

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" (vahalalah, וְחָלָלָה) means "and beyond," emphasizing they seek nothing more. "Our inheritance is fallen to us" (ba nachalatenu, בַּנַּחֲלָתֵנוּ אֲנֵינוּ, 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

ל א פ י H3588 H3808	נָחֵל H5157	אֶת־ם H854	יַעַבְרַם H5676	יַרְדֵּן H3383
	For we will not inherit		to us on this side	Jordan
וְהָלָא H1973	פִּי יָאָה H3588 H935	נַחֲלֵת־נוּ H5159	אֵלֵינוּ H413	יַעַבְרַם H5676
or forward	is fallen	because our inheritance		to us on this side
יַרְדֵּן H3383	מִזְרָחָה H4217			
Jordan	eastward			

Additional Cross-References

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;