

Numbers 26:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites: of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.

Analysis

Of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites: of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites—the continuation of Naphtali's clans. Jezer (יִצְרָא) shares its root with yetzer (יִצְרָא), the Hebrew term for inclination or impulse (Genesis 6:5's "imagination" of man's heart). God "forms" (יִצְרָא) humanity and each family with purpose. Shillem (שִׁלְעָם) means "recompense/peace," from the root of shalom.

Together, Jezer and Shillem declare theology: God forms people with purpose and brings them to wholeness/peace. The census isn't merely demographics—it's a record of God's creative work forming a nation according to His design.

Historical Context

These families received inheritance in Upper Galilee near the waters of Merom and Mount Hermon. The "recompense" family (Shillem) settled near where Peter would later receive his threefold restoration (John 21)—geographical recompense for geographical denial. God writes redemption into the landscape.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the meaning of Jezer ("formed with purpose") encourage you that your existence is intentional, not accidental?
2. What connections do you see between God forming families with purpose and His forming individuals (Jeremiah 1:5)?
3. How does the Shillem ("recompense/peace") family name point forward to Christ, our peace and recompense?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֶרְזֶר	מִשְׁפָּט	חַת	לְאֶרְזֶר	בְּאֶרְזֶר	מִשְׁפָּט	חַת	לְשִׁלֵּם	מִשְׁפָּט	חַת	לְשִׁלֵּם	מִשְׁפָּט	חַת	לְשִׁלֵּם
Of Jezer	the family		H3337	of Shillem	the family		H8006	of the Shillemites		H4940		H8016	
H3337	H4940		H3339	H8006		H4940		H8016					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 7:13 (Parallel theme): The sons of Naphtali; Jahziel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

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