

# Numbers 4:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These be those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

## Analysis

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**Those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari** (יְקֻדֵּי, pequdei, 'those appointed/counted')—The Merarites received the most physically demanding tabernacle duty: transporting frames, bars, pillars, and sockets (4:31-32). The census formula **whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses** emphasizes divine initiative in service organization.

The phrase **by the hand of Moses** (בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה, beyad-Mosheh) occurs repeatedly in Numbers 4, highlighting Moses as God's appointed mediator. Every Levitical assignment originated from Sinai's direct revelation, not human planning. This structured accountability prevented chaos in transporting God's dwelling.

## Historical Context

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The Merarites were descended from Levi's youngest son. During Israel's wilderness wanderings (1445-1405 BC), they transported the tabernacle's structural framework using wagons (7:8). Their service required both physical strength and precise adherence to divine specifications revealed at Sinai.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the specific numbering of Merarites challenge modern assumptions that all spiritual service should be glamorous or high-profile?
2. What does the phrase 'according to the word of the LORD' teach about finding purpose in seemingly mundane or physically demanding ministry?
3. How might viewing your current responsibilities as 'numbered by the hand of Moses' (divinely appointed) transform your attitude toward work?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלֶּה H428	פָּקְדוֹת	מִשְׁפְּחֹת	בְּנֵי	מֵרָרִי
	These be those that were numbered	of the families	of the sons	of Merari
	H6485	H4940	H1121	H4847
אֵלֶּה H834	פָּקְדוֹת	מֹשֶׁה:	וְאַהֲרֹן	עַל
	These be those that were numbered	of Moses	and Aaron	
	H6485	H4872	H175	H5921
פִּי	יְהוָה	בְּיַד	מֹשֶׁה:	
according to the word	of the LORD	by the hand	of Moses	
H6310	H3068	H3027	H4872	

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