

Joshua 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, even as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them;

Analysis

Beginning distribution: 'With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, even as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.' The half-tribe of Manasseh, along with Reuben and Gad, received Transjordan territory. The phrase 'which Moses gave them' emphasizes prior authorization—this wasn't Joshua's innovation but continuing Moses's directives (Numbers 32). The double mention of Moses—by name and as 'servant of the LORD'—validates the Transjordan allocation. The title 'servant of the LORD' appears frequently for Moses, emphasizing his faithful stewardship of God's directives. The passage teaches continuity in godly leadership: Joshua honors Moses's decisions while fulfilling his own distinct calling. This models how successive generations build on previous faithful service without either slavish repetition or proud innovation. Each generation serves faithfully in its context while honoring faithful predecessors.

Historical Context

The Transjordan territory allocation (Numbers 32) came after Israel defeated Sihon and Og but before crossing into Canaan proper. Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh requested this territory because it was excellent pastureland for their extensive livestock. Moses initially resisted, fearing it echoed the faithless spies' refusal to enter Canaan (Numbers 32:6-15). He agreed only after they committed to help conquer Canaan proper before settling their own territory (Numbers

32:16-27). This arrangement was honored—these tribes participated fully in conquest (1:12-18, 4:12-13) before returning to possess their Transjordan inheritance (22:1-9). The mention here validates that this allocation, though east of Jordan, was legitimate part of Israel's inheritance. Later history shows mixed results: these tribes were geographically separated from main Israelite population, making them vulnerable to both Aramean incursions and cultural assimilation with neighboring peoples.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you honor previous generations' faithful decisions while discerning your own distinct calling?
2. What does the Transjordan tribes' commitment to help others before settling their own inheritance teach about serving corporate good over personal interest?
3. When have geographic or cultural separation (like Transjordan tribes) created challenges for maintaining unity and shared identity?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| נָמְלָת מ | לְקַח ו | וּפְגַד ו | עִם ו | בְּרָאֹבְנִי | וְגָדִי | רְעָבְנִי | עִם ו |
| H5159 | their inheritance | H3947 | H1425 | and the Gadites | have received | With whom the Reubenites | H5973 |
| H7206 | | H1425 | | | | | |
| אֲשֶׁר | לְקַח מ נָתָן ו | מֵשֶׁה | בְּעֵבֶר | בְּרִידָן | מִזְבֵּחַ | פְּרִידָן | |
| H834 | gave | H0 | even as Moses | them beyond | Jordan | eastward | H4217 |
| H5414 | | H4872 | | H5676 | H3383 | | |
| אֲשֶׁר | לְקַח מ נָתָן ו | מֵשֶׁה | עַבְדָּל | יְהִי: | | | |
| H834 | gave | H0 | even as Moses | the servant | of the LORD | | |
| H5414 | | H4872 | | H5650 | H3068 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 12:6 (References Lord): Them did Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel smite: and Moses the servant of the LORD gave it for a possession unto the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh.

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