

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

Those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari (פְּנִירָה, pequdei, 'those appointed/checked')—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** (בְּيַד-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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

אָ לָה	פָקָד	מִשְׁפָחָת	בֵּן	מִכְרֵי
H428	These be those that were numbered	of the families	of the sons	of Merari

אֲשֶׁר	פָּקָד	מֹשֶׁה:	וְאַבְרָהָם	עַל
H834	These be those that were numbered	of Moses	and Aaron	H5921

מִשְׁהָ:	בְּ יַד	יְהִי הָ	גַּם	according to the word	of the LORD	by the hand	of Moses
	H3027	H3068	H6310				H4872

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