

Numbers 31:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thirty thousand asses and five hundred,

Analysis

And thirty thousand asses and five hundred—The Hebrew **חַמּוֹר** (chamor, "donkey") was the primary beast of burden in ancient Israel. The congregation received 30,500 donkeys (from 61,000 total)—essential for transporting goods, especially in mountainous terrain unsuitable for wagons.

Donkeys appear throughout biblical narrative as symbols of peaceful labor (unlike horses for war). That God provided thousands of donkeys shows His attention to the practical logistics of settling Canaan. Every family needed transport for harvests, water, and household goods. This wasn't luxury—it was infrastructure for covenant life in the land.

Historical Context

Donkeys were more valuable than horses in Canaan's rocky hill country, able to navigate steep paths while carrying heavy loads. They were essential for olive oil and wine transport from hill-country farms to valley markets. The massive donkey distribution occurred at Moab's plains, preparing Israel for the geographical challenges of Canaan's central highlands.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does God's provision of practical transportation teach about His concern for daily logistics, not just spiritual matters?
2. How does the donkey (peaceful labor) versus horse (warfare) distinction shape our understanding of kingdom priorities?
3. In what ways should the church equip believers with practical resources for faithful living, not just theological knowledge?

Interlinear Text

מְאוֹת: תְּسִמְנֵשׁ אֶלָּא שְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים תְּקִמְרֵם
asses And thirty thousand and five hundred
H2543 H7970 H505 H2568 H3967

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