

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, חָשַׁבוּ אֹתָם 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

בְּפִתְחָה וְאֶלְעָזָר בֶּן יְהוָה וְאֶלְעָזָר בֶּן פִּינְחָס בֶּן יְהוָה וְאֶלְעָזָר בֶּן יְהוָה
again And Phinehas and from the children of Eleazar the priest
H7725 H6372 H1121 H499 H3548

וּמִמְּאַת רָאוּבֵן מִמְּאַת בֶּן יְהוָה וְאֶלְעָזָר בֶּן יְהוָה וְאֶלְעָזָר בֶּן יְהוָה
and the princes and from the children of Reuben H853 H1121 H7205 H853

וְאֶל גִּלְעָד מִמְּאַת בֶּן יְהוָה וְאֶל גִּלְעָד מִמְּאַת בֶּן יְהוָה
and from the children of Gad out of the land of Gilead H413 H776 H1568 H413 H776

דְּבָרִים אֲוֹתָם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי יְהוָה וְאֶל כְּנָעָן
of Canaan and from the children of Israel again them word H413 H1121 H3478 H854 H1697