

Numbers 7:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, prince of the children of Reuben, did offer:

Analysis

Elizur, prince of Reuben, offering on the fourth day continues the pattern despite Reuben's complicated tribal history. Reuben was Jacob's firstborn but lost his birthright due to sin. Yet here, his tribal representative offers the same gifts as Judah and all others. This demonstrates that God's grace overcomes past failure. The Reformed doctrine of irresistible grace is reflected—God's call and purpose are not thwarted by human sin. Past failure doesn't disqualify from present service.

Historical Context

Reuben's loss of the birthright due to defiling his father's bed (Genesis 35:22) might have created shame, yet the tribe participated fully in tabernacle dedication. God's restoration of Reuben to equal standing among the tribes demonstrates divine grace overcoming human failure. The tribe would eventually settle east of the Jordan but remained part of Israel's covenant community.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Reuben's full participation despite past sin encourage those struggling with failure?
2. What does God's restoration of failed tribes and individuals teach about His character?
3. In what ways should the church balance accountability for sin with restoration to service?

Interlinear Text

בַּיּוֹם	וְאַלְיָזָר	רְאוּבֵן	וְאֶלְיָזָר	וְרְאוּבֵן	בְּנֵי	נֶשֶׁת	יְהוָה	פָּרָבִיעַ	וְבַיּוֹם
day	On the fourth	prince	of the children	of Reuben					
H3117	H7243	H5387	H1121	H7205					
בְּנֵי	שְׁדֵיאוּרָה:								
of the children	of Shedeur								
H1121	H7707								

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:5 (Parallel theme): And these are the names of the men that shall stand with you: of the tribe of Reuben; Elizur the son of Shedeur.
