

# Numbers 4:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All those that were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chief of Israel numbered, after their families, and after the house of their fathers,

## Analysis

**All those that were numbered of the Levites**—This transitional verse begins the comprehensive summary of the Levitical census. The triple emphasis on counting **whom Moses and Aaron and the chief of Israel numbered** reinforces shared leadership accountability. The structure **after their families, and after the house of their fathers** reveals God's concern for both tribal identity and household lineage.

The Hebrew mishpachot (families) and beit avot (house of fathers) distinguish clan subdivisions from patriarchal households. This dual categorization ensured every Levite knew both his tribal duty and family heritage within sacred service. Organization flowed from identity, not arbitrary assignment.

## Historical Context

The Levites replaced Israel's firstborn as God's special servants after the golden calf apostasy (Exodus 32:26-29). This census in the wilderness (Numbers 4, c. 1444 BC) organized their service for the 38 remaining wilderness years and prepared them for Canaan. The chiefs of Israel participated as witnesses to the sacred trust placed on Levi's tribe.

## Related Passages

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the dual structure of 'families' and 'house of fathers' model the importance of both corporate and familial identity in the body of Christ?
2. What leadership lessons emerge from Moses, Aaron, and the chiefs jointly conducting the census rather than working in isolation?
3. In what ways does understanding your spiritual lineage ('house of fathers') shape your sense of calling and service?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל

H3605

**All those that were numbered**

H6485

פְּנֵי תָּ

אֲשֶׁר

H834

**All those that were numbered**

H6485

פְּנֵי תָּ

מִשְׁנֶה

whom Moses

H4872

וְאַבְרָהָם

and Aaron

H175

וְנֹשִׂיא וְ

and the chief

H5387

וְשָׁרֵךְ לְ

of Israel

H3478

פְּלוּאִם

of the Levites

H3881

לְמִשְׁפָחָת מִ

after their families

H4940

וְלִבְ יְתָ

and after the house

H1004

אֲבָתָם:

of their fathers

H1