

Numbers 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Dan; Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

Analysis

Dan's inclusion despite the tribe's later apostasy (Judges 18; 1 Kings 12:28-30) demonstrates that God's electing purposes in calling Israel were not dependent on their future faithfulness but on His sovereign grace. The tribe that would later establish idolatrous worship still received full status in the wilderness organization, showing that God's common grace and providential care extend even to those who will later prove unfaithful, while His special saving grace preserves a remnant.

Historical Context

Dan, fifth son of Jacob through Bilhah, would later migrate north and establish the northern boundary of Israel ('from Dan to Beersheba'). The tribe became notorious for idolatry, yet God's purposes included them in Israel's structure.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Dan's later apostasy despite God's faithfulness warn us about the danger of presuming on God's grace?
2. What does this teach us about the difference between being part of the visible church and being part of the invisible elect?

Interlinear Text

לְדָן	אַחִיעֶזֶר	בֶּן	עַמְּיִשָּׁדָי:
Of Dan	Ahiezer	the son	of Ammishaddai
H1835	H295	H1121	H5996

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:66 (Parallel theme): On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, prince of the children of Dan, offered: