Numbers 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

Analysis

Benjamin's spy was 'Palti the son of Raphu.' The name 'Palti' means 'my deliverance,' yet he needed deliverance from his own unbelief before dying in wilderness. Benjamin's later prominence (King Saul, Apostle Paul) didn't extend to this representative. His tribe was described as 'ravin as a wolf' (Gen 49:27) - fierce and successful in battle. Yet Palti saw Canaanite opposition and concluded defeat inevitable. This teaches that natural fierceness doesn't equal spiritual courage. True bravery comes from faith in God, not natural temperament. Many naturally confident people prove cowards spiritually, while humble believers demonstrate remarkable courage through divine strength.

Historical Context

Benjamin was Rachel's beloved youngest son and Jacob's favorite after Joseph. The tribe eventually produced Saul, Israel's first king, and Paul, the great apostle. Yet tribal prestige didn't prevent Palti's failure. His participation in majority unbelief cost him Canaan's inheritance. The incident demonstrates that family history and tribal significance mean nothing without personal faith. Being born into privilege creates responsibility but doesn't guarantee success. The New Testament pattern continues - John the Baptist warned that physical descent from Abraham meant nothing without spiritual fruitfulness (Matt 3:8-9). What matters is individual faith and obedience, not ancestral reputation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Are you trusting in family religious heritage rather than cultivating personal vital faith?
2. How does Palti's failure despite his tribe's later prominence warn you against complacency based on corporate blessings?

Interlinear Text

לְמַטֵּה	בִנְיָמִ ן	פַּלְטִ י	בֶּן	רָפֽוּא׃
Of the tribe	**of Benjamin**	**Palti**	**the son**	**of Raphu**
H4294	H1144	H6406	H1121	H7505