

Numbers 3:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the firstborn of the children of Israel took he the money; a thousand three hundred and threescore and five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

Analysis

This verse records the final census count of the Levites, demonstrating God's meticulous care in organizing His people for worship and service. The numbering of the Levites represents divine order and accountability within the covenant community. Each Levite was known and counted, reflecting the Reformed principle that God knows and calls each of His elect by name. The precision of this census emphasizes that worship must be conducted according to God's revealed will, not human innovation.

Historical Context

Conducted in the wilderness of Sinai during Israel's second year after the Exodus, this census organized the Levites for tabernacle service. The Levites replaced Israel's firstborn sons as dedicated servants of the sanctuary, a permanent reminder of the Passover when God spared Israel's firstborn while judging Egypt.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed organization of worship challenge modern attitudes toward casual or spontaneous worship?
2. What does the Levites' substitution for the firstborn teach us about Christ's substitutionary atonement?
3. In what ways does God's knowledge of each individual Levite reflect His personal knowledge of His people today?

Interlinear Text

מֵאֵת	בְּכֹרֹת	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	לָקַח	אֶת	הַכֶּסֶף
H853	Of the firstborn	of the children	of Israel	took	H853 he the money
	H1060	H1121	H3478	H3947	H3701
וְחֲמִשָּׁה	וְשָׁלֹשִׁים	שָׁלֹשׁ	מֵאֹת	וְאֶלְפֵי	בָּשֶׁקֶל
and five	and threescore	three	hundred	a thousand	shekels after the shekel
H2568	H8346	H7969	H3967	H505	H8255
הַקֹּדֶשׁ:					
of the sanctuary					
H6944					