

Numbers 32:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead:

Analysis

Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead—The strategic plan: families and livestock remain in fortified Gilead cities (בְּעָרֵי הַגִּלְעָד be'arei haGil'ad) while military-age males cross Jordan to fight. The phrase **our little ones... wives... flocks... cattle** (טַפֵּנוּ נְשֵׁינוּ... צֹאנֵנוּ... בְּהֶמְתָּנוּ) emphasizes complete dependents remaining in security while warriors fulfill covenant obligations.

This arrangement demonstrates faith—leaving families in frontier territories (vulnerable to Ammonite/Moabite raids) while fighting distant battles westward required trusting God's protection. The New Testament teaches similar principle: 'Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you' (Matthew 6:33)—prioritizing covenant responsibilities over family security requires faith that God protects those we entrust to Him.

Historical Context

Gilead's cities (east of Jordan) sat on Israel's frontier, exposed to raids from surrounding nations (Ammon, Moab, desert tribes). Leaving families there while warriors fought in Canaan (potentially 7+ years of conquest, Judges 1:1-36) required extraordinary faith in divine protection. God honored this faith—no record exists of Transjordan families suffering enemy attacks during the conquest period.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does leaving families in vulnerable Gilead while fighting in Canaan model faith that prioritizes covenant responsibilities over family security?
2. What modern equivalents exist where following God's call requires trusting Him with family safety and provision?
3. How can you balance appropriate family responsibility with willingness to prioritize kingdom service when they seem to conflict?

Interlinear Text

טַפֵּי נֹו	נָשֵׁי יִנֹו	מִקְלָבֵּי נֹו	וְכָל	בְּהֵמַתֵּי נֹו	וְיֵהִיוּ	שָׁם
Our little ones	our wives	our flocks	H3605	and all our cattle	H1961	H8033
H2945	H802	H4735		H929		
בְּעָרֵי	הַגִּלְעָד:					
shall be there in the cities	of Gilead					
H5892	H1568					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:14 (Parallel theme): Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;