

Numbers 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Naphtali; Ahira the son of Enan.

Analysis

Naphtali's inclusion with specific leadership demonstrates that every tribe had a defined role in God's covenant administration. The tribe that would later be called 'Galilee of the Gentiles' (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:15) and witness much of Jesus's ministry shows how God's providential care in the wilderness organization had ultimate redemptive purposes. No detail of Israel's structure was arbitrary or merely administrative; all served God's eternal plan.

Historical Context

Naphtali, sixth son of Jacob through Bilhah, received territory in northern Galilee. This region became central to Jesus's ministry, with Capernaum and surrounding areas witnessing His mighty works. The tribal territory thus gained unexpected redemptive significance.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Naphtali's later connection to Jesus's ministry demonstrate that God wastes no detail in His providential ordering?

2. What encouragement does this provide for believers who wonder about the purpose of their current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

עִנָּן אֶחָיָה וְאַחֲרֵי בְּנֵי נַפְתָּלִי
Of Naphtali Ahira the son of Enan
H5321 H299 H1121 H5881

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:78 (Parallel theme): On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, prince of the children of Naphtali, offered:

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