

Numbers 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Joseph: of Ephraim; Elishama the son of Ammihud: of Manasseh; Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Analysis

Joseph's division into Ephraim and Manasseh fulfills Jacob's prophetic blessing (Genesis 48), whereby Joseph received a double portion through his two sons. This special treatment reflects Joseph's faithfulness and God's providential preservation of Israel through him during the famine. The continued distinction between Joseph's sons demonstrates God's faithfulness to His covenant promises across generations, even in matters of tribal organization.

Historical Context

Jacob adopted Joseph's sons as his own (Genesis 48:5), effectively giving Joseph a double inheritance. This occurred because of Joseph's role in preserving Israel during the Egyptian famine and established a pattern where Ephraim and Manasseh counted as separate tribes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Joseph's double portion through his sons illustrate the principle that God rewards faithfulness, even if not always in expected ways?
2. What does the fulfillment of Jacob's blessing centuries later teach us about God's faithfulness to His promises?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| בְּנֵי | יוֹסֵף | לְאֶפְרַיִם | אֵלִישָׁמָה | בְּנֵי | עַמְיֵה וּד |
| Of the children | of Joseph | of Ephraim | Elishama | Of the children | of Ammihud |
| H1121 | H3130 | H669 | H476 | H1121 | H5989 |
| לְמַנַּשֶּׁה | גַּמְלִיֵּאל | בְּנֵי | פְּדָהצֹר: | | |
| of Manasseh | Gamaliel | Of the children | of Pedahzur | | |
| H4519 | H1583 | H1121 | H6301 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:48 (Parallel theme): On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, prince of the children of Ephraim, offered:

Numbers 7:54 (Parallel theme): On the eighth day offered Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, prince of the children of Manasseh: