

Joshua 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses gave inheritance unto the tribe of Gad, even unto the children of Gad according to their families.

Analysis

And Moses gave inheritance unto the tribe of Gad, even unto the children of Gad according to their families—Gad (גָּד), Jacob's seventh son born to Leah's handmaid Zilpah, received territory north of Reuben. The repetition "**unto the tribe of Gad, even unto the children of Gad**" emphasizes certainty and completeness—no Gadite was excluded. The phrase *l'mishpehotam* (למישפחות, "according to their families") again stresses ordered, equitable distribution based on clan structure.

Gad's blessing in Genesis 49:19 prophesied: "A troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last." His Transjordan territory indeed faced constant pressure from Ammonites, Moabites, and desert raiders, yet Gad produced mighty warriors (1 Chronicles 5:18-22, 12:8-15). The Transjordan tribes' geographical position—outside Canaan proper, exposed to enemies—required perpetual vigilance. Their placement illustrates that some of God's people are called to frontier positions, bearing greater exposure but developing unique strength through constant dependence on God.

Historical Context

Gad's territory lay between Reuben to the south and the half-tribe of Manasseh to the north, encompassing the region between the Arnon and Jabbok rivers, including the mountainous Gilead region. This area featured both agricultural valleys and defensive highlands. The Gadites were renowned warriors, forming

elite units in David's army. Archaeological evidence suggests continuous settlement despite the territory's contested status.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Gad's prophetic blessing about being overcome yet overcoming apply to Christians facing ongoing spiritual battles?
2. What spiritual lessons can be drawn from God placing some tribes in more exposed, vulnerable positions?
3. How does the equitable distribution 'according to their families' reflect God's justice in assigning different callings and challenges?

Interlinear Text

ל	תַּתִּ	מֵשֶׁה	לִמְطָה	גַּד	לְבָנִי	גַּד
gave	And Moses	inheritance unto the tribe	of Gad	even unto the children	of Gad	
H5414	H4872	H4294	H1410	H1121		H1410

לִמְשֻׁפְחֹתֶם:

according to their families

H4940

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