

Joshua 22:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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Analysis

Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh,

After seven years of conquest and initial settlement, Joshua summons the Transjordan tribes for formal dismissal. These three tribal groups—Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh—had received their inheritance east of the Jordan under Moses' leadership (Numbers 32; Deuteronomy 3:12-20), yet faithfully left their families and new possessions to fight alongside their brothers. The word "called" (qara, קָרָא) suggests a formal assembly, not casual conversation—this was an official military discharge and covenant renewal ceremony.

The designation "half tribe of Manasseh" (chatsi shevet Menasheh, חֲצִי שֵׁבֶט מְנַשֶּׁה) highlights the unique division of Joseph's descendants. Manasseh's territory spanned both sides of the Jordan, creating kinship ties that bridged the river. This geographical split would soon create theological tension, as chapter 22 will reveal. The separate naming of each tribal unit emphasizes their distinct identities while underscoring their collective faithfulness to covenant obligations.

Historical Context

The Transjordan conquest occurred before Israel crossed the Jordan River (Numbers 21:21-35). Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh requested this eastern territory because it was ideal for their large cattle herds (Numbers 32:1-5). Moses

initially rebuked them for potentially repeating the unfaithfulness of the spies (Numbers 32:6-15), but agreed when they pledged to fight for Canaan before settling their families. This chapter marks the fulfillment of that pledge—approximately seven years after crossing the Jordan (Joshua 14:10 suggests seven years elapsed). The Transjordan territory included Gilead (forested highlands), Bashan (fertile plateau), and areas conquered from Sihon and Og. These tribes had left wives, children, and livestock guarded in fortified cities while the fighting men crossed westward to help conquer Canaan.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What long-term commitments have you made to help others succeed spiritually, even when it delays your own personal goals or comfort?
2. How does the faithfulness of the Transjordan tribes challenge modern individualism that prioritizes personal blessing over corporate responsibility?
3. When have you seen God honor those who put others' needs before their own immediate interests, fulfilling delayed promises with greater blessing?

Interlinear Text

זָ	אָ	אָ	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	לְרֵאשִׁיטֵי	וְלִגְדֵי	וְלַחֲצִי
H227	called	Then Joshua	the Reubenites	and the Gadites	and the half	
	H7121	H3091	H7206	H1425	H2677	

מִטֵּה	מִנְשֵׁה:
tribe	of Manasseh
H4294	H4519

