

Numbers 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiël the son of Ocran. Asher marched with Dan's rear guard division under Pagiël (פָגִיאֵל), "God meets" or "God encounters"). Asher, born to Jacob through Leah's maid servant 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

Pagiël 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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 Pagi's name ("God encounters") remind you that divine blessing comes through meeting with God, not merely through favorable circumstances?

Interlinear Text

פָגַעַיָּא לְאַשְׁר מִתְהַבֵּב בְּנֵי אַבְּאָבָה וְעַל

H5921 **And over the host** H6635 **of the tribe** H4294 **of the children** H1121 **of Asher** H836 **was Pagi** H6295

עַכְרָן:
of the children of Ocran

H1121

H5918

Additional Cross-References

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

