

Joshua 22:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, unto the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them word again.

Analysis

And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, unto the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them word again—The delegation returns with good news. **Brought them word again** (heshivu otam davar, הֵשִׁיבוּ אוֹתָם דָּבָר) means 'returned to them a report.' They faithfully communicated what they learned.

Messengers bear responsibility for accurate reporting. Phinehas didn't exaggerate or minimize—he reported truthfully. This models Christian witness: we must testify accurately about what we've seen and heard (Acts 4:20, 1 John 1:1-3). False reporting causes unnecessary division; truth promotes unity.

Historical Context

The delegation's return journey from Gilead to Shiloh took several days. Their report to the assembled tribes prevented mobilization for war. This demonstrates ancient Israel's democratic process—major decisions required tribal consensus, not merely leadership decree.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How careful are you to report accurately rather than according to your biases or assumptions?
2. What role does faithful testimony play in maintaining unity within God's people?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּשׁ בּוֹ	פִּינֶחָס	בְּנֵי י	אֶלְעָזָר	הַכֹּהֵן
again	And Phinehas	and from the children	of Eleazar	the priest
H7725	H6372	H1121	H499	H3548
וְהַנְּשִׂאִים	מֵאֵת	בְּנֵי י	רְאוּבֵן	וּמֵאֵת
and the princes	H853	and from the children	of Reuben	H853
H5387		H1121	H7205	
בְּנֵי י	גֹּד	אֶרֶץ	הַגִּלְעָד	אֶל
and from the children	of Gad	out of the land	of Gilead	H413
H1121	H1410	H776	H1568	
כְּנָעַן	אֶל	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיֵּשׁ בּוֹ
of Canaan	H413	and from the children	of Israel	again
H3667		H1121	H3478	H7725
				אֹתָם
				H854
				them word
				H1697

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