

Joshua 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

Analysis

Joshua reminds the Transjordan tribes of their covenant obligation to Moses. The command 'Remember' (zakhor, זָקַר) demands active recollection of covenant commitments. The phrase 'the LORD your God hath given you rest' (Yahweh Eloheikhem meniach lakhem, יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִנְחָת לְכֶם) uses participle form—God IS giving rest, present ongoing action. The Transjordan tribes had received their inheritance (Numbers 32), but covenant solidarity required helping their brothers conquer western Canaan before enjoying their rest. This establishes that personal blessing doesn't exempt believers from serving others—those who receive must help those still struggling. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates covenant community—stronger members bear weaker members' burdens (Galatians 6:2), and those blessed first assist those blessed later.

Historical Context

Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh requested Transjordan territory for their large herds (Numbers 32:1-5). Moses initially rebuked them for wanting to settle before helping conquer Canaan, but they pledged to fight alongside their brothers before returning home (Numbers 32:16-32). Now Joshua holds them to that oath. This demonstrates covenant faithfulness—keeping promises even when inconvenient. These tribes faithfully fulfilled their commitment, fighting throughout the conquest before returning to Transjordan (Joshua 22:1-9). Their example establishes covenant loyalty's importance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What covenant obligations to help others must you fulfill before enjoying your own rest?
2. How does the Transjordan tribes' example challenge you to serve others even after receiving personal blessing?
3. What promises have you made that require faithful completion despite inconvenience?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁנָה	אַתָּה	צִוָּה	רְאֵשֶׁת	פְּדָבָר	אַתָּה	זִכּוֹר	רְאֵשֶׁת	מִשְׁנָה
Remember	H853	the word	H834	commanded	H853	which Moses	H4872	
H2142		H1697		H6680				
עָבֵד	לְאָמֵן	רֹאֵת	יְהִי הָ	לְאָמֵן	רֹאֵת	אֶל-הָיִצְמָמָה	מִן יְמִינָה	
the servant	The LORD	you saying	The LORD	the LORD	your God	hath given you rest	H5117	
H5650	H3068	H559	H3068	H430				
לְכָמָד	אַתָּה	לְכָמָד	יְנִתְמַדֵּן	אַתָּה	לְכָמָד	פְּזִיאָתֶךָ		
H0	and hath given	H0	H853	H776	H2063			
H5414								

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