

Numbers 34:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The prince of the children of Joseph, for the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod.

Analysis

And the prince of the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod—Manasseh's appointed representative (Hanniel the son of Ephod) ensures fair land distribution for his tribe. The specific naming of all tribal leaders demonstrates Scripture's historical precision—these weren't generic placeholders but actual historical figures overseeing the monumental task of allocating Promised Land according to divine direction.

Manasseh's western half-tribe receives separate representation, distinguishing their Canaan inheritance from Transjordan relatives. This comprehensive listing shows that God's covenant faithfulness extends to every tribe—none were overlooked or shortchanged in the inheritance process. The New Testament similarly teaches that Christ's church includes every tribe and tongue: 'You have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation' (Revelation 5:9).

Historical Context

These tribal representatives worked alongside Joshua and Eleazar (34:17) during Canaan's 7-year conquest and division period. Each leader bore responsibility for ensuring his tribe received appropriate allocation according to Numbers 26's census—larger tribes received more territory, smaller tribes less (26:52-56), but all received sufficient inheritance for sustainable tribal existence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's appointment of representatives for every tribe demonstrate His commitment to comprehensive, inclusive covenant faithfulness?
2. What does the careful naming of each leader teach about Scripture's historical reliability and God's concern for individual persons, not just generic groups?
3. How can you ensure that administrative processes in church or ministry honor both efficiency and inclusivity, making sure no group is overlooked or underserved?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי	יוֹסֵף	לְמִטָּה	בְּנֵי	מְנַשֶּׁה	נָשִׁי יֵא
of the children	of Joseph	for the tribe	of the children	of Manasseh	The prince
H1121	H3130	H4294	H1121	H4519	H5387
חַנְיָאֵל	בְּנֵי	אֶפְדָּיִם			
Hanniel	of the children	of Ephod			
H2592	H1121	H641			