

# Numbers 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was  
Pagiel the son of Ocran.

## Analysis

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**Over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran.** Asher marched with Dan's rear guard division under Pagiel (פַּגִּיֵּל, "God meets" or "God encounters"). Asher, born to Jacob through Leah's maidservant Zilpah, received an abundant blessing: "Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties" (Genesis 49:20). The name Asher means "happy" or "blessed," reflecting Leah's joy at his birth (Genesis 30:13). His tribe embodied material prosperity and satisfaction.

Asher's 41,500 warriors (Numbers 1:41) provided substantial strength to the rear guard. The tribe's later coastal territory in Galilee's fertile region fulfilled Jacob's blessing of rich produce and prosperity. Yet Asher failed to fully drive out the Canaanites (Judges 1:31-32), compromising their inheritance. Despite their blessed name and abundant land, Asher remained relatively obscure in Israel's history—a warning that prosperity without faithfulness leads to spiritual mediocrity.

## Historical Context

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Pagiel served as Asher's census representative (Numbers 1:13) and brought offerings at the dedication (Numbers 7:72-77). Asher's territory along the Mediterranean coast north of Mount Carmel (Joshua 19:24-31) included Phoenician port cities like Acco and Sidon. The region's agricultural wealth (olive oil, grain, fruits) fulfilled Jacob's prophecy of "royal dainties." However, Asher's

failure to conquer their territory completely meant coexistence with Canaanites, leading to cultural and religious compromise. Anna the prophetess, who recognized infant Jesus as Messiah (Luke 2:36-38), came from Asher—demonstrating that faithful individuals could emerge even from obscure tribes.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Asher's name ("blessed/happy") yet relative historical obscurity challenge the assumption that blessing guarantees prominence?
2. What does Asher's incomplete conquest teach about how compromise with sin—even in areas of strength and blessing—leads to mediocrity?
3. In what ways does Pagiel's name ("God encounters") remind you that divine blessing comes through meeting with God, not merely through favorable circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַל־	אֶבֶר אֵל	בְּמִטָּה	בְּנֵי	אֲשֵׁר	לִפְגִּיעַל
H5921	And over the host	of the tribe	of the children	of Asher	was Pagiel
	H6635	H4294	H1121	H836	H6295
בְּנֵי	עֹכְרָן:				
of the children	of Ocran				
H1121	H5918				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 1:13** (Parallel theme): Of Asher; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

