

Numbers 26:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of the sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites: and Machir begat Gilead: of Gilead come the family of the Gileadites.

Analysis

Of Machir, the family of the Machirites: and Machir begat Gilead—Machir (מַכִּיר, 'sold') was Manasseh's only son mentioned here, making him the clan founder. His son Gilead (גִּלְעָד, 'heap of testimony') gave his name to the entire Transjordan region that half of Manasseh would inherit (Numbers 32:39-40).

The Machirites became renowned warriors—1 Chronicles 7:14-19 notes they 'took to wife' the land through military conquest. Joshua 17:1 calls Machir 'a man of war,' and his descendants the Gileadites later produced Jephthah the judge (Judges 11:1). This genealogy establishes legal claim to Gilead, the strategic plateau east of the Jordan that controlled trade routes and defended against eastern invaders.

Historical Context

Gilead became synonymous with Transjordan territory, famous for its balm (Genesis 37:25) and rugged terrain. The Machirites' military prowess helped Moses conquer this region from Sihon and Og (Numbers 21), making them the vanguard of Israel's Conquest. Their land request (Numbers 32) showed practical wisdom—they had livestock and needed pasture.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Machir's warrior legacy challenge modern Christianity's emphasis on gentleness at the expense of righteous militancy?
2. What does the Gileadites' success in Transjordan teach about God's blessing on those who fulfill their calling even in harder, less prestigious territories?
3. How might the 'balm of Gilead' (Jeremiah 8:22) typologically point to Christ as healer, coming from unlikely places?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	מְנַשֶּׁה	וּמַכִּיר	מִשֵּׁפָּה	הַמַּכִּירִי	
Of the sons	of Manasseh	and Machir	come the family	of the Machirites	
H1121	H4519	H4353	H4940	H4354	
וּמַכִּיר	הוֹלִיד	אֶת	לְגִלְעָד	לְגִלְעָד	מִשֵּׁפָּה
and Machir	begat	H853	Gilead	Gilead	come the family
H4353	H3205		H1568	H1568	H4940
הַגִּלְעָדִי:					
of the Gileadites					
H1569					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 17:1 (Parallel theme): There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh; for he was the firstborn of Joseph; to wit, for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead: because he was a man of war, therefore he had Gilead and Bashan.

Numbers 36:1 (Parallel theme): And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near, and spake before Moses, and before the princes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel:

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