

Numbers 7:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, prince of the children of Dan, offered:

Analysis

On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, prince of the children of Dan, offered—Dan (דָן, 'judge') was Rachel's son through her maidservant Bilhah (Genesis 30:6). Despite his irregular birth, Dan received full tribal status and inheritance. **Ahiezer** ('my brother is help,' אֲחִ'זֶר, Achi'ezer) and **Ammishaddai** ('my kinsman is Shaddai,' אֲמִ'שָׁדָי, Ammishaddai) both emphasize covenantal relationships and divine sufficiency—the El Shaddai title (God Almighty) first appeared to Abraham (Genesis 17:1).

Dan's position here (tenth day) contrasts with his final-place position in travel order (Numbers 10:25, serving as rear guard). Yet in Ezekiel's temple vision (Ezekiel 48:1), Dan receives the northernmost gate—first position. God's economy reverses human hierarchies. Though Jacob's blessing pronounced Dan would 'judge his people' (Genesis 49:16), the tribe fell into deep idolatry (Judges 18:30-31), revealing that positional blessing requires faithful obedience.

Historical Context

Dan's territory was the smallest tribal allotment (Joshua 19:40-48), and the tribe faced Amorite pressure that forced migration northward. They conquered Laish, renamed it Dan, and established the northernmost boundary of Israel ('from Dan to Beersheba'). Tragically, Dan became a center of calf worship under Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:28-30), and is notably absent from Revelation 7's sealed tribes—a sobering warning about apostasy's consequences.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Dan's full participation in tabernacle worship (despite later apostasy) teach about the tragedy of starting well but finishing poorly (1 Corinthians 10:12)?
2. How do Ahiezer's and Ammishaddai's names ('brother is help,' 'kinsman is Shaddai') point to Christ as both our brother (Hebrews 2:11) and all-sufficient God?
3. What does Dan's omission from Revelation 7's sealed tribes suggest about the possibility of corporate apostasy and covenant judgment?

Interlinear Text

בְּיֹם	יְהוָה	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
day	On the tenth	prince	of the children	of Dan	Ahiezer	of the children			
H3117	H6224	H5387	H1121	H1835	H295	H1121			
עַמִּישָׁדָי:									
of Ammishaddai									
	H5996								

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:12 (Parallel theme): Of Dan; Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

Numbers 2:25 (Parallel theme): The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

