

# Numbers 4:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are they that were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD.

## Analysis

**Whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD**—The repetition of divine authorization (cf. v. 37) for each clan's census underscores that spiritual service organization originates with God, not human preference. The phrase *עַל־פִּי יְהוָה* (al-pi YHWH, 'by the mouth of the LORD') appears like a refrain, preventing Israel from attributing Levitical structure to Moses's administrative genius.

**Of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation**—The verb *שָׁרַת* (sharat, to minister/serve) often denotes priestly service (Exodus 28:35, 43) distinct from general labor. Gershonites didn't merely work; they ministered, transforming manual labor into sacred worship. This sanctification of 'secular' work anticipates Colossians 3:23: 'Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord.'

## Historical Context

Aaron's involvement in numbering the Gershonites—his own extended family—ensured priestly oversight of Levitical organization. As high priest, Aaron understood the sacred nature of even fabric-related tabernacle service, having witnessed God's glory fill the completed structure (Exodus 40:34-35).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does the recurring emphasis on divine commandment ('al-pi YHWH') challenge pragmatic, efficiency-driven approaches to church structure?
2. What would it look like to view your daily work—even mundane tasks—through the lens of sharat (priestly ministry)?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלֶּה	פָּקְדֵי	מִשְׁפּוֹחַת	בְּנֵי י	גֵרְשֹׁן וֶן
H428	<b>These are they that were numbered</b>	<b>of the families</b>	<b>of the sons</b>	<b>of Gershon</b>
	H6485	H4940	H1121	H1648
כָּל	הָעֹבְדִים	בְּאֵל הֵל	מוֹעֵד	אֶשֶׁר
H3605	<b>of all that might do service</b>	<b>in the tabernacle</b>	<b>of the congregation</b>	H834
	H5647	H168	H4150	
פָּקְדֵי	מֹשֶׁה	וְאַהֲרֹן	עַל	
<b>These are they that were numbered</b>	<b>whom Moses</b>	<b>and Aaron</b>	H5921	
H6485	H4872	H175		
פִּי	יְהוָה:			
<b>according to the commandment</b>	<b>of the LORD</b>			
H6310	H3068			

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