

Numbers 32:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war,

Analysis

After Reuben and Gad promised to fight alongside other tribes before settling, Moses consented with conditions. Their amended proposal demonstrated that initial resistance to community obligation could be overcome through committed promise to participate in corporate mission. Proper resolution required both sides hearing each other and finding solution serving both personal interest and communal good.

Historical Context

The condition that they fight 'before the LORD' (verse 20) meant in the vanguard, taking most dangerous position. This proved their sincerity—not seeking safety while others fought but bearing greatest risk. Their willingness to accept these terms showed genuine repentance from initial self-centered request.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can pursuing personal interests be reconciled with community obligations?
2. What does it mean to bear disproportionate burden to prove your commitment to community welfare?

Interlinear Text

הַדָּבָר	אֵת	תַּעֲשׂוּ	אִם	מֹשֶׁה	אֵלֵיהֶם	וַיֹּאמֶר
this thing	unto them	If ye will do	And Moses	said		
H1697	H853	H6213	H518	H4872	H413	H559
לְמַלְחָמָה:	יְהוָה	לִפְנֵי	י	תִּסָּלַצוּ	אִם	הֵן
to war	the LORD	before	if ye will go armed			
H4421	H3068	H6440	H2502	H518	H2088	

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