

Numbers 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Issachar; Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

Analysis

The naming of each tribal representative, including Nethaneel of Issachar, reflects God's exhaustive knowledge and sovereign ordering of His covenant people. Even tribes that would not achieve great prominence in Israel's history receive equal recognition in the census, demonstrating that God's election is not based on worldly greatness but on His gracious choice. This equal representation points to the equality of all believers in Christ, regardless of their prominence in the world.

Historical Context

Issachar, descended from Jacob's ninth son, occupied territory in the fertile Jezreel Valley. The tribe was known later for men who 'understood the times' (1 Chronicles 12:32), though they appear less frequently in biblical narratives than Judah or Ephraim.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's equal treatment of prominent and less prominent tribes challenge worldly notions of importance?

2. What does this teach us about the value of every believer in the body of Christ, regardless of their visibility or prominence?

Interlinear Text

נְתָנָא לִי שָׁשָׁכְ רִבְעֵן צוּעָר:
Of Issachar Nethaneel the son of Zuar
H3485 H5417 H1121 H6686

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:18 (Parallel theme): On the second day Nethaneel the son of Zuar, prince of Issachar, did offer:

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