

1 Chronicles 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,

Analysis

Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty

—A Gibeonite leading Israelite warriors is extraordinary. Gibeon had gained covenant status through deception (Josh 9), yet here a Gibeonite commands troops. The Hebrew construction emphasizes his dual role: *baggibborim* ('among the mighty') and *al-hasheloshim* ('over the thirty').

This warrior's presence illustrates how David's kingdom welcomed those God had incorporated into Israel, however irregular their entry. Joshua had condemned Gibeon to servitude (Josh 9:27), yet David's era saw Gibeonites rise to leadership. God's grace overrides human prejudice and past circumstances.

Historical Context

Gibeonites served as temple servants (Josh 9:27), yet by David's time they were integrated enough for military leadership. This reflects the Chronicler's post-exilic message: God determines covenant membership, not ethnic purity alone. The returning remnant needed this inclusive vision.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's inclusion of unlikely candidates challenge our prejudices about who can serve?
2. What 'irregular entries' into God's family deserve our recognition and encouragement?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:	וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:	וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:	וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:	וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:	וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל הַגִּבְעוֹנִי יְגִבּ וְרַחֲמֵי הַשְּׁלִישִׁים:
And Ismaiah	the Gibeonite	a mighty man	among the thirty	among the thirty	among the thirty
H3460	H1393	H1368	H7970	H5921	H7970
וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי וְיֹזָבָד וְיֹחָנָן וְיָחֲזִיאל וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי:	וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי	וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי	וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי	וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי	וְיִרְמְיָהּ הַגִּדְרָתִי:
and Jeremiah	and Jahaziel	and Johanan	and Josabad	the Gederathite	and Jeremiah
H3414	H3166	H3110	H3107	H1452	H3414

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 9:3 (Parallel theme): And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,

Joshua 15:36 (Parallel theme): And Sharaim, and Adithaim, and Gederah, and Gederothaim; fourteen cities with their villages: