

Numbers 32:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan.

Analysis

But if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan—The alternative consequence: failure to fulfill military obligations meant forfeiting Transjordan and receiving standard Canaan allotments with other tribes. The phrase **shall have possessions among you** (וְנָאֲחָזוּ בְּתוֹכְכֶם veno'achazu betokhekhem) indicates they'd receive typical tribal inheritances west of Jordan like other tribes.

This provision prevented selective obedience—Reuben and Gad couldn't claim land without fulfilling service. The consequence wasn't punishment (losing all inheritance) but merely standard treatment (Canaan allotment like other tribes). God's economy rewards faithful service beyond baseline provision: 'Well done, good and faithful servant... I will make you ruler over many things' (Matthew 25:21)—extraordinary blessing requires extraordinary faithfulness.

Historical Context

The provision ensured Reuben and Gad wouldn't be landless if they failed their commitment—they'd simply receive standard western Canaan allotments. This balanced accountability (enforcing consequences) with provision (ensuring basic inheritance). Ancient Near Eastern treaties typically imposed harsher penalties for violation; Israel's covenant grace provided consequences that corrected rather than destroyed.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the consequence (standard Canaan allotment vs. preferred Gilead) demonstrate grace that corrects disobedience without destroying the disobedient?
2. What does the principle of conditional extraordinary blessing (Gilead) beyond guaranteed baseline provision (Canaan) teach about rewards for faithful service?
3. How can discipline in spiritual communities balance accountability (real consequences) with grace (continued membership and provision)?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם	לֹא	יַעֲבֹר וְ	עִלּוּצִים	אִתְּךָ
H518	H3808	H5674	H2502	H854
		But if they will not pass over	with you armed	
וְנָאֻז וְ	בְּתִכְךָ	בְּאֶרֶץ	כְּנָעַן:	
H270	H8432	H776	H3667	
they shall have possessions	among	you in the land	of Canaan	