

Numbers 4:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens:

Analysis

The Gershonites' service focused on bearing burdens, specifically the fabric elements of the tabernacle. This language of burden-bearing points forward to Christ's call for His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him. The Reformed understanding of Christian service emphasizes that all believers are called to bear burdens in the body of Christ, each according to their gifts and calling. The Gershonites model faithful service in assigned duties without seeking more prominent roles.

Historical Context

The curtains, coverings, and hangings that the Gershonites carried were extensive—including the tabernacle tent itself, its coverings of rams' skins and badgers' skins, and all the curtains forming the courtyard. These fabric components were essential for creating the sacred space where God dwelt among His people.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the concept of burden-bearing in service to God's house apply to the church today?
2. What does faithful service in assigned tasks teach us about contentment and obedience?
3. In what ways does Christ's burden-bearing on the cross transform our understanding of service?

Interlinear Text

זֶה	עֲבֹדָת	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	הַגֵּרְשֹׁנִים	לְעֹבְד
H2063	This is the service	of the families	of the Gershonites	to serve
	H5656	H4940	H1649	H5647

וּלְמַשָּׂא:
and for burdens
H4853