

Deuteronomy 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:

Analysis

Moses' statement 'the saying pleased me well' shows his approval of the reconnaissance plan, yet this approval didn't guarantee God's blessing on the outcome. Even good leaders can endorse plans that God permits but doesn't prefer. The selection of 'twelve men, one of a tribe' demonstrates fair representation but couldn't compensate for lack of faith—structure without trust is inadequate.

Historical Context

Moses' approval here wasn't necessarily wrong—God often allows intermediate steps in human decision-making. However, the disaster that followed (Numbers 13-14) shows that human wisdom, even when well-intentioned, must be subordinate to faith in God's word.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between God's perfect will and His permissive will?

2. When have seemingly good plans failed because they lacked faith at their foundation?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּט ב	בְּעֵינַי י	הַדָּבָר ר	וָאֶקַח ח	מִכֶּם	שְׁנֵי יָם	עָשָׂה ר
pleased me well	H5869	And the saying	and I took	H4480	twelve	H6240
H3190		H1697	H3947		H8147	
אֲנָשִׁים יָם	אֶיֶשׁ	אֶחָד ד	לְשִׁבְטֹ:			
men	of a tribe	of you one	H7626			
H582	H376	H259				

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