

Numbers 26:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the name of the daughter of Asher was Sarah.

Analysis

The name of the daughter of Asher was Sarah (סַרַּח)—a striking detail in a military census of males. Serah's inclusion breaks the pattern, demanding explanation. Jewish tradition identifies her as the woman who told Jacob that Joseph lived (Genesis 46:17 lists her entering Egypt). If true, her mention here 200+ years later suggests extraordinary longevity, making her a living link between Egypt's slavery and Canaan's conquest.

Why record one woman among 601,730 men? Serah represented continuity—the only person who remembered both Jacob's sorrow and his joy. Her name means "extension," perfectly fitting one who extended across generations. God preserves witnesses to His faithfulness.

Historical Context

Serah appears in only three texts: the descent to Egypt (Genesis 46:17), this census, and Chronicles' genealogy (1 Chronicles 7:30). Rabbinic tradition claims she entered the Garden of Eden alive, like Enoch and Elijah. Whether or not the tradition holds, her unique mention suggests a unique role in preserving Israel's memory.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why would God include one woman's name in a military census of men? What does this reveal about His values?
2. What spiritual significance does generational continuity—people who span multiple eras—have for preserving faith?
3. Who are the 'Serahs' in your spiritual life—saints who connect you to previous generations of believers?

Interlinear Text

וְשֵׁם	בֵּת	אֲשֶׁר	שָׂרָה:
And the name	of the daughter	of Asher	was Sarah
H8034	H1323	H836	H8294

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