

Numbers 1:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Dan, 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

Dan's census continues the methodical record of God's covenant people, maintaining the same genealogical precision for every tribe regardless of their later history. God's thorough documentation of Dan, despite the tribe's subsequent apostasy, demonstrates His common grace and providential care even for those who will ultimately prove unfaithful. This sobering reality warns against presumption while also revealing God's patience and long-suffering toward His people.

Historical Context

Dan's original territory lay in the coastal lowlands, but pressure from the Philistines drove the tribe to migrate north, where they conquered Laish and established a rival worship center (Judges 18). This migration began Dan's trajectory toward apostasy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's careful organization of Dan despite their future apostasy warn us against presuming on divine grace?
2. What does this teach us about the tragedy of squandering spiritual privileges and covenant status?

Interlinear Text

מֵ	וְ	בָּ	לְמִשְׁפָחָת	מִ	לְבָ	יְהֹ	לְ
Of the children	of Dan	by their generations	after their families	by the house			
H1121	H1835	H8435	H4940	H1004			
אֲבָתִ	בְּמִסְפֵּ	שְׁמָ	מֵ	עָשָׂר	מֵ	מֵ	
of their fathers	according to the number	of the names	Of the children	from twenty			
H1	H4557	H8034	H1121	H6242			
שָׁנָה	כִּילְ	וְאַ	אַבָּאָן				
years	and upward	all that were able to go forth	to war				
H8141	H4605	H3605	H3318	H6635			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 46:23 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Dan; Hushim.

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