

Numbers 32:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Beth-nimrah, and Beth-haran, fenced cities: and folds for sheep.

Analysis

Verse 36 continues the geographical details of tribal settlements—These verses enumerate specific cities and territories assigned to Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh in Transjordan. The detailed place names (many now archaeologically identified) demonstrate historical reliability of biblical records and emphasize that spiritual inheritance has concrete, real-world manifestation.

The extensive geographical detail teaches that God's covenant faithfulness operates in space-time history, not mythological abstraction. Christianity is fundamentally historical religion—God acts in real places at real times among real people. Luka's Gospel emphasizes this: 'In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar... the word of God came to John' (Luke 3:1-2)—biblical faith is anchored in datable, locatable historical events.

Historical Context

These Transjordan cities became important in later Israelite history—some served as Levitical cities, others as refuge cities. Ramoth-gilead (v.{v}) became significant battleground where King Ahab died (1 Kings 22). Archaeological excavations at sites like Heshbon, Dibon, and others confirm occupation during this period, validating biblical historical claims.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Scripture's detailed geographical precision demonstrate that biblical faith is historical and verifiable, not mythological or abstract?
2. What does the real-world, place-specific nature of biblical narrative teach about God's involvement in actual history rather than mere spiritual ideas?
3. How can you cultivate confidence in Christianity as historical religion based on events that actually occurred in space and time?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת	בְּ יֵת	נִמְרָה	וְאֶת	בְּ יֵת	הָרָה	עָרֵי	מְבֻצָּרֹת
H853	H0	And Bethnimrah	H853	H0	and Bethharan	cities	fenced
		H1039			H1028	H5892	H4013

וּגְדָרָת	צֹאן:
and folds	for sheep
H1448	H6629

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 32:3 (Parallel theme): Ataroth, and Dibon, and Jazer, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Shebam, and Nebo, and Beon,