

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 (יֶזֶר) shares its root with yetzer (יֶזֶר), the Hebrew term for inclination or impulse (Genesis 6:5's "imagination" of man's heart). God "forms" (יָצַר) humanity and each family with purpose. Shillem (שִׁלֵּם) 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

הַצֵּר	י	הַצֵּר	י	לְשֵׁלִם	הַצֵּר	י	לְשֵׁלִים:
Of Jezer	the family	H3339	of Shillem	the family	of the Shillemites		
H3337	H4940		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.