

Numbers 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Ozni, the family of the Oznites: of Eri, the family of the Erites:

Analysis

Of Ozni, the family of the Oznites: of Eri, the family of the Erites—The continuation of Gad's seven clans, each maintaining distinct identity through mishpachah (family) structure. Ozni (also called Ezbon in Genesis 46:16) means 'hearing' or 'attentive,' while Eri means 'watchful'—names reflecting vigilance appropriate for a border tribe.

The repetitive formula 'le-mishpachah' (according to their families) appears throughout this census, emphasizing that Israel's organization wasn't merely military but covenantal—each family unit mattered to God. This structure would determine land allotments, with larger families receiving proportionally larger inheritances (v. 54).

Historical Context

Gad's clans formed the defensive eastern flank of Israel, facing Ammonite and Moabite threats. The census formula echoes Genesis 46's list but shows generational transitions—some names changed (Ezbon/Ozni), yet tribal continuity remained. This demonstrates how covenant identity transcends individual lifespans.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the preservation of family names through generations teach about the importance of spiritual heritage and legacy?
2. How does God's detailed attention to each clan challenge modern individualism that neglects family and church community?
3. Why might maintaining distinct tribal identities matter for Israel's mission as a holy nation among the Canaanites?

Interlinear Text

הָאֲזִנִּי	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הָאֲזִנִּי	לְעֵרִי	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הָעֵרִי:
Of Ozni	the family	Of Ozni	of Eri	the family	of the Erites
H244	H4940	H244	H6179	H4940	H6180

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org