

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

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

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

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

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

לְצִבְאֹת	מִן	אֶפְרַיִם	מִן־הַ	צָבָא
shall be the standard	of the camp	of Ephraim	according to their armies	
H1714	H4264	H669		H6635
בְּמִזְמָרָה	וְבֶן־אֶפְרַיִם	בֶּן־בָּנָיו	אֶפְרַיִם	אֶלְישָׁמָא
On the west side	and the captain	of the sons	of Ephraim	shall be Elishama
H3220	H5387	H1121	H669	H476
בֶּן־	עַמִּיחָדָן			
of the sons	of Ammihud			
H1121	H5989			

Additional Cross-References

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.