

Numbers 7:72

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, prince of the children of Asher, offered:

Analysis

On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, prince of the children of Asher, offered—Asher (אַשָּׁר, 'happy/blessed') was Leah's son through her maidservant Zilpah (Genesis 30:12-13). Leah's exclamation 'Happy am I!' (בָּאַשְׁר) reflects the blessing of fullness and satisfaction. **Pagiel** ('God meets/encounters', פָּגִיאֵל, Pag'i'el) suggests divine visitation or intervention. **Ocran** ('troubler/disturber', עָקָן, Okran) contrasts sharply with Asher's blessing—perhaps indicating struggles overcome or troubles turned to joy.

Asher's tribal blessing promised richness: 'his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties' (Genesis 49:20). Moses blessed Asher with abundant oil: 'let him dip his foot in oil' (Deuteronomy 33:24). This material prosperity, sanctified through tabernacle worship, demonstrates that wealth rightly used honors God. The eleventh-day position (penultimate) suggests Asher's offering stood between Dan's (tenth) and Naphtali's concluding offering (twelfth), completing the northern tribes' participation.

Historical Context

Asher's territory in northwestern Israel included the fertile Mediterranean coastal plain and extended to Phoenicia. The tribe's wealth derived from olive groves (fulfilling the oil blessing), grain production, and maritime trade. Despite prosperity, Asher failed to drive out Canaanite inhabitants (Judges 1:31-32), demonstrating that material blessing without spiritual vigilance leads to

compromise. The prophetess Anna descended from Asher (Luke 2:36-38), showing God preserved a faithful remnant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Asher's material prosperity, when offered back to God in worship, challenge both ascetic rejection of wealth and materialistic hoarding of resources?
2. What is the relationship between Pagi'el's name ('God encounters') and authentic worship—where does God promise to meet His people (Exodus 25:22, Matthew 18:20)?
3. How can believers today 'dip their foot in oil' (Deuteronomy 33:24)—living in spiritual abundance and anointing—while avoiding Asher's compromises with surrounding culture?

Interlinear Text

וּמְ	יְ	עַשְׂתָּה	וּמְ	עַשְׂ	רַ	בְּנֵי	רַ	אַשְׁרַ
day	On the eleventh	H6240	day	prince	of the children	of	of	Asher
H3117	H6249		H3117	H5387	H1121		H836	

לְפָגִיאֵל	בְּנֵי	עַכְתִּים
Pagi'el	of the children	of Ocran
H6295	H1121	H5918

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:13 (Parallel theme): Of Asher; Pagiel the son of Ocran.

Numbers 2:27 (Parallel theme): And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran.

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