

# Numbers 4:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even those that were numbered of them, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers, were two thousand and six hundred and thirty.

## Analysis

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**Two thousand and six hundred and thirty**—The Gershonites numbered 2,630 qualified servants from a total clan of 7,500 males (3:22), yielding a 35% service ratio, slightly higher than Kohathites (32%). Despite being Levi's firstborn line, Gershonites had the smallest serving workforce among the three Levitical clans, yet their role was indispensable—without curtains and coverings, the holy objects would be exposed to profanation.

The precise enumeration (not 'about 2,600') reflects God's comprehensive knowledge of His servants. Jesus later affirmed this principle: 'The very hairs of your head are all numbered' (Matthew 10:30). Divine omniscience extends beyond crowd counts to individual accountability, a truth both comforting (God knows me) and sobering (God will judge me).

## Historical Context

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The Gershonites transported their fabric loads on two wagons pulled by four oxen (7:7), while Kohathites carried sacred objects on their shoulders without wagons (7:9). This distinction honored the sanctity of holy objects while acknowledging practical needs for fabric transport.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the indispensability of 'lesser' Gershonite service (curtains) illustrate Paul's body-of-Christ metaphor in 1 Corinthians 12:21-25?
2. What comfort and challenge do you find in God's precise knowledge of your service contributions?

## Interlinear Text

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למְשָׁפָחָת מִן־עֲמָקָם  
H1961 Even those that were numbered of them throughout their families  
H6485 H4940

וְשָׁלְשִׁים: מֵאַת וְשָׁשׁ אֶלָף וְאַבְתָּם מִן־לֵב־יִתְהָר  
by the house of their fathers were two thousand and six hundred and thirty  
H1004 H1 H505 H8337 H3967 H7970

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