

Numbers 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni.

Analysis

Benjamin's camp placement with Joseph's sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) joined Rachel's two sons in one division, honoring her memory and maintaining family solidarity. Benjamin's loyalty to Judah in later generations (1 Kings 12:21) showed how early associations and family ties influenced later alliances. The principle extends broadly: early relationships and associations shape later loyalties and decisions.

Historical Context

Benjamin's placement in the Ephraim division created bonds that would later manifest in complex ways—sometimes allied with northern Ephraim, sometimes loyal to southern Judah, reflecting the tribe's transitional position geographically and politically.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Benjamin's family alliance with Ephraim yet later loyalty to Judah illustrate the complexity of relationships and loyalties in God's people?
2. What does this teach us about the formative influence of early associations on later commitments?

Interlinear Text

וַיְמַטְהָ	בְּנֵימִן	וְנָשִׂיא	בֶּן	בְּנֵימִן
Then the tribe	of Benjamin	and the captain	of the sons	of Benjamin
H4294	H1144	H5387	H1121	H1144
אָבִידָן	בֶּן	גִּדְעֹנִי		
shall be Abidan	of the sons	of Gideoni		
H27	H1121	H1441		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:11 (Parallel theme): Of Benjamin; Abidan the son of Gideoni.
