

# Joshua 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

## Analysis

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Joshua outlines the practical arrangement: families remain in Transjordan while warriors cross to help their brothers. The phrase 'mighty men of valour' (giborei hechayil, גִּבְעֹרִים חַיִל) describes seasoned warriors, not mere able-bodied men. The command 'pass before your brethren armed' (thoveru lifnei acheikhem chamushtem, תָּעֲבֹרُו לִפְנֵי אֶחָדֶיכֶם חַמּוּשִׁים) means march in battle formation leading the advance. This demonstrates covenant solidarity—those with secured inheritance lead dangerous missions helping brothers gain theirs. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates stronger believers sacrificially serving weaker ones, and those who received grace first ministering to others.

## Historical Context

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Numbers 32:17 records this same commitment. The Transjordan warriors numbered approximately 40,000 (Joshua 4:13), forming a significant portion of Israel's fighting force. Their willingness to leave families and livestock vulnerable while fighting years away demonstrated remarkable faith and covenant loyalty. They faithfully served throughout the seven-year conquest before returning home (Joshua 22:1-4).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What sacrifices is God calling you to make to help spiritual siblings succeed?
2. How does leading 'before your brethren' challenge you to take difficult assignments rather than seeking comfort?
3. What does leaving family secure to help others reveal about covenant priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	בְּאֶרֶץ	יֹשֵׁב	בְּיַמִּינֵיכֶם	טֶפֶּכֶם	בְּנֵיכֶם
<b>Your wives</b>	<b>your little ones</b>	<b>and your cattle</b>	<b>shall remain</b>	<b>in the land</b>	<b>H834</b>
H802	H2945	H4735	H3427	H776	
גַּave	וְ	מֵשֶׁה	בַּעַד	פְּרַד	תְּעַבֵּר
H5414	H0	H4872	H5676	H3383	H859
<b>which Moses</b>	<b>you on this side</b>	<b>Moses</b>	<b>you on this side</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>but ye shall pass</b>
					H5674
מַמְשִׁים	לְפָנֶיךָ	אֲחִיךָ	כִּל	גְּבוּרִים	מְנֻלָּה
<b>armed</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>your brethren</b>	H3605	<b>all the mighty</b>	<b>men of valour</b>
H2571	H6440	H251		H1368	H2428
וְ	אַזְתָּמָה	וְ	לְפָנֶיךָ	אַזְתָּמָה	
<b>and help</b>	<b>H853</b>				
H5826					