

Numbers 34:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The two tribes and the half tribe have received their inheritance on this side Jordan near Jericho eastward, toward the sunrising.

Analysis

The two tribes and the half tribe have received their inheritance on this side Jordan near Jericho eastward, toward the sunrising—The Hebrew מֵעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן יֵרִיחוֹ קִדְמָה מִזְרָחָה (me-ever le-Yarden Yericho qedmah mizrachah, "from across the Jordan of Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise") precisely locates Transjordan territory. The double emphasis on east (קִדְמָה and מִזְרָחָה both mean "eastward") underscores geographical and theological significance.

"This side Jordan" (מֵעֵבֶר, me-ever, "from the other side/beyond") uses perspective language—from Moses' viewpoint in Moab, the eastern side is "this side," while Canaan proper is "that side." This linguistic detail reveals the text's composition before crossing Jordan. **Near Jericho** anchors the description to Israel's entry point, emphasizing that even Transjordan tribes remained connected to the central conquest narrative.

Historical Context

The Transjordan territory stretched from the Arnon River (southern border) to Mount Hermon (northern border), encompassing former Amorite kingdoms of Sihon and Og (Numbers 21). This fertile plateau, well-watered compared to Judean wilderness, attracted Reuben and Gad's pastoral interests. Archaeological evidence confirms major Israelite settlements east of Jordan from this period, though these tribes suffered first in Assyrian invasions (740s BC).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the emphasis on "eastward" suggest about moving away from the promised land's center, both geographically and spiritually?
2. How does settling near the entry point (Jericho) create both connection and separation from the main community?
3. What lessons can believers draw about choosing comfort and prosperity over God's explicit promises and community?

Interlinear Text

שְׁנֵי י	הַמִּטָּה	וְחֶצֶי	הַמִּטָּה	לָקְחוּ	נַחֲלָתָם
The two	tribe	and the half	tribe	have received	their inheritance
H8147	H4294	H2677	H4294	H3947	H5159
מֵעַ בָּר	לִיַּרְדַּי	יְרֵחוֹ	קִדְמָה	מִזְרְחָהּ:	
on this side	Jordan	near Jericho	eastward	toward the sunrising	
H5676	H3383	H3405	H6924	H4217	