

Numbers 1:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Benjamin, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war;

Analysis

Benjamin's census, as Rachel's younger son and Joseph's full brother, carries special significance in Israel's tribal structure. The tribe that would produce Israel's first king (Saul) and later remain faithful to Judah when the kingdom divided demonstrates that tribal identity was not merely ethnic or political but part of God's covenant administration. Benjamin's position 'between his shoulders' (Deuteronomy 33:12) placed it near Jerusalem, giving it unique proximity to the temple.

Historical Context

Benjamin's territory, though small, included Jerusalem's northern portion and strategically important cities. The tribe's loyalty to Judah during the kingdom's division (1 Kings 12:21) preserved it from the northern kingdom's apostasy and eventual destruction.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Benjamin's small size yet strategic importance illustrate God's ability to use seemingly weak instruments for crucial purposes?
2. What does the tribe's later loyalty to Judah teach us about the blessings of remaining faithful to God's appointed leadership?

Interlinear Text

לְבָבָ יִתְ	לְמִשְׁפְּחָתָם	מִבְּ	מִבְּ	מִבְּ
Of the children	of Benjamin	by their generations	after their families	by the house
H1121	H1144	H8435	H4940	H1004
אֲבָתָם	בְּמִסְפֵּר	שְׁמָתָה	מִבְּ	עָשָׂרִים
of their fathers	according to the number	of the names	Of the children	from twenty
H1	H4557	H8034	H1121	H6242
שָׁנָה	וְלֹ	יְמִ	עַלְהָ	צְבָא:
years	and upward	H3605	all that were able to go forth	to war
H8141	H4605	H3318		H6635

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 49:27 (Parallel theme): Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.