

Numbers 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar.

Analysis

Issachar's camp placement next to Judah created an alliance between the royal tribe and a tribe later noted for wisdom (1 Chronicles 12:32). This strategic positioning demonstrates God's sovereignty in arranging relationships that would benefit His people. The biblical principle of godly associations and strategic partnerships finds precedent in this divine ordering, reminding believers that God providentially arranges relationships for mutual edification and kingdom advancement.

Historical Context

The camp arrangement created four divisions of three tribes each, centered around the tabernacle. This formation provided both military security and visual reminder that God dwelt at the center of Israel's national life, a principle that should characterize all of God's people.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the deliberate arrangement of tribal camps challenge us to be intentional about our relationships and associations?
2. What does Israel's camp centered on God's dwelling teach us about organizing our lives and priorities?

Interlinear Text

וְהָחֹנֶ יִם	עַל יוֹ	מִטָּה	יִשָּׁשכָר		
And those that do pitch	H5921	next unto him shall be the tribe	of Issachar		
H2583		H4294	H3485		
וְנִשְׂיָא	בְּנֵי	יִשָּׁשכָר	נֶתְנָאֵל	בְּנֵי	צוּעָר:
shall be captain	of the children	of Issachar	and Nethaneel	of the children	of Zuar
H5387	H1121	H3485	H5417	H1121	H6686

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:8 (Parallel theme): Of Issachar; Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

Numbers 7:18 (Parallel theme): On the second day Nethaneel the son of Zuar, prince of Issachar, did offer:

Numbers 7:23 (Parallel theme): And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Nethaneel the son of Zuar.