

Joshua 22:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the LORD: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the LORD.

Analysis

For the LORD hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the LORD—The eastern tribes reveal their deepest fear: future generations west of the Jordan might exclude their descendants from covenant participation because of geographical separation. The phrase "no part in the LORD" (אֵין חֶלֶק לְكָם בָּיהִתָּה, ein chelek lakhem b'YHWH) denotes disinheritance from covenant blessings.

So shall your children make our children cease from fearing the LORD—The verb "cease" (שָׁבַת, shavat) means to stop or desist. They fear their grandchildren will be prevented from worshiping at the tabernacle, effectively excommunicated from Israel's covenant community despite being legitimate tribal members.

Historical Context

This verse reveals that the altar was built proactively to prevent future division, not to cause present schism. The eastern tribes understood that physical distance from the sanctuary could lead to spiritual estrangement over generations.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does concern for future generations' faith motivate present decisions and safeguards?
2. What modern parallels exist where geographical or cultural separation threatens covenant unity?
3. How can we proactively preserve spiritual unity across differences without compromising biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

רְאֹבוֹן | בְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי כָּנָעָן נָתַן יְהֹוָה: וְגַם יְלָמָד וְגַם יְלָמָד
a border hath made For the LORD H996 and children of Reuben H7205
H1366 H5414 H3068 H996 H1121 H2506

וְגַם יְלָמָד | בְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק
and children of Gad H853 Jordan H369 H0 ye have no part For the LORD H3068
H1121 H1410 H3383 H2506 H3068

אַתָּה יְרָא לְבִלְתִּי | בְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק מִבְּנֵי יִצְחָק
cease and children H853 and children H1121 from fearing H853
H7673 H1121 H1121 H1115 H3372

וְגַם יְלָמָד
For the LORD
H3068