

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 (עֵרָן, '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	בְּנֵי י	שׁוּתֵלַח	לְעֵרָן	מִשְׁפֵּחַת
H428	And these are the sons	of Shuthelah	of Eran	the family
	H1121	H7803	H6197	H4940
הָעֵרָנִי:				
of the Eranites				
H6198				