

# Numbers 31:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the asses were thirty thousand and five hundred; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and one.

## Analysis

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**And the asses were thirty thousand and five hundred; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and one**—The Hebrew chamor (חֲמֹר, 'donkey/ass') designated essential beasts of burden in Israel's economy. Unlike horses associated with warfare and Egyptian oppression, donkeys represented humble transport and agricultural work. The 61 animals consecrated to God underscore that even mundane resources belong to Him.

Nothing is too common for God's claim. The same donkey species carried Mary to Bethlehem and bore Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:5), demonstrating God's sovereign use of humble instruments for His glory.

## Historical Context

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Donkeys were more valuable than horses in ancient Israel's terrain and economy. They transported goods, plowed fields, and provided reliable transport. The large number captured (30,500) reveals Midian operated extensive trade networks—fitting for descendants of Abraham's Keturah (Genesis 25:2).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Do you reserve only 'special' things for God, or does He have claim on the ordinary aspects of your life?
2. How might God want to use your 'donkey'—your mundane skills and resources—for His purposes?
3. What does it mean that Jesus chose a humble donkey rather than a warhorse for His triumphal entry?

## Interlinear Text

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וּמְכֹשֶׁ מֵמָא וְתִמְמָה יְמִינָה יְמִינָה יְמִינָה

**And the asses**   **were thirty**   **thousand**   **and five**   **hundred**   **tribute**

H2543

H7970

H505

H2568

H3967

H4371

לִיהְיוֹן אֶת־שְׁנָתוֹן שְׁנָתוֹן שְׁנָתוֹן

**of which the LORD'S**   **and one**   **was threescore**

H3068

H259

H8346

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