

Numbers 26:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the children of Asher after their families: of Jimna, the family of the Jimnites: of Jesui, the family of the Jesuites: of Beriah, the family of the Beriites.

Analysis

The children of Asher after their families—Asher (אָשֶׁר, "happy/blessed") was Leah's handmaid Zilpah's son, yet his tribal blessing rivals the prestigious tribes. The listing of families—Jimna (יִמְנָה), Jesui (יִשׁוּי), Beriah (בְּרִיָּעָה)—establishes inheritance rights. Each clan name carries meaning: Beriah means "in evil/trouble," perhaps commemorating birth circumstances, yet this "troubled" line survived to possess land.

The systematic recording of patronymic families (הַיִּמְנִי, הַיִּשׁוּי, הַבְּרִיָּעָה) demonstrates covenant precision. God doesn't blur lineages into generic "Asher"; each sub-clan receives specific identity and inheritance. Your spiritual heritage matters to God—He distinguishes between the Jimnites and Jesuites.

Historical Context

Asher received the northernmost coastal territory, the most fertile land in Israel (Deuteronomy 33:24). Though from a handmaid, Asher's blessing exceeded some of Leah's direct sons. This census enumerated the families who would inherit that rich olive-oil country stretching to Phoenicia.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the inclusion and blessing of handmaid-descended tribes challenge human hierarchies of legitimacy and worth?
2. Why does God record family names like Beriah ("in trouble")—what hope does this offer to those born in difficult circumstances?
3. What does Asher's blessing despite his mother's servant status teach about spiritual inheritance in Christ?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י'	אָשֶׁר	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַיִּמָּנָה	מִשְׁפַּחַת
Of the children	of Asher	after their families	of Jimna	after their families
H1121	H836	H4940	H3232	H4940
הַיִּמָּנָה	לְיִשׁוּי'	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַיִּשׁוּי'	לְבִרְיָה
of Jimna	of Jesui	after their families	of the Jesuites	of Beriah
H3232	H3440	H4940	H3441	H1283
מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַבְּרִיטִי:			
after their families	of the Beriites			
H4940	H1284			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 7:30 (Parallel theme): The sons of Asher; Imnah, and Isuah, and Ishuai, and Beriah, and Serah their sister.

Genesis 46:17 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.

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