### Numbers

## Chapter 32

[Editor note: The story resumes here.]  
  
  
1Now, the [tribes] of ReuBen and Gad both had huge herds of cattle, and when they saw that the area of JaZer and GalaAd had good grazing land, 2they went to Moses, EliEzer the Priest, and the leaders of the gathering, and said to them:  
  
 3‘The areas of:  
  
 • AtarOth,  
 • DaEbon,  
 • JaZer,  
 • NamRa,  
 • Hesh-EbonEh,  
 • ElAle,  
 • Sebama,  
 • Nabau, and   
 • BaeAn...  
  
 4‘...which Jehovah has delivered into the hands of the children of IsraEl, is pasture land, and we (your servants) have many cattle!  
  
 5‘So, if it pleases you, may your servants be given this land as our inheritance. Don’t make us cross the JorDan River.’  
  
6But Moses asked:  
  
 ‘Then when your brothers go to war, are you just going to sit here?  
  
 7“Why are you twisting the minds of the children of IsraEl by encouraging them not to cross into the land that Jehovah is giving to them?  
  
 8‘Isn’t this the same thing that your fathers did when I sent them from KaDesh-Barne to spy in the land? 9For, after they went into the Valley of Grape Clusters as spies, they twisted the hearts of the children of IsraEl so that they didn’t want to enter the land that Jehovah gave to them, 10and this made Jehovah very angry!  
  
 ‘So He swore and said:  
  
 11‘All these men who were 20 years old and older when they left Egypt and that knew the difference between good and evil won’t see the land that I swore to give to AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob, because they’ve chosen not to follow Me!  
  
 12‘The only exceptions are Caleb son of JePhonNe, and JoShua son of NaWeh… They were the only ones who followed Me closely.’  
  
 13‘And because this made Jehovah so angry with IsraEl, He forced them to wander in the desert for 40 years, until the whole generation that did this evil thing before Him was gone.  
  
 14‘Look! Now you’re following in the same footsteps as your fathers and you’ve allied yourselves as sinful people so as to make Jehovah even angrier with IsraEl; 15for you want to turn away from Him and stay in the desert again!  
  
 ‘By choosing to do this, you’re sinning against the whole gathering!’  
  
16But they came to him and said:  
  
 ‘If we can build pens for our cattle here and have these cities as our possessions, 17we’ll arm ourselves and march ahead of the children of IsraEl to lead them into their land.  
  
 ‘We’ll leave our possessions inside the walled cities (because of the people who live in this land), 18and we won’t return to our homes until after the children of IsraEl have each been given their own inheritance and are settled there... 19Then, we won’t take any of the land on the other side of the JorDan as our inheritance, because we’ll have taken our full inheritance here on the east side.’  
  
20So Moses said to them:  
  
 ‘If you’ll do everything that you’re saying… If you’ll arm yourselves and march in battle before Jehovah, 21and if you’ll cross the JorDan and stay there until our enemies are destroyed 22and our land has been totally settled before you return home... You will be free of guilt before Jehovah and this land can be yours.  
  
 23‘But if you don’t do that, you’ll be sinning against Jehovah and you’ll see the results of your sin when bad things happen to you!  
  
 24‘So now, go on and build the cities in which you can store your things, along with the pens for your cattle; and thereafter, you must do everything that you’ve proposed.’  
  
25And the [tribes] of ReuBen and Gad replied:  
  
 ‘Your servants will do as our lord commands.  
  
 26‘We will leave all our possessions, our women, and our cattle in the cities of GalaAd. 27And after that, we’ll march ahead [of IsraEl] all armed and ready for battle before Jehovah, as you said.’  
  
  
28Then Moses gave these instructions to EliEzer the Priest, JoShua (son of NaWeh), and all the heads of the families and tribes of IsraEl.  
  
29He said:  
  
 ‘If the sons of ReuBen and Gad cross the JorDan armed and ready for war before Jehovah and they help to conquer the land before you, you must give them the land of GalaAd as theirs.  
  
 30‘However, if they don’t cross [the JorDan] all armed and ready for war, you must make them bring their possessions, women, and cattle into the land of CanaAn, where they’ll receive their inheritance among you.’  
  
31And the sons of ReuBen and Gad answered:  
  
 ‘We will do whatever Jehovah tells his servants!  
  
 32‘We’ll arm ourselves and march into the land of CanaAn before Jehovah, and you must give us our inheritance on this side of the JorDan.’  
  
33So Moses gave the sons of Gad, the sons of ReuBen, and half of the Tribe of ManasSeh (one of the sons of JoSeph) the land of the Amorite king SeOn, the land of Og the king of BaShan, and all their cities and borders, as well as the cities and lands around them.  
  
  
[Editor note: Now follows lists of cities inhabited by the 2-1/2 tribes, and records of where they travelled. The story continues in Numbers 33:50.]  
  
  
34Thereafter, the sons of Gad built and fortified:  
  
 • DaEbon,  
 • AtarOth,  
 • AroEr,  
 • 35Sophar, and  
 • JaZer.  
  
36And they also built and fortified NamBran and BaethAran, where they then made pens for their sheep.  
  
  
37The sons of ReuBen built:  
  
 • Hesh-EbonEh,  
 • ElAle,  
 • KariathAm,  
 • 38BeElMeon (which they surrounded with walls), and   
 • [the town of] Sebama.  
  
Then they named each of the cities after themselves.  
  
  
39Also, the family of MachIr (of the Tribe of ManasSeh) went to GalaAd and captured it, destroying all the Amorites who lived there. 40So Moses gave GalaAd to MachIr, and they started living there.  
  
41JaIr (of the Tribe of ManasSeh) also captured many villages, which he then called the Villages of JaIr.  
  
42And NabOth went and captured the villages of CaAth, which he renamed after himself (NabOth).