1 Chronicles 1:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon,

Analysis

Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon (אַלוּף אֶהֶלִיבָמָה אַלוּף אֵילָה אַלוּף אֵילָה אַלוּף אָהֶלִיבָמָה אַלוּף אֵילָה (alluph) means 'chieftain' or 'clan leader,' rendered 'duke' in KJV. These Edomite tribal chiefs ruled regions rather than centralized kingdoms. Aholibamah (אַהֶלִיבָמָה, 'tent of the high place') suggests religious significance, while Elah (אֵהֶלִיבָמָה) means 'terebinth tree' or possibly refers to the port city Elath, and Pinon (פִּינֹן) remains obscure.

Edom's tribal confederacy contrasted with Israel's covenant kingship. Before Israel had kings, Edom had chieftains (Genesis 36:31), yet this political precocity didn't translate to covenant blessing. God's delays often precede greater purposes—Israel's later monarchy would produce David and ultimately Messiah.

Historical Context

Edomite chiefs ruled from fortified highlands south of the Dead Sea, controlling trade routes between Arabia and the Mediterranean. Their copper mining and caravan trade created wealth reflected in archaeological sites like Bozrah and Teman. Edom's fall came through Babylonian campaigns (6th century BC) and later Nabatean displacement.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

- 1 Corinthians 13:4 Characteristics of love
- **1 John 4:8** God is love

Study Questions

- 1. How does Edom's early political development without covenant blessing warn against equating worldly success with divine favor?
- 2. What does God's patient work through Israel's slower development teach about His timing versus immediate results?

Interlinear Text

אַלּ וּף	אָהֶלִיבָּמָ ה	אַלּ וּף	אֵלָ ה	אַלּ וּף	:פֿולָן
Duke	Aholibamah	Duke	Elah	Duke	Pinon
H441	H173	H441	H425	H441	H6373

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