

Numbers 26:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Arod, the family of the Arodites: of Areli, the family of the Aremites.

Analysis

Of Arod, the family of the Arodites: of Areli, the family of the Aremites—The final two Gadite clans complete the seven-fold division. Arod (also Arodi, Genesis 46:16) means 'wild donkey' or 'bronze,' while Areli means 'heroic' or 'lion of God' (ארלי). These names suggest strength and fierceness appropriate for Gad's military role—Jacob's blessing prophesied 'Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last' (Genesis 49:19).

The number seven carries completeness in Hebrew thought, suggesting Gad's clan structure represented wholeness. Each clan (mishpachah) functioned as an extended kinship group, maintaining justice, land rights, and covenant obligations across generations.

Historical Context

Gad's eastern territory made them frontline defenders against raids from the desert. Their tribal structure enabled rapid military mobilization—Numbers 32:17 shows them 'armed before the children of Israel' for the conquest. The clan system ensured every fighting man knew his unit and leadership.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jacob's prophecy about Gad being 'overcome' but ultimately 'overcoming' (Genesis 49:19) apply to the Christian life of temporary suffering leading to final victory?
2. What does Gad's willingness to fight for others' inheritance (Numbers 32) before settling their own land teach about sacrificial service?
3. How can the seven-fold completeness of Gad's clans picture the complete church, with diverse members forming one body under Christ?

Interlinear Text

לֵאָרֶד	מִשְׁפֵּת	מִשְׁפֵּת	בָּאָרְאָלִים	מִשְׁפֵּת	מִשְׁפֵּת
Of Arod	the family	of the Arodites	of Areli	the family	of Areli
H720	H4940	H722	H692	H4940	H692

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org