

Numbers 32:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto them, If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, before the LORD, and the land shall be subdued before you; then ye shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession:

Analysis

And Moses said unto them, If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass over with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, before the LORD, and the land shall be subdued before you; then ye shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession—Moses establishes conditional grant: **if** (וְאֵת im) Reuben and Gad fulfill military obligations, **then** (וְתַתֵּן unetatem, 'then you shall give') they receive Gilead. The repeated phrase **before the LORD** emphasizes divine witness to this covenant—God Himself oversees compliance and holds both parties accountable.

Conditional blessings pervade Scripture: 'If you love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15); 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just' (1 John 1:9). Biblical promises often include conditional obedience clauses—grace is free, but blessing flow requires covenant faithfulness. The land grant wasn't unconditional entitlement but covenant reward for faithful military service.

Historical Context

This conditional land grant established precedent for Israel's covenant relationship with the land throughout history: obedience → blessing and possession;

disobedience → curse and exile. Deuteronomy 28 expands this principle; ultimately, northern Israel's exile (722 BC) and Judah's Babylonian captivity (586 BC) demonstrated that land possession depended on covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the conditional 'if... then' structure of the land grant illustrate that biblical blessings often require obedient participation?
2. What distinguishes unconditional promises (God's covenant faithfulness) from conditional blessings (dependent on human response)?
3. How can you discern which biblical promises are unconditional and which require responsive obedience for fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וְבָנִי יִעַבְרֶר וְיַעֲמֹד אֶלָּךְ מִשְׁמֶר הַיּוֹם אֶתְּמָר
and the children will pass with you over and the children
said And Moses H413 H518 H5674 H1121
H559 H4872 H1410 H1121 H7205 H3605 H3383

כָּל בְּנֵי גָּד וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן רְאֹבֵן יְהוָה אֶת תְּכַמּוּ אֶת תְּכַמּוּ
every man armed to battle before the LORD shall be subdued
and the land before you then ye shall give a place
of Gilead for a possession

לְגַלְעָד לְאַחֲרָה
H1568 H272

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