

Numbers 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Benjamin; Abidan the son of Gideoni.

Analysis

Benjamin, the youngest son of Jacob and brother of Joseph, receives equal representation despite his small size (the tribe would later be known as 'little Benjamin,' Psalm 68:27). This demonstrates that in God's economy, age, size, and human prominence do not determine spiritual significance. Benjamin's later production of King Saul and the apostle Paul shows how God uses even the smallest tribes for crucial purposes in redemptive history.

Historical Context

Benjamin was Rachel's second son, born as she died (Genesis 35:18). The tribe remained loyal to Judah when the kingdom divided, forming the core of the southern kingdom alongside Judah. Paul later identified himself as 'of the tribe of Benjamin' (Philippians 3:5).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Benjamin's small size yet significant role challenge assumptions about what God can do through seemingly weak instruments?

2. What does Paul's identification with Benjamin teach us about the enduring significance of covenant identity?

Interlinear Text

גִּדְעֹנִי בֶּן אַבְּיָד | לְבָנֵם |
of Benjamin Abidan the son of Gideoni
H1144 H27 H1121 H1441

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:60 (Parallel theme): On the ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, prince of the children of Benjamin, offered:

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