

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 לָקְחוּ נַחֲלָתָם (laqechu nachalatam, "they have taken/received their inheritance") uses the perfect tense, indicating completed action. Reuben and Gad's נַחֲלָה (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 אֲבוֹתָם (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

כִּי	לָקְחוּ וְ	מִן הַ	בְּנֵי	הַרְאוּבֵנִי
H3588	have received	For the tribe	of the children	of Reuben
	H3947	H4294	H1121	H7206
לְבֵית	אֲבוֹתָם	מִן הַ	בְּנֵי	הַגָּד יְ
according to the house	of their fathers	For the tribe	of the children	H1410
H1004	H1	H4294	H1121	
לְבֵית	אֲבוֹתָם	וְחֶצְיָ	מִן הַ	
according to the house	of their fathers	their inheritance and half	For the tribe	
H1004	H1	H2677	H4294	
מְנַשֶּׁשֶׁה	לָקְחוּ וְ	נָחֳלָתָם:		
of Manasseh	have received	their inheritance		
H4519	H3947	H5159		

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.