 5:19).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' pattern of obedience challenge our tendency to modify God's commands?
2. What does it mean that God numbers His people with shepherd-like care?
3. How does Christ's perfect obedience secure our salvation where we fail?

Interlinear Text

וְיִקְרַב	וְיִקְרַב	מֵשֶׁה	אֵת	בְּסָרֶבֶת	בְּפֶדַע וּמִמְּאֹת
took	And Moses		H853	money	the redemption
H3947	H4872			H3701	H6306

עַל	עַל	פְּנֵי	פְּנֵי	בְּלִוּם
of them that were over	H5921	**and above them that were redeemed**	H6302	**by the Levites**
H5736				H3881

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