

Numbers 26:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

Analysis

And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites— Eran (עָרָן, 'watchful/aroused') is the only sub-clan of Ephraim detailed, suggesting special significance. As Shuthelah's son, Eran represents Joshua's direct ancestral line (1 Chronicles 7:25-27). The name 'watchful' is providentially appropriate for the clan producing Israel's military commander who would 'watch' over the Conquest.

This single verse on a sub-clan might seem trivial, but it establishes Joshua's genealogical credentials before he leads Israel. Just as Judah's line was carefully preserved to validate Messiah's descent, Ephraim's line through Shuthelah and Eran validated Joshua's authority. The Eranites' 'watchfulness' would be essential in the coming warfare—reconnaissance, vigilance, strategic awareness. Genealogy isn't mere list-making; it's leadership verification.

Historical Context

The Eranites' prominence through Joshua made them significant in Ephraim's military structure. Joshua's home city of Timnath-serah (Joshua 19:50) likely became an Eranite center. This clan's preservation through the census ensured they could claim their inheritance in Ephraim's hill country, near what became the religious center at Shiloh.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the meaning 'watchful' assigned to Joshua's clan encourage us to see God's providential preparation in our family histories?
2. What does the brief mention of Eran amid lengthy genealogies teach about how God values quality over quantity in preserving significant lineages?
3. How might 'watchfulness' as a clan characteristic challenge modern Christianity's sometimes casual approach to spiritual vigilance?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּה

H428

וְאֵלֶּה בָּנֵי
And these are the sons

H1121

שָׁוֹת לְחָ

H7803

שָׁוֹת לְחָ
of Shuthelah

לִעְרָן |

H6197

לִעְרָן |
of Eran

מִשְׁפָּחָת

H4940

מִשְׁפָּחָת
the family

בָּנָּה:

of the Eranites

H6198

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