

Joshua 13:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the inheritance of the children of Gad after their families, the cities, and their villages.

Analysis

The rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, Jordan and his border—

This phrase summarizes Gad's territory as comprising the northern portion of Sihon's former kingdom, with the Jordan River forming the western boundary. The Hebrew *g'vul* (גְּבוּל, "border/boundary") emphasizes definite limits. The Jordan (יַרְדֵּן, Yarden, "descender") served as a natural boundary, descending from Mount Hermon through the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.

Even unto the edge of the sea of Chinnereth on the other side Jordan eastward—

The Sea of Chinnereth (יָם כִּנֶּרֶת, later called Galilee) formed Gad's northwest boundary. The phrase "**on the other side Jordan eastward**" reminds readers that Gad's inheritance, though legitimate, lay outside Canaan proper. This geographical detail carried perpetual theological significance: the Transjordan tribes received full inheritance yet remained physically separated from the central sanctuary. Their situation foreshadows believers who are "in the world but not of it"—fully blessed yet geographically distinct, requiring intentional connection to covenant community.

Historical Context

The Sea of Chinnereth (Galilee) is approximately 13 miles long and 7 miles wide, lying 690 feet below sea level. Gad's territory stretched along the eastern shore and inland through the Gilead highlands. This provided access to fishing, agriculture, trade routes, and defensive positions, making it economically valuable.

The Jordan River valley formed a natural boundary that was crossable at numerous fords but still served as a clear demarcation between territories.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Jordan River as boundary illustrate that God's blessings can be legitimate even when they place us in unexpected or separated positions?
2. What spiritual disciplines might the Transjordan tribes have needed to maintain connection with the central sanctuary, and how does this apply to modern believers?
3. How does Gad's comprehensive inheritance ('all the kingdom of Sihon') demonstrate that God doesn't give partial or incomplete blessings?

Interlinear Text

זֶה	נַחֲלָת	בְּנֵי	גָּד	לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם
H2063	This is the inheritance	of the children	of Gad	after their families
	H5159	H1121	H1410	H4940
הָעָרִים	וְחִצְרֵיהֶם:			
the cities	and their villages			
H5892	H2691			