

Joshua 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

Analysis

This verse specifies the duration of the Transjordan tribes' military service: 'Until the LORD have given your brethren rest' (ad asher-yaniach Yahweh laacheikhem, עד אשר יניח יהוה לאחיכם). Their obligation lasted until all Israel possessed their inheritance. The promise 'then ye shall return' guarantees they could eventually enjoy their own land after faithfully serving. This establishes conditionality: personal rest follows corporate victory. The phrase 'land of your possession' (erets yerushatkhem, ארץ ירושתכם) emphasizes their legitimate inheritance despite being east of Jordan. From a Reformed perspective, this teaches that individual blessing and corporate blessing intertwine—we cannot fully enjoy our inheritance while brothers lack theirs.

Historical Context

The conquest lasted approximately seven years. During this time, Transjordan families remained vulnerable to raids, yet the warriors faithfully served westward. This prolonged commitment demonstrates extraordinary covenant loyalty. When they finally returned, controversy nearly erupted over an altar they built (Joshua

22), but explanation and reconciliation preserved unity. Their example inspired future generations regarding covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What personal enjoyment must you delay to help others reach their God-given goals?
2. How does the promise of eventual rest encourage perseverance in difficult service?
3. What does this teach about balancing personal needs with corporate responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וְיִרְשְׁתֶּם	כְּכֶם	לְאַחֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	וְנָתַתִּי	אֲשֶׁר	עַד
H3423	H0	H251	H3068	H5117	H834	H5704
and enjoy		your brethren	Until the LORD	have given		
וְנָתַתִּי	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	לְאֶרֶץ	אֶת	הַמָּה
H5414	H430	H3068	H834	H776	H853	H1992
gave	your God	Until the LORD	the land			
וְיִרְשְׁתֶּם	יְרֵשְׁתֶּם	לְאֶרֶץ	וְשָׁבְתֶם	לָהֶם		
H3423	H3425	H776	H7725	H0		
and enjoy	of your possession	the land	them then ye shall return			
יְהוָה	עַבְדִּי	מֹשֶׁה	לְכֶם	וְנָתַתִּי	אֲשֶׁר	רַחֵם
H3068	H5650	H4872	H0	H5414	H834	H853
Until the LORD	servant	it which Moses		gave		
הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ	מִזְבַּח	הַיַּרְדֵּי	בְּעֵבֶר			
H8121	H4217	H3383	H5676			
toward the sunrising	Jordan	you on this side				

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 2:4 (Parallel theme): Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.