

# Numbers 32:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.

## Analysis

**For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward—** Reuben and Gad clarify they seek no additional land west of Jordan—"we will not inherit with them on yonder side" explicitly renounces further claims. The phrase "or forward" (vahalah, וְהַלְּאָה) means "and beyond," emphasizing they seek nothing more. "Our inheritance is fallen to us" (ba nachalatenu, בְּאֶתְנָה נָחָלָתֵנוּ, literally "has come our inheritance") indicates they view Transjordan as God-given, not mere human preference.

This declaration addresses potential suspicions that they wanted both Transjordan and Canaan proper, accumulating double portions while others fought. By limiting their claim to the east side, they demonstrate contentment with God's provision and willingness to fight for others without expectation of additional reward. "This side Jordan eastward" specifically identifies the territory. Their statement balances desire for particular land with recognition that Israel's broader inheritance must be secured.

## Historical Context

The Transjordan territory had been conquered from Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan (Numbers 21:21-35), making it technically available for settlement. Moses initially hesitated because this territory was outside the

boundaries God had specified for Canaan proper (Numbers 34:1-12). Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh's settlement east of Jordan created a geographical separation that later contributed to misunderstanding (Joshua 22:10-34) and may have increased vulnerability to foreign influence. The territory was fertile but also more exposed to raids.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does contentment with God's provision enable sacrifice for others without resentment?
2. What dangers might geographical or cultural separation from covenant community create spiritually?
3. In what ways can legitimate preferences need to be balanced with community unity and God's larger purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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ל א כ י      נְתַמֵּל      אַפְתָּם      מִעַד בָּר      תְּרִיד |  
H3588      H3808      For we will not inherit      H5157      H854      to us on this side      H5676      Jordan  
H3383

לֹא      בְּאֵה כִּי יְפֵלֵת נָזֵל      מִעַד בָּר      תְּרִיד |  
or forward      H3588      is fallen      because our inheritance      H413      to us on this side  
H1973      H935      H5159      H5676

תְּמִזְבֵּחַ |      תְּרִיד |  
Jordan      eastward  
H3383      H4217

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 13:8** (Parallel theme): With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, even as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them;

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