

Joshua 13:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their coast was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, threescore cities:

Analysis

And Moses gave inheritance unto the half tribe of Manasseh—The division of Manasseh (מֹשֶׁׁה) into two half-tribes created unique dynamics: familial unity split by geographical separation. Joseph's son Manasseh received a double portion through this division (Genesis 48:5-6), fulfilling Jacob's blessing. Yet half dwelling in Transjordan while half inherited within Canaan proper created permanent tension between unity and separation.

And this was the possession of the half tribe of the children of Manasseh by their families—The eastern half-tribe consisted of clans who chose, like Reuben and Gad, to settle east of Jordan (Numbers 32:39-42). Their inheritance demonstrates that God accommodates human choices within His sovereign purposes. Yet this accommodation carried consequences: geographical division from the other half-tribe and from the central sanctuary. The half-tribe structure stands as perpetual testimony that settling for good rather than best, choosing convenience over calling, results in divided identity and reduced blessing.

Historical Context

The half-tribe of Manasseh that settled east of Jordan consisted primarily of the clans descended from Machir, Manasseh's son (Numbers 32:39-40). This eastern territory stretched from the Jabbok River northward to Mount Hermon, including Bashan and parts of Gilead. The western half of Manasseh later received land in

central Canaan. This geographical split continued throughout Israel's history, with the eastern half falling first to Assyrian conquest.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the division of Manasseh into two half-tribes teach about the long-term consequences of choosing comfort over God's primary calling?
2. How might the geographical separation between the two halves of Manasseh illustrate family or church divisions caused by competing priorities?
3. In what ways do believers today settle for 'half portions' when God intends complete, undivided inheritance?

Interlinear Text

כָּל בְּבָשָׂר מִתְּמִיקָּן יְמִינָה
H1961 And their coast was from Mahanaim H3605 all Bashan H3605
H1366 H4266 H1316

וְתַּחַת מֶלֶךְ וְתַּחַת כָּל בְּבָשָׂר כְּלֹת יְהִיא
all the kingdom of Og king all Bashan and all the towns of Jair
H4468 H5747 H4428 H1316 H3605 H2333 H2971

אֲשֶׁר עִירִים שְׁשָׁה בְּבָשָׂר וְתַּחַת
H834 all Bashan threescore cities
H1316 H8346 H5892

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 13:26 (Parallel theme): And from Heshbon unto Ramath-mizpeh, and Betonim; and from Mahanaim unto the border of Debir;

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