

Numbers 13:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

Analysis

Gad's spy was 'Geuel the son of Machi.' The name 'Geuel' means 'majesty of God,' yet his fearful report failed to see or proclaim God's majesty in the face of Canaanite opposition. Gad's blessing prophesied they'd 'overcome at the last' (Gen 49:19) - promise of ultimate victory despite interim struggles. Geuel never experienced this overcoming, dying in wilderness. His life illustrates that God's majesty must be personally embraced, not just acknowledged in one's name. Seeing God's majesty produces courage (Isa 6:1-8); missing His majesty produces cowardice. Those who truly behold God's glory cannot shrink from obstacles (2 Cor 3:18).

Historical Context

Gad chose territory east of Jordan with Reuben and half-Manasseh (Num 32), settling before Canaan's full conquest. This earlier settlement might suggest preference for immediate comfort over full promised inheritance, though they did fight alongside other tribes first. Geuel's unbelief prevented even this compromised inheritance - he died without entering any promised territory. His tribal blessing of overcoming 'at the last' proved true for Gad collectively (they produced mighty warriors, 1 Chr 12:8-15) but not for Geuel personally. This reminds us that corporate promises require individual faith for personal participation. God's victory is certain; our involvement depends on faithfulness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you truly see and proclaim God's majesty, or does your life suggest you're more impressed with obstacles than with His glory?
2. How can beholding God's majesty in Scripture and worship transform your perspective on current challenges?

Interlinear Text

מִצְיָה	בֵּן	גְּאוֹעַ	לְגָד	לְמִתְהָ
Of the tribe	of Gad	Geuel	the son	of Machi
H4294	H1410	H1345	H1121	H4352

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