

1 Chronicles 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand.

Analysis

One of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand—

The Hebrew qatan ('least') and gadol ('greatest') establish military ranking by capability. Even the 'junior' Gadite officers commanded substantial forces. These warriors from east of Jordan crossed during flood stage (v.15) to join David, demonstrating extraordinary commitment.

This verse establishes a principle: in God's kingdom, even the 'least' is mighty. Jesus inverted this logic: the least in God's kingdom is greater than John the Baptist (Luke 7:28). The Gadites' fierce loyalty to David prefigures disciples' devotion to Christ despite personal cost.

Historical Context

Gad's territory east of Jordan was frontier country, producing tough warriors accustomed to defending against raiders. Their willingness to cross the flooding Jordan (during spring harvest, Josh 3:15) to join David while he was still a fugitive from Saul showed remarkable faith in God's anointed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God equip even His 'least' servants with strength beyond their natural capacity?
2. What 'floods' must you cross to join yourself fully to Christ and His purposes?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	מִבְּנֵי	גֹד	רָאשֵׁי	הַצֶּבֶא	אֶחָד
H428	These were of the sons	of Gad	captains	of the host	one
	H1121	H1410	H7218	H6635	H259
לְמֵאֶה	הַקָּטָן	וְהַגָּדוֹל	לְאֶלְפִי:		
was over an hundred	of the least	and the greatest	over a thousand		
H3967	H6996	H1419	H505		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:30 (Parallel theme): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Leviticus 26:8 (Parallel theme): And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.