

Numbers 32:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?

Analysis

Moses rebukes Reuben and Gad: 'Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?' This rhetorical question challenges them about solidarity with the covenant community. The Hebrew 'yashab' (sit/dwell) suggests comfortable settlement while brothers face danger. Moses saw this as potential repetition of the spies' discouragement (v.7-15). The rebuke teaches corporate responsibility - belonging to God's people means sharing burdens, not pursuing personal comfort while others fight. Paul applies this: 'Bear ye one another's burdens' (Gal 6:2). The church is a body; when one part suffers, all should share the load (1 Cor 12:26).

Historical Context

Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh requested territory east of Jordan for their large herds (v.1-5). Moses feared this repeated the ten spies' sin - discouraging others from entering Canaan. However, these tribes committed to fight alongside their brothers until Canaan was conquered, leaving families and flocks east of Jordan (v.16-27). Joshua 22:1-9 records their dismissal after faithful service. This arrangement demonstrated that enjoying God's blessings brings responsibility to help others receive theirs. The tribes' willingness to fight before settling showed proper priorities and brotherly commitment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Are you enjoying spiritual blessings while neglecting to help others in their spiritual battles and growth?
2. How are you bearing burdens with fellow believers rather than pursuing comfortable isolation?

Interlinear Text

רֹאֵב	וְלֹבֶן	וְלֹבֶן	וְאַמְרֵב
מִשְׁׁנֶה	וְלֹבֶן	וְלֹבֶן	וְאַמְרֵב
מִשְׁׁנֶה	וְלֹבֶן	וְלֹבֶן	וְאַמְרֵב
said	And Moses	and to the children	of Gad
H559	H4872	H1121	H1410
פֶּה:	תִּשְׁבֹּו	וְאַתֶּם לִמְלָכִים הַיְבָאּוּ	פֶּה:
Shall your brethren	go	to war	and shall ye sit
H251	H935	H4421	H6311

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Parallel theme): Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;