

Numbers 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families;

Analysis

The separate census of the Gershonites demonstrates God's comprehensive organization of worship service. While the Kohathites carried the furniture, the Gershonites cared for the tabernacle's fabric structure—the curtains, coverings, and hangings. Both tasks were essential, teaching that all divinely appointed service has dignity and purpose. This reflects the Reformed understanding of vocation—all legitimate work done in obedience to God's calling glorifies Him, whether spectacular or mundane.

Historical Context

The Gershonites, descendants of Levi through Gershon, formed one of three main Levitical divisions. Their responsibilities for the tabernacle's curtains and coverings required skill in handling large, heavy fabrics and maintaining the structure that separated the holy from the common.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the equal importance of different Levitical tasks inform our understanding of spiritual gifts in the church?
2. What does God's detailed organization of seemingly mundane tasks teach about His care for all aspects of worship?
3. In what ways does the separation of holy and common spaces in the tabernacle reflect our call to holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְיָקֵחַ	אֶת	רֹאשׁ	בְּנֵי יִ	גֵּרְשֹׁן	וְ	הֵם
Take		also the sum	of the sons	of Gershon		
H5375	H853	H7218	H1121	H1648	H1571	H1992
לְבֵי יִת		אֲבוֹתָם	לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם:			
throughout the houses		of their fathers	by their families			
H1004		H1	H4940			

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