

Numbers 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Analysis

Manasseh's camp placement with Ephraim and Benjamin joined Joseph's descendants with Rachel's younger son, creating a division united by family ties. This organization according to family relationships demonstrates that God values and works through natural bonds while also transcending them for redemptive purposes. The principle applies to believers: family relationships matter while ultimate loyalty belongs to God's kingdom family.

Historical Context

The western division's composition (Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin—all descended from Rachel through Joseph and Benjamin) created kinship bonds that would influence later alliances and conflicts in Israel's history, particularly after the kingdom's division.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the organization of camps according to family ties validate the importance of natural relationships while pointing to the greater spiritual family?
2. What does this teach us about balancing loyalty to physical family with primary allegiance to God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל יוֹ	בְּמַטֵּה הַ	מְנַשֶּׁשֶׁה הַ	וְנָשִׂיא	בְּנֵי
H5921	And by him shall be the tribe	of Manasseh	and the captain	of the children
	H4294	H4519	H5387	H1121
מְנַשֶּׁשֶׁה הַ	גַּמְלִיאֵל לְ	בְּנֵי	פְּדָהצֹר:	
of Manasseh	shall be Gamaliel	of the children	of Pedahzur	
H4519	H1583	H1121	H6301	

Additional Cross-References

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