

Numbers 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

Analysis

From Issachar came 'Igal the son of Joseph.' Issachar's tribal blessing described them as 'a strong ass... he saw that rest was good... and bowed his shoulder to bear' (Gen 49:14-15) - suggesting strength and willingness to work but also potential compromise (bowing to servitude). Igal's name means 'he redeems,' yet his participation in the majority report showed he needed redemption himself. This demonstrates that names and tribal identities are shadows; only Christ truly redeems. Those blessed with strength and understanding (1 Chr 12:32 says 'children of Issachar... had understanding of the times') must use these gifts faithfully, not join majority unbelief.

Historical Context

Issachar occupied fertile territory in Jezreel valley, suited to their blessing's agricultural emphasis. However, Igal never enjoyed this inheritance, dying in wilderness with his unbelieving generation. His tribal blessing of strength and rest became ironic - instead of rest in Canaan, he found death in wilderness. Instead of strong laboring in promised fields, he wandered aimlessly forty years. This illustrates that God's promised blessings require faith to inherit. Every Old Testament promise finds yes in Christ (2 Cor 1:20), but individuals must believe to benefit. Corporate blessing doesn't guarantee individual participation without personal faith.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Are you using your God-given strengths and understanding to advance His kingdom or joining worldly compromise?
2. How does Igal's failure to inherit his tribal promise warn you not to presume on corporate blessings without personal faith?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה לְמִצְרַיִם כַּאֲשֶׁר
Igal the son of Joseph of the tribe of Issachar of the tribe of
H3130 H1121 H3008 H3485 H4294

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