

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

אֶת־בָּשָׂר־בָּנִים־גַּם־גַּרְשֵׁן־וְיַעֲשֶׂה־רְאשֵׁת־בָּנָיו־

Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon H1571 H1992

H5375 H7218 H1121 H1648

לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֶם: אֶבֶת־מִתְבָּרֶךְ־לְבָית־

throughout the houses of their fathers by their families

H1004 H1 H4940

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