

Numbers 31:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Now the half that pertained unto the congregation was three hundred thousand and thirty thousand and seven thousand and five hundred sheep,

Analysis

(Now the half that pertained unto the congregation was three hundred thousand and thirty thousand and seven thousand and five hundred sheep

—The parenthetical structure marks this as explanatory detail, listing the congregation's exact share: 337,500 יֵזֶן (tzon, "sheep/small livestock"). The precision demonstrates covenantal accountability—every animal was counted, nothing hidden or misappropriated.

This massive number (half of 675,000 sheep) reveals the extraordinary scale of Midianite wealth and God's judgment upon them. The יֵזֶן provided wool, milk, meat, and sacrificial animals—sustaining Israel's entire economy. That the non-combatant community received such abundance shows God's provision extends beyond those who directly engage in His battles.

Historical Context

The Midianites were prosperous pastoralists controlling trade routes through Transjordan. Their vast flocks represented generational wealth. This single distribution gave each Israelite household multiple sheep, transforming the economic landscape as Israel prepared to settle Canaan. The accounting occurred under Eleazar the priest's supervision, ensuring religious legitimacy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the meticulous counting of spoils teach about financial integrity and transparency in God's kingdom?
2. How does the congregation receiving spoils without fighting reflect the doctrine of grace through Christ's victory?
3. What responsibilities come with receiving unearned abundance from God's provision?

Interlinear Text

וְנִתְּנָה י' H1961	מִחֶצֶת ת' H4275	הַעֵד ה' H5712	מִן H4480	הַצֹּאֵן H6629
Now the half	that pertained unto the congregation	sheep		
שְׁלֹשׁ H7969	מֵאוֹת: H3967	אֶלֶף יָם H505	וּשְׁלֹשׁ יָם H7970	אֶלֶף יָם H505
was three	hundred	thousand	and thirty	thousand
שֶׁבַע ת' H7651	אֶלֶף יָם H505	וּשְׁלֹשׁ יָם H7970	אֶלֶף יָם H505	וּשְׁלֹשׁ יָם H7970
and seven	thousand	and thirty	thousand	thousand
וְחֵמֶשׁ ש' H2568	מֵאוֹת: H3967			
and five	hundred			