

Numbers 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

Analysis

Zebulun's spy was 'Gaddiel the son of Sodi.' The name 'Gaddiel' means 'God is my fortune/troop,' declaring dependence on divine provision. Yet his joining the majority's fearful report contradicted his name's meaning - he trusted circumstances over God. Zebulun's blessing prophesied they'd 'dwell at the haven of the sea... and his border shall be unto Zidon' (Gen 49:13), promising maritime prosperity. Gaddiel never experienced this, dying in wilderness. This teaches that professing God's provision verbally (via his name) means nothing without faith-filled obedience. Many claim God yet live practically denying His sufficiency (Titus 1:16).

Historical Context

Zebulun eventually inherited territory including important trade routes, fulfilling Jacob's blessing about dwelling at the sea and commercial success. But Gaddiel forfeited this through unbelief. His name proclaimed God as his fortune, yet he saw Canaanite fortifications as insurmountable, revealing that his true trust was in human strength, not divine power. The disconnect between name (theological orthodoxy) and action (practical unbelief) parallels modern professors who claim God's promises while living in fear and unbelief. James addresses this: faith without works is dead (James 2:17) - genuine faith produces trusting obedience, not fearful paralysis.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Does your life match your theological confessions, or do you claim God's provision while living in practical fear?
2. How can you move from mere verbal profession to lived trust that acts on God's promises despite apparent obstacles?

Interlinear Text

לְמִטָּה	זְבוּלֹן	גַּדְיָאֵל	בֶּן	סוּדִי
Of the tribe	of Zebulun	Gaddiel	the son	of Sodi
H4294	H2074	H1427	H1121	H5476

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