

Numbers 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Asher; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

Analysis

Asher's modest prominence in biblical history yet secure place in Israel's tribal structure illustrates that God's election is not based on foreseen merit or achievement. The tribe that produced few notable leaders still received equal standing in the covenant community, demonstrating the principle that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. This anticipates Paul's teaching that God chose the weak and foolish things to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

Historical Context

Asher, eighth son of Jacob through Zilpah, received a fertile coastal territory in northern Israel. The tribe appears infrequently in biblical narratives but was recognized by Jesus's contemporary, the prophetess Anna, who was 'of the tribe of Asher' (Luke 2:36).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Asher's inclusion despite minimal biblical prominence challenge our tendency to value visibility and recognition?

2. What does Anna's identification with Asher centuries later teach us about God's preservation of His covenant people?

Interlinear Text

לְאִשֵּׁר	פַּגְעִיָּא	בֶּן	עֶכְרָן:
Of Asher	Pagiel	the son	of Ocran
H836	H6295	H1121	H5918

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:72 (Parallel theme): On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, prince of the children of Asher, offered:

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