

# Numbers 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud.

## Analysis

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Ephraim's division camping on the west side positioned them opposite Judah (east), creating a balance of tribal power across the camp. God's organization ensured no single side was overwhelmingly strong or weak, preventing both dominance and vulnerability. This balanced arrangement teaches principles of wise organization where power is distributed appropriately to maintain order without tyranny.

## Historical Context

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The west side was opposite the tabernacle's entrance (which faced east), making Ephraim's position somewhat less prominent than Judah's. Yet the western tribes' strength ensured balanced military power around the entire camp.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the balanced distribution of tribal strength across the camp teach us about wise organizational principles that prevent concentration of power?
2. What does this teach us about maintaining healthy balance in church leadership structures?

## Interlinear Text

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דָּגֵל shall be the standard H1714	מַחֲנֵה ה of the camp H4264	אֶפְרַיִם יִם of Ephraim H669	לְצִבְאוֹתָם according to their armies H6635	
יַמַּחַר On the west side H3220	וְנָשִׂיא and the captain H5387	בֶּן of the sons H1121	אֶפְרַיִם יִם of Ephraim H669	אֵלִישָׁמָה ע shall be Elishama H476
בֶּן of the sons H1121	עַמִּיהוּד: of Ammihud H5989			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 10:22** (Parallel theme): And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

**Numbers 1:10** (Parallel theme): Of the children of Joseph: of Ephraim; Elishama the son of Ammihud: of Manasseh; Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.