

1 Chronicles 12:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.

Analysis

And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand—Naphtali's contingent featured unusual leadership density: 1,000 sarim ('commanders') leading 37,000 troops. This suggests a well-organized military structure with approximately 37 men per commander. Their northern location meant they traveled farthest to support David.

Naphtali's tribal blessing spoke of freedom and eloquence (Gen 49:21). Their massive military support for David fulfilled that blessing—free to choose God's anointed despite distance and risk. This northern tribe's commitment demonstrates how David's kingdom united Israel from Dan to Beersheba under God's chosen leader.

Historical Context

Naphtali's territory in Galilee was remote from Hebron in the south, making their journey a significant commitment. Their arrival with substantial forces showed that David's reputation had spread throughout Israel, preparing the way for unified monarchy.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How far are you willing to travel—literally or figuratively—to support God's kingdom work?
2. What does the diverse tribal support teach about recognizing and submitting to God's anointed leaders?

Interlinear Text

וּמִנִּפְתָּלִי י	שָׂרֵי יָם	אַלְפִי:	וְעִמָּהֶם	בְּצִנָּה ה
And of Naphtali	captains	a thousand	H5973	and with them with shield
H5321	H8269	H505		H6793
וְחֶנֶּי יָת	שְׁלֹשִׁים יָם	וְשִׁבְעָה ה	אַלְפִי:	
and spear	thirty	and seven	a thousand	
H2595	H7970	H7651	H505	
