

Numbers 32:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead, and took it, and dispossessed the Amorite which was in it.

Analysis

Verse 39 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

1 John 4:8 – God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

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

וְلֹכֶד	בָּנִים	מִכְּרִיר	בָּנִים	מִנְשָׁה	גִּלְעָדָה
H1980	And the children	of Machir	And the children	of Manasseh	to Gilead

בָּה:	אֲשֶׁר	בָּאָמָר	וְ	אַת	וְרַש	וְ	וְלֹא	בָּ
and took	it and dispossessed		H853	the Amorite		H834		H0
H3920	H3423			H567				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 50:23 (Parallel theme): And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.

