

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" (אין חֵלֶק לָכֶם בַּיהוָה, 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

וְגֵב וְלֹ	נָתַן	יְהוָה:	בֵּינֵנוּ	וּבְיַיִךְ מִ	בְּנֵי יִנּוּ	רְאוּבֵן
a border	hath made	For the LORD			and children	of Reuben
H1366	H5414	H3068	H996	H996	H1121	H7205
בְּנֵי יִנּוּ	גָד	אֶת	הַיַּרְדֵּי	אֵין	לְךָ מִ	חֵלְקָה
and children	of Gad		Jordan			ye have no part
H1121	H1410	H853	H3383	H369	H0	H2506
וְהִשָּׁב יָתוֹ	בְּנֵי יִנּוּ	אֶת	בְּנֵי יִנּוּ	לְבָלֶתָּ יִ	יִרְאָה	אֶת
cease	and children		and children	from	fearing	
H7673	H1121	H853	H1121	H1115	H3372	H853
יְהוָה:						
For the LORD						
H3068						