

# Joshua 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses gave inheritance unto the half tribe of Manasseh: and this was the possession of the half tribe of the children of Manasseh by their families.

## Analysis

**This is the inheritance of the children of Gad after their families, the cities, and their villages**—This concluding formula parallels verse 15's opening for Reuben, creating a bookend structure. The Hebrew nachalah (נִכְלָה, "inheritance") emphasizes that land wasn't earned but given—a permanent possession passed through generations. The phrase he'arim v'chatsreyhen (הָעָרִים וְחַצְרֵיהֶן, "the cities and their villages") indicates comprehensive holdings: both fortified urban centers and surrounding agricultural settlements.

The double emphasis—"the children of Gad after their families"—reinforces that inheritance was both corporate (tribal) and familial (clan-based). This structure balanced community identity with family stewardship. In God's kingdom, blessing is never purely individualistic but operates within covenantal relationships. Gad's cities and villages became places where successive generations would live out covenant faithfulness or failure, confirming that inheritance brings responsibility. Land given by grace must be stewarded in obedience.

## Historical Context

Gad's territory included approximately 30-40 settlements ranging from fortified cities like Heshbon to smaller villages and encampments. The clan-based distribution system ensured that land remained within family lines, preventing

concentration of wealth and maintaining tribal cohesion. This system functioned for centuries until the Assyrian exile (circa 732 BC), when the Transjordan tribes were first deported (2 Kings 15:29, 1 Chronicles 5:26).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the balance between tribal and family inheritance structure reflect God's design for both corporate church identity and individual household stewardship?
2. What does the inclusion of 'villages' alongside 'cities' teach about God's concern for both prominent and humble places?
3. How should the concept of inheritance as gift rather than achievement shape Christian understanding of salvation and sanctification?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיִתֶּן  
gave

וְאַנְתָּם  
And Moses

H5414

H4872

לִפְנֵי  
and this was the

מִשְׁמָרָה  
possession of the half

H2677

מִנְשָׁה  
of Manasseh

וְאַתָּה  
tribe

וְאַתָּה  
of Manasseh

H7626

H4519

וְיִתֶּן  
and this was the

מִשְׁמָרָה  
possession of the half

H2677

מִטְהָרָה  
tribe

וְאַתָּה  
of the children

H4294

בָּנִים  
H1121

מִנְשָׁה  
of Manasseh

H4519

לְמִשְׁפָחוֹתֶם  
by their families

H4940

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