

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* (נַחֲלָה, "inheritance") emphasizes that land wasn't earned but given—a permanent possession passed through generations. The phrase *he'arim v'chatsreyhen* (הָעָרִים וְחֻצְרֵיהֶן, "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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

וַיֵּן	מֹשֶׁה	לְחֶצֶי	יֵשׁ בֵּט	מְנַשֶּׁה
gave	And Moses	and this was the possession of the half	tribe	of Manasseh
H5414	H4872	H2677	H7626	H4519
וַיֵּה	לְחֶצֶי	מֵטֵה	בְּנֵי	מְנַשֶּׁה
and this was the possession of the half	tribe	of the children	of Manasseh	
H1961	H2677	H4294	H1121	H4519
לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם:				
by their families				
H4940				

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