

Joshua 19:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.

Analysis

And the seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families—Dan receives the final tribal allotment. Being seventh may seem anticlimactic, yet it completes the sacred number. Dan, son of Jacob by Rachel's maid Bilhah, struggled throughout Israel's history, eventually embracing idolatry (Judges 18).

God gives inheritance even to those who will squander it. The lot 'comes out' (yatsa, יצא) by divine sovereignty, not merit. This demonstrates grace: God distributes gifts freely, though recipients often misuse them. The warning: privilege brings responsibility. To whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48).

Historical Context

Dan initially received fertile coastal territory between Judah and Ephraim, but Amorite/Philistine pressure forced them northward (Judges 18). They conquered Laish, renaming it Dan, and established a rival worship center with a graven image (Judges 18:30-31), corrupting Israel's northern boundary.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you steward God's gifts to avoid Dan's pattern of squandering spiritual inheritance?
2. What warning does Dan's idolatry provide about privileged positions misused?

Interlinear Text

לְמִתְהָרֵךְ בָּנֵי דָן | לְמִשְׁפְּחֹת מִצְרָיָם אֲמִתָּא

for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families came out

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lot And the seventh

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