Judges 6:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

Analysis

Gideon sends messengers throughout Manasseh, summoning the tribe to battle. The phrase 'they also were gathered after him' suggests Manasseh responded as readily as Abiezer clan. He extends the call to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali—northern tribes most threatened by the Jezreel Valley invasion. Their response —'they came up to meet them'—indicates rapid mobilization. Gideon's expanding authority demonstrates Spirit-empowerment's visible effects. His bold leadership contrasts with earlier fearfulness, showing God's transforming power. The growing army prepares for the battle narrative of chapter 7.

Historical Context

The four tribes summoned (Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, Naphtali) occupied northern territories surrounding the Jezreel Valley. These tribes faced immediate threat from the Midianite coalition and possessed vested interest in defeating the invaders. The lack of response from southern tribes (Judah, Simeon, etc.) foreshadows later north-south divisions and the judges period's tribal fragmentation. Deborah and Barak's earlier victory over Sisera in the same valley (Judges 4-5) provided precedent for defending this strategic region.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Gideon's expanding influence demonstrate the fruit of faithful obedience in confronting idolatry?
2. What does the northern tribes' response teach about how God orchestrates circumstances to accomplish His purposes?
3. Why does effective spiritual leadership require both divine empowerment and human mobilization?

Interlinear Text

וּמַלְאָכִים	שָׁלַח	בְּכָל	מְנַשֶּׁה	וַיִּזָּעֵק
messengers	And he sent	H3605	throughout all Manasseh	who also was gathered
H4397	H7971		H4519	H2199

גַּם וָא ה יו אֶחָרַ וּמַלְאָכִים	שָׁלַח	בְּאָשֵׁר	וּבִזְבֻלוּן
H1571 H1931 after messengers	And he sent	unto Asher	and unto Zebulun
H310 H4397	H7971	H836	H2074

וּבְנַפְתָּלִי	וַיַּעֲלוּ	לִקְרָאתָם׃
and unto Naphtali	and they came up	to meet
H5321	H5927	H7125