

1 Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and **when they saw the land** of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

2 The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spake unto Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and unto the princes of the congregation, saying,

3 Ataroth, and Dibon, and Jazer, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Shebam, and Nebo, and Beon,

4 Even the country which the Lord smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and **thy servants have cattle:**

5 Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and **bring us not over Jordan.**

6 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?**

7 And **wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel** from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?

#### **Moses goes historical on them.**

8 Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadeshbarnea to see the land. 9 For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, **they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel**, that they should not go into the land which the Lord had given them. 10 And the Lord's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, 11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: 12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the Lord. 13 And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, **that had done evil in the sight of the Lord**, was consumed.

14 And, behold, ye are **risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men**, to augment yet the fierce anger of the Lord toward Israel.

#### **Consequences explained.**

15 **For if ye turn away from after him**, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.

#### **Compromise given.**

16 And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones: 17 But we ourselves will go ready armed before the children of Israel, until **we have brought them unto their place:** and our little ones

shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land. 18 We will not return unto our houses, until the children of Israel have inherited every man his inheritance. 19 For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.

### **Agreement made.**

20 And Moses said unto them, **If ye will do this thing**, if ye will go armed before the Lord to war, 21 And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the Lord, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him, 22 And the land be subdued before the Lord: then afterward ye shall return, and **be guiltless before the Lord**, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord.

23 But **if ye will not do so**, behold, **ye have sinned against the Lord**: and **be sure your sin will find you out**.

24 Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth. 25 And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, **Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth. (1)**

26 Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead: 27 **But thy servants will pass over, every man armed for war, before the Lord to battle, as my lord saith.**

28 So concerning them Moses commanded Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel: 29 And Moses said unto them, If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, before the Lord, and the land shall be subdued before you; then ye shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession:

30 But if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan. [[Assume by means of force.](#)] 31 And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying, **As the Lord hath said unto thy servants, so will we do. (2)** 32 We will pass over armed before the Lord into the land of Canaan, that the possession of our inheritance on this side Jordan may be our's.

33 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.

34 And the children of Gad built.... (cities)

37 And the children of Reuben built .... (cities)

39 And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to **Gilead, (CIRCLE)** and took it, and dispossessed the Amorite which was in it. 40 And Moses gave Gilead unto Machir the son of Manasseh; and he dwelt therein. 41 And Jair the son of Manasseh went and took the small towns thereof, and called them Havothjair. 42 And Nobah went and took Kenath, and the villages thereof, and called it Nobah, after his own name.

## **Missionary Updates**

- sing Happy Birthday / get missionaries to help

## **Introduction**

- This chapter begins with an issue and an incident rather than instruction from the Lord.
- Story of the "half and half Christian"
- We walk out of Numbers 31 headed to the Promise land - but we now have "much cattle".

## **I. Problems created by poorly managed gain.**

A. Wrong view of the mission given to them.

1. They were governed, in their conduct, by worldly and selfish considerations — by the sight of their eyes — by carnal motives.
  - a) Starts when they **when they saw the land v.1**
  - b) After 40 years of dreaming of the Promise Land some grass will distract them.
  - c) Why? They now had possessions to care for, not just promises to claim.
  - d) Having things is not the problem, it is things having you.
2. Beware of falling short of your proper position — your proper portion — of being content with the things which belong to this world.

3. Do not believe the lie that our purpose in life and your mission in life is to find a place to settle down and do good.
  - a) God did take them out of Egypt to take them to a greener pasture!
  - b) God did not part the Red Sea so they could be a divided people living for their own self interests.
  - c) God said let my people go so they may serve Me!
  - d) God was making them a people, conquering enemies, and giving them a portion of land for His glory and eternal purposes!

B. Results of the decision. **Joshua 22:1-34**

1. I can create a division between you and your brothers.
  - a) They needed to build an altar so generations to come will know they are of the children of Israel. **10 And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh **built there an altar by Jordan**, a great altar to see to. **22** The Lord God of gods, the Lord God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the Lord, (save us not this day,) **23** That we have built us an altar to turn from following the Lord, or if to offer thereon burnt offering or meat offering, or if to offer peace offerings thereon, let the Lord himself require it; **24** And if **we have not rather done it for fear of this thing, saying, In time to come your children might speak unto our children, saying, What have ye to do with the Lord God of Israel?** **25** For the Lord hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the Lord: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the Lord. **26** Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to **build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice:** **27** But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the Lord before him with our burnt offerings, and**

with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; **that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the Lord.**

- b) The Lord “made the border” but it was their choice to get on the other side of it.
  - (1) God did create WARRIORS and WATCHERS!
  - (2) There was to be no separation but their “great gain” was causing them to become half men.
  - (3) Good thing they were concerned about how the generations to come would view their “part” in the Lord.
    - (a) Do our kids see that the church has a mission in this world, or that we as a family that is part of the church has a mission.
    - (b) How much time do you spent trying to justify to yourself and others you are really a Christian even though you do not seem to be identified with the people of God!
- 2. What they feared had happened. **1 Kings 22:3 3** *And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?*
  - a) First place to be taken by the enemy. This is not the place you want to be in a game of Risk!
- 3. Their decision making would discourage the others. v. 7 **wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?**
  - a) It would have been like their fathers did.
  - b) They grew in number but **“risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men” v. 14**
  - c) If they stayed and didn't fight they would have been guilty **v. 22** *You will be guiltless before the Lord.*
- 4. I hope by this point you are asking the following questions.
  - a) **What is it in life that I shouldn't be settling for?**
  - b) **What is it I might be doing that would be discouraging my other brothers?**

**c) Concerning the mission of God am I guiltless?**

5. The land was given to all the people so the responsibility lies with all the people.
6. If you want to know if you are guiltless in the battle don't look at your address look down and see if there is a sword in your hand.
  - a) Where you serve is not a decision that gets made in the recruitment office.
  - b) It is a decision made by army leaders about men who have shown their ability and willingness to use their weapons!

**II. The measure of the mission.**

- A. They had **ALL** had been given the command and it would require **ALL** of them to claim it!
  1. To disconnect from the mission was to disconnect from who they were. 6 *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?***
  2. Could you imagine Moses emotions and thoughts.
    - a) 40 years of waiting for this day.
    - b) A place he desired to see with every fiber in him.
    - c) A place given by the God of Heaven!
  3. How can we settle for so little.
    - a) It is the whole mission of the whole church to preach the whole Gospel to the whole world. – Charles Spurgeon
    - b) We should be uncomfortable with the incredible high percentage of the world that has yet heard the Gospel.
    - c) We should equally be uncomfortable with the incredibly high percentage of people sitting while others are going to battle?  
**d) You should not be settling for a good seat on the sidelines!**
      - (1) *Go through foundations - then go teach it.*
      - (2) *Come to Volunteers meeting - and put lessons into practice.*
      - (3) *Take your sword and swing it!!*
- B. Moses acceptance of the proposal.
  1. Shows this is a matter of obedience more than land.

2. Shows that the point of contention came from an unwillingness for them to fight to take the land given to them.

C. They fulfilled their commitment. **Joshua 22:1** Then Joshua called the **Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh,** 2 And said unto them, Ye have **kept all** that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and **have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you:** 3 **Ye have not left your brethren these many days unto this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the Lord your God.** 4 And now **the Lord your God hath given rest unto your brethren,** as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side Jordan. 5 But **take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law,** which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, **to love the Lord your God,** and to **walk in all his ways,** and to **keep his commandments,** and to **cleave unto him,** and to **serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

1. They had to joy of knowing God used their lives. v. 4 **The Lord your God hath given you rest**
2. They could rest knowing they encouraged their brothers and did not discourage them.
  - a) Nothing does more to encourage your ABF teacher or our missionary then hearing how you are getting involved in the battle!
  - b) If you just watch and never get involved you saying to others very loudly that what you are giving your life to isn't even worth a minute of my time!
3. They could know their "sin would not find them out" they were free to "walk in all his ways".
  - a) Aaron Bashore once looked at me and said Trent "you know you are not going to be happy until you are obedient to sharing Jesus".
  - b) You know it is right! You know you should be involved! You want to be involved! Swing your Sword!

4. Young people... don't let anyone put you in the "sheepfold".  
**22:16** We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:
  - a) If you are New Creature then you are a warrior.
  - b) Don't settle for a nice pasture during your teenage years; that has chargers for your ipods, places for your friends to hang out, living with animals who live according to nature not conviction, where you hear of war in the distance. Bust out and start some sword swinging!

### III. There is great gain from obeying God.

- A. We are to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God. **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
  1. In contrast to..
    - a) Worrying about what we will wear. **30** Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?
    - b) Worrying about what we will eat. **31** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
    - c) Worrying about the same concerns unbelievers have. **32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
  2. They return after 7 years of war with great gain. **Joshua 22: 8** And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.
    - a) The cattle they loved so much 7 years ago were probably dead. [avg. lifespan of 15 years]
    - b) Don't you want you own stories!
      - (1) Don't you want to know that God is using your life?



(2) Don't you want some war stories?

B. What does obeying God for the portion He has for us look like today?

1. We have been given the whole world. More specifically the "every creature" **Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
  - a) Anything short of this is settling for far too little.
  - b) Same Scripture given to every believer. Regardless of where you live. You have a command to "go to all". You don't get off the hook by choosing a piece of land.
    - (1) You must go to where the battle is.
    - (2) You may say your innocent because the battle isn't just on the mission field. I agree because still find you guilty because I do not see you picking up your sword and going anywhere with it.
2. Our sin is finding us out.
  - a) As people who live and work around us are never confronted with the Gospel.
  - b) As people walk the streets in the major cities of the world yet to even hear the name of Jesus.
  - c) As a generation with more resources and information about the world ever before have so much gain that they are giving their lives to maintaining our wealth.
    - (1) The Storage Units are 8 billion dollar industry.
    - (2) Not just large amounts. But we spent hour of hour thinking of how we will spend that bonus coming in or the money we found in pocket.
3. Don't just sit here.
  - a) You have every right to be in the battle.
  - b) We have been given a command that requires the involvement of every believer.
  - c) You will never feel like you belong to the people you are supposed to belong to if you are not engaged in warfare.

- d) It will cause confusion to the generations coming after us if there is a division.
- e) God did not make the division. Neither should you!
- f) Don't discourage the heart of your brothers in the battle!