

Numbers 34:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance:

Analysis

For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance—The Hebrew **לְקַחְוּ נִכְלָתָם** (laqechu nachalatam, "they have taken/received their inheritance") uses the perfect tense, indicating completed action. Reuben and Gad's **נִכְלָה** (nachalah, "inheritance/possession") east of Jordan was already secured (ch. 32). **And half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance**—Manasseh's division (half east, half west of Jordan) created unique tribal identity spanning both sides of the river.

The phrase **לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם** (le-veit avotam, "according to the house of their fathers") emphasizes patriarchal land allocation—each clan received specific territory based on genealogical identity. This verse explains why the upcoming land division (vv. 16-29) involves only nine and a half tribes—2½ tribes had already settled, creating permanent geographic division within Israel.

Historical Context

In Numbers 32, Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh requested Transjordan's pasturelands for their large herds, conditional on fighting for Canaan's conquest.

Moses approved with stipulations (32:20-32). By Numbers 34 (c. 1406 BC), their eastern territory was formalized. This created Israel's first permanent settlement—a prelude to Canaan's allotment. Joshua 22 later records tension this division caused.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What dangers arise when God's people settle for blessings outside the promised inheritance, even with permission?
2. How does Transjordan settlement foreshadow later tribal division and the northern kingdom's separation?
3. What does ancestral land allocation teach about the importance of family legacy and generational stewardship?

Interlinear Text

בְּרָאֹבֶןִ בְּנֵי מִתְּהִלָּה לְקָרְבָּן H3588 have received For the tribe of the children of Reuben H3947 H4294 H1121 H7206

בָּנִים	בָּנִי	מִתְהָלָל	אֲבָתָה	לְבָבָה	לְבָבָ יִתְהַלֵּל
of the children	of the fathers	For the tribe	of their fathers	according to the house	בְּגָדִים

לְבָית	אֲבָתָם	לְפָנָיו	מִתְהָלָל
according to the house	of their fathers	their inheritance and half	For the tribe

מִנְשֵׁה ה	לְקֹחַ 1	נְקֹלָתָם:
of Manasseh	have received	their inheritance

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 32:33 (Parallel theme): And Moses gave unto them, even to the children of Gad, and to the children of Reuben, and unto half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land, with the cities thereof in the coasts, even the cities of the country round about.

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