

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

אֶלָּה מִבְנֵי אַשְׁר אֲפָد הַצָּבָא אֶחָד
H428 These were of the sons of Gad captains of the host one
H1121 H1410 H7218 H6635 H259

לִמְאָה כִּי כִּי וְלֹא לֹא
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.