

Numbers 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon:
and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel
the son of Zurishaddai.

Analysis

Simeon's camp placement next to Reuben joined two tribes that had lost special status through sin—Simeon through violence (Genesis 34; 49:5-7) and Reuben through immorality (Genesis 35:22; 49:3-4). Yet both retained tribal status and significant numbers, demonstrating that God's electing purposes persist despite human failure. This encourages believers that our security rests in God's faithfulness, not our performance.

Historical Context

Simeon and Reuben's proximity in camp may have been providential, creating fellowship between tribes that shared the experience of patriarchal curse yet divine preservation. Both would face future challenges, but both received covenant inclusion in the wilderness organization.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the pairing of two tribes under patriarchal curse yet divine preservation encourage believers struggling with family legacies of sin?
2. What does their inclusion teach us about God's power to redeem troubled histories?

Interlinear Text

וְהַחֹנֶם	עַל יוֹ	מִטֵּה	שִׁמְעֹן	וְנָשִׂיא
And those which pitch	H5921	by him shall be the tribe	of Simeon	and the captain
H2583		H4294	H8095	H5387
בְּנֵי	שִׁמְעֹן	שֶׁלֹמִיֶּאֱל	בְּנֵי	צוּרִישַׁדָּי:
of the children	of Simeon	shall be Shelumiel	of the children	of Zurishaddai
H1121	H8095	H8017	H1121	H6701

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:6 (Parallel theme): Of Simeon; Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.
