

Numbers 32:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying, As the LORD hath said unto thy servants, so will we do.

Analysis

And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying, As the LORD hath said unto thy servants, so will we do—The tribes' response—as **the LORD hath said... so will we do** (כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה... כֵּן נַעֲשֶׂה ka'asher diber YHWH... ken na'aseh)—attributes Moses' instructions to God Himself, recognizing prophetic authority. This elevation from 'as my lord commands' (v.25) to 'as the LORD has said' demonstrates spiritual maturity—seeing human authority as mediating divine will.

The covenant formula 'as... so' appears at Sinai: 'All that the LORD has said we will do' (Exodus 19:8; 24:3,7). This verbal pattern creates binding covenant obligation. The New Testament warns against lip-service: 'Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom... but he who does the will of My Father' (Matthew 7:21)—saying 'we will do' requires actual doing, not mere verbal commitment.

Historical Context

The tribes' recognition that Moses' commands mediated divine instruction reflects mature covenantal understanding—God's authority operates through ordained human structures. This prevented individualistic 'I answer only to God' mentality that bypasses institutional authority. The pattern continues in New Testament church structure: elders exercise genuine authority that congregants must honor (Hebrews 13:17), yet ultimately serve under Christ's headship (1 Peter 5:2-4).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the progression from 'as my lord commands' (v.25) to 'as the LORD has said' (v.31) demonstrate mature recognition of divine authority operating through human structures?
2. What dangers arise when believers claim direct divine authority while bypassing ordained human leadership structures?
3. How can you honor spiritual authority as mediating God's will while maintaining ultimate allegiance to Christ above all human authorities?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּעַן ו	וּבְנֵי י	גֹד	וּבְנֵי י	רְאוּבֵן	לְאֹמֶר	אֵת
answered	And the children	of Gad	And the children	of Reuben	saying	
H6030	H1121	H1410	H1121	H7205	H559	H853
אָשָׁר	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	אֵל	עַבְדֶּיךָ	כִּי	נַעֲשֶׂה:
H834	hath said	As the LORD	H413	unto thy servants	H3651	so will we do
	H1696	H3068		H5650		H6213