

Numbers 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah according to their armies: and over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

Analysis

In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah (לָגַד degel, standard/banner)—Judah led the march by divine appointment, previewing their royal preeminence. Jacob's blessing prophesied "the scepter shall not depart from Judah" (Genesis 49:10); their vanguard position enacted this destiny. **According to their armies** (עֲרֵבאֹתָם tseva'otam, armies/hosts)—Israel marched as a military force organized for conquest, not mere nomadic wandering.

Over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab—This same Nahshon appears in Christ's genealogy (Matthew 1:4). His leadership of Judah during the wilderness journey connects Old Testament national formation to New Testament Messianic fulfillment. The leader of the first tribe to march toward Canaan stands in the ancestral line of the King who leads us to the true promised land.

Historical Context

Nahshon son of Amminadab served as chieftain of Judah throughout the wilderness period. His sister Elisheba married Aaron, making him brother-in-law to the high priest (Exodus 6:23). Rabbinic tradition credits Nahshon with being first to enter the Red Sea, demonstrating the bold faith that characterized Judah's leadership. He died in the wilderness; his successor Caleb would lead Judah into Canaan.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Judah's position at the front of Israel's march reinforce God's sovereignty in choosing the Messianic tribe?
2. What does Nahshon's inclusion in Matthew's genealogy teach about the significance of seemingly minor Old Testament figures?
3. How should the military language ("armies," "hosts," "standard") shape our understanding of spiritual warfare and the church's mission?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| וַיָּסֶע | דָּגֵל | מַחֲנֵה ה | בְּנֵי | יְהוּדָה ה | בְּרִאשֹׁנָה ה |
| place went | the standard | of the camp | of the children | of Judah | In the first |
| H5265 | H1714 | H4264 | H1121 | H3063 | H7223 |
| אֶפְרָאֵל וְ | וְעַל | אֶפְרָאֵל וְ | | | |
| according to their armies | H5921 | according to their armies | | | |
| H6635 | | H6635 | | | |
| וְעַל נַחֲשׁוֹן | בְּנֵי | עַמִּינָדָב: | | | |
| and over his host was Nahshon | of the children | of Amminadab | | | |
| H5177 | H1121 | H5992 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:7 (Parallel theme): Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.