

Joshua 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, unto the land of Gilead, and they spake with them, saying,

Analysis

They came unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, unto the land of Gilead—The geography is critical: Gilead lies east of the Jordan River, separating these tribes from the tabernacle at Shiloh. The delegation physically crossed the Jordan to address the crisis face-to-face rather than making accusations from a distance.

They spake with them, saying—The verb דָּבַר (dabar) means to speak formally or declare, suggesting this was an official inquiry rather than casual conversation. The delegation came prepared to hear the defense, modeling biblical conflict resolution that assumes innocent intent until proven otherwise (Proverbs 18:17).

Historical Context

Gilead, the Transjordan territory allocated to Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh (Joshua 13), was prime grazing land but geographically isolated from the main worship center. This separation created legitimate concerns about future generations maintaining covenant loyalty.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why is face-to-face confrontation essential in resolving potential church divisions (rather than rumors or third-party reports)?
2. How does their willingness to travel to Gilead demonstrate the principle of pursuing peace and unity?
3. What modern church conflicts might be resolved if we followed this pattern of personal, direct engagement?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵל	אֶל	בְּנֵי	רְאוּבֵן	וְאֶל	בְּנֵי	
And they came		and to the children	of Reuben		and to the children	
H935	H413	H1121	H7205	H413	H1121	
וְאֶל	חֲצִי	שֵׁבֶט	מְנַשֶּׁה	אֶל	אֶרֶץ	הַגִּלְעָד
of Gad	and to the half	tribe	of Manasseh		unto the land	of Gilead
H1410	H2677	H7626	H4519	H413	H776	H1568
וַיִּדְבֹּר ו	אִתָּם	לֵאמֹר:				
and they spake		with them saying				
H1696	H854	H559				