

Numbers 32:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jair the son of Manasseh went and took the small towns thereof, and called them Havoth-jair.

Analysis

Verse 41 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַיֵּא יֵר	בֶּן	מְנַשֶּׁה	הָלָךְ	וַלָּכְדָּ	אֶת	חֲטֹתֵיהֶם
And Jair	the son	of Manasseh	went	and took	^{H853}	the small towns
<small>H2971</small>	<small>H1121</small>	<small>H4519</small>	<small>H1980</small>	<small>H3920</small>		<small>H2333</small>
וַיִּקְרָא	אֹתָם	בְּשֵׁם	חָוֹתַיִר			
thereof and called	^{H853}	^{H0}	them Havothjair			
<small>H7121</small>			<small>H2334</small>			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 3:14 (Parallel theme): Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashan-havoth-jair, unto this day.

Judges 10:4 (Parallel theme): And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havoth-jair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

Joshua 13:30 (Parallel theme): And their coast was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, threescore cities:

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