

Numbers 31:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the booty, being the rest of the prey which the men of war had caught, was six hundred thousand and seventy thousand and five thousand sheep,

Analysis

And the booty, being the rest of the prey which the men of war had caught, was six hundred thousand and seventy thousand and five thousand sheep—

The precise number 675,000 (tson, flocks) demonstrates meticulous inventory and enormous scale. After setting aside tribute, soldiers received approximately 337,500 sheep; congregation received equal amount.

The staggering quantity reveals Midianite wealth and God's provision for desert-wandering Israel about to enter Canaan. These flocks provided meat, wool, sacrificial animals, and trade goods. The number's precision (not 'about 700,000') reflects ancient Near Eastern accounting practices and historical reliability. Skeptics doubt these figures, but Midian controlled lucrative trade routes, explaining accumulated wealth.

Historical Context

Midian descended from Abraham through Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2), occupying Arabian territory with vast pastoral wealth. Their alliance with Moab to curse Israel (Numbers 22-25) and seduce Israel into idolatry (Numbers 25:1-18) brought divine judgment. The spoils represented restitution for spiritual warfare waged against God's people.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do these massive spoils demonstrate God's ability to provide abundantly beyond human expectation?
2. What does Israel's imminent land conquest suggest about God's timing of provision?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּהְיֶה הַמֶּלֶק וְהָיָה יְהוָה הַבָּזָז וְאִשְׁרָר הָבִיז
H1961 And the booty being the rest of the prey H834 had caught
H4455 H3499 H957 H962

וְשִׁבְעֵי יָמִים אֶלְפִּים: מֵאָה וְשֵׁשׁ צֹאן הַצֹּבֵא עַם
which the men of war sheep was six hundred thousand and seventy
H5971 H6635 H6629 H8337 H3967 H505 H7657

אֶלְפִּים: וְחֵמֶשׁ שָׁת אֶלְפִּים:
thousand and five thousand
H505 H2568 H505