

42: July 26, 2025

Shabbat Message

Mattot-Massei / *Tribes-Journeys*

/ מַטֹּת-מַסֵּיעִי

Matt: [Num 30:2-32:42; Jer 1:1-2:3; Acts 9:1-22](#)

Massei: [Num 33:1-36:13; Jer 2:4-28; 3:4; 4:1-2; Jam 4:1-10](#)

My Way or Yah's Way

Watch out Reuben and Gad!

Introduction

Numbers 32 is a chapter in the Bible that portrays the Israelites' journey towards the Promised Land and how some tribes prioritized their considerations over God's specific commands. This deep dive focuses on the faith lessons we can glean from the narrative and objections raised by Moses.

The Recognition of Affluence

Numbers 32:1-5

1. The chapter begins with Reuben and Gad, noticing the rich lands of Jazer and Gilead.
2. They saw these lands as perfect for their large livestock herd, which led them to request Moses to let them settle there (Numbers 32:1-5).
3. This action is reminiscent of Lot choosing the fertile plains of Jordan over Abram in Genesis 13:10-12, prioritizing wealth material over Elohim's guidance. Here, the test of faith begins as the tribes seem more focused on their earthly interests rather than the divine promise made by Elohim.

The Response of Moses

Numbers 32:6-15

1. Moses responds by reminding tribes of ancestors' unfaithfulness when they discouraged the Israelites from entering the Promised Land (Numbers 14:1-4).

2. Like the negative influence of the 10 spies in Numbers 13:31-33, their decision could demoralize and discourage the entire community.
3. Moses warned them about the possibility of repeating the adverse sins of their forefathers, propagating a lack of faith and causing Elohim's anger to be kindled against His people once again. (Numbers 32:8-13).

The Reconciliation and Compromise

Numbers 32:16-27

1. The tribes of Reuben and Gad, realizing their error, propose a solution.
2. They offer to build sheepfolds for their livestock and cities for their children in Gilead, promising to join the rest of Israel in conquering the rest of the Promise Land before settling on the east side of Jordan (Numbers 32:16-19).
3. This commitment aligns with Joshua's charge in (Joshua 1:14-15), where He asks the Eastern tribes to fight for Yehovah until their brothers possess their inheritance.

The Result and Conclusion

Numbers 32:28-42

1. Moses agrees to their proposal with a stern warning that if they fail to fulfill their promise, their sin would find them out. (Numbers 32:23), echoing Proverbs 28:13's teaching about

sins consequences.

2. Eventually Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built strong cities and livestock pens as then promised (Numbers 32:34-42), demonstrating faith through works in James 2:17-18.
3. Numbers 32 serves as profound study of faith, highlighting the dangers of prioritizing worldly considerations over Elohim's promises, the collective responsibility, and the blessings of obedience.
4. It teaches us to keep focused on Elohim's promises, to consider the impact of our actions on our community's faith, and to fulfill our commitments to Elohim knowing full well that our actions demonstrate our faith.
5. Through this, we learn that faith is not a passive attribute but an active commitment to Elohim's Word, as seen in Hebrews 11:1.
6. Therefore let's strive to possess such faith that does not waver in the face of temptation, but to steadfastly look up to Elohim and His promises.

Take Away

1. Being like Reuben and Gad is compared to being like Lot in Sodom.
2. Yehovah's perfect will is much more important than his permissive will.
3. We need to make sure that we fulfill our commitments to Elohim.

Application

1. Today I will desire to live in the Promise Land which is inside Yehovah's protection not outside of the land where we are sitting ducks for HaSatan.
2. I will continue to live out my faith by my works.
3. I will continue to pursue Yehovah's perfect will instead of His permissive will.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

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