

Full text of Numbers 32 with the two narratives color-coded

What follows is the running text of Num 32 divided into its sources, both in a color-coded system and in a font-style system for those who are color-blind. The **Elohistic (E)** source is green and normal weight font. The **Priestly (P) source** is red and bold. Text that is in black and underlined was present in both sources, and the compiler of these two sources omitted one occurrence. Text in italics was *added by the same compiler in order to help harmonize the differences in the stories*. Finally, vv. 7–15 have long been recognized having been added to the chapter after the two stories have been combined. I have put these verses in **outline script**.

¹וּמִקְנֵה רֵב הָיָה לְבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן וּלְבְנֵי-גָד עָצוּם מְאֹד וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת-אֶרֶץ יַעֲזֵר וְאֶת-אֶרֶץ גִּלְעָד וְהִנֵּה הַמְּקוֹם מְקוֹם מִקְנֵה ²
**וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי-גָד וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְאֶל-נֹשְׂאֵי הָעֵדוּת לֵאמֹר ³ עֲטֹרוֹת וְדִיבֵן וַיַּעֲזֵר וְנִמְרָה
וְחִשְׁבוֹן וְאֶלְעָלָה וּשְׁכֶם וּנְבוֹ וּבָעַן ⁴ הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה יְהוָה לִפְנֵי עַדְתִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץ מִקְנֵה הוּא וְלַעֲבָדֶיךָ מִקְנֵה ⁵ וַיֹּאמְרוּ
אִם-מִצְאָנוּ חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ יִתֵּן אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת לַעֲבָדֶיךָ לְאֶתְנָהּ אֶל-תַּעֲבֵרְנוּ אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן ⁶ וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה לְבְנֵי-גָד וּלְבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן
הַאֲחִיכֶם יָבֹאוּ לְמַלְחָמָה וְאַתֶּם תֵּשְׁבוּ פֹה ⁷ וְלָמָּה תִּגְיִיאוּ אֶת-לֵב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַבְרֵי אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן לָהֶם יְהוָה ⁸
כֹּה עָשׂוּ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם בְּשִׁלְחֵי אֲתֶם מִקְדָּשׁ בְּרָנַע לְרְאוּת אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ ⁹ וַיַּעֲלוּ עַד-נַחַל אֲשַׁכּוֹל וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ וַיִּגִּיאוּ אֶת-
לֵב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבִלְתִּי-בֹא אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן לָהֶם יְהוָה ¹⁰ וַיַּחֲרֹאף יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיִּשְׁבַּע לֵאמֹר ¹¹ אִם-יִרְאוּ
הָאֲנָשִׁים הָעֹלִים מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבְּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וּמֵעַלָּה אֶת הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב כִּי לֹא-מְלֹאוּ
אֶתְרִי ¹² בְּלֹתִי כָּל-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּדַנּוֹן כִּי מְלֹאוּ אֶתְרִי יְהוָה ¹³ וַיַּחֲרֹאף יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיִּנְעַם בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲרָבַע־עֶשְׂרִים
שָׁנָה עַד-אַתֶּם כָּל-הַדּוֹר הַעֹשֶׂה הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה ¹⁴ וְהִנֵּה קִמַּתֶּם תַּחַת אֲבֹתֵיכֶם תִּרְבּוּת אֲנָשִׁים חֲטָאִים לְסָפוֹת עוֹד עַל
חַרוֹן אַף-יְהוָה אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל ¹⁵ כִּי תִשׁוּבוּן מֵאֶתְרֵי וַיִּסַּף עוֹד לְהַנִּיחוֹ בַּמִּדְבָּר וְשַׁחַתְתֶּם לְכָל-הָעָם הַזֶּה ¹⁶ וַיִּגְשׁוּ אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ
גְּדֹרֹת צֹאן נִבְנְהָ לְמִקְנֵנוּ פֹה וְעָרִים לְטַפְּנוּ ¹⁷ וַאֲנַחְנוּ נַחֲלֵץ חֲשִׁים לִפְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם-הִבִּיאֲנֵם אֶל-מְקוֹמָם
וַיֹּשֶׁב טַפְּנוּ בְּעָרֵי הַמִּבְצָר מִפְּנֵי יִשְׁבֵי הָאֶרֶץ ¹⁸ לֹא נָשׁוּב אֶל-בְּתִינּוּ עַד הַתְּנַחַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ נַחֲלָתוֹ ¹⁹ כִּי לֹא נִנְחַל
אֲתָם מֵעַבְרֵי לַיַּרְדֵּן וְהִלָּאָה כִּי בָּאָה נַחֲלָתֵנוּ אֵלֵינוּ מֵעַבְרֵי הַיַּרְדֵּן מִזְרָחָה ²⁰ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם מֹשֶׁה אִם-תַּעֲשׂוּן אֶת-הַדְּבָר
הַזֶּה אִם-תַּחֲלֹצוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לְמַלְחָמָה ²¹ וְעָבַר לְכֶם כָּל-חַלוּץ אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן לִפְנֵי יְהוָה עַד הוֹרִישׁוּ אֶת-אִיבֵי מִפְּנֵי ²²**

וּנְכַבְּשָׁה הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וְאַחַר תֵּשְׁבוּ וְהָיִיתֶם נְקִיִּים מִיְהוָה וּמִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וְהָיְתָה הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְכֶם לְאַחֲזָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה²³
וְאִם-לֹא תַעֲשׂוּן כֵּן הִנֵּה חֲטֹאתֶם לַיהוָה וְדַעוּ חֲטֹאתְכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא אֶתְכֶם²⁴ בְּגוֹלְכֶם עָרִים לְטַפְּכֶם וּגְדֹרֹת לְצִנְאָכֶם
וְהִיצֵא מִפִּיכֶם תַּעֲשׂוּ²⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנֵי-גָד וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר עֲבָדֶיךָ יַעֲשׂוּ כַאֲשֶׁר אָדֹנָי מֵצֵן²⁶ טַפְּנוּ נָשִׁינוּ מִקִּנְנוּ
וְכָל-בְּהֵמַתָּנוּ יְהִי-שֵׁם בְּעָרֵי הַגִּלְעָד²⁷ וְעֲבָדֶיךָ יַעֲבְרוּ כָל-חִלּוּץ צָבָא לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לְמַלְחָמָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָדֹנָי דִּבֶּר²⁸ וַיֵּצֵאוּ לָהֶם
מֹשֶׁה אֶת אֱלֻעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְאֶת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נוּן וְאֶת-רְאִשֵׁי אַבֹּת הַמִּטּוֹת לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל²⁹ וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֲלֵהֶם אִם-יַעֲבְרוּ
בְנֵי-גָד וּבְנֵי-רְאוּבֵן אִתְּכֶם אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן כָּל-חִלּוּץ לְמַלְחָמָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וּנְכַבְּשָׁה הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֵיכֶם וּנְתַתֶּם לָהֶם אֶת-אֶרֶץ
הַגִּלְעָד לְאַחֲזָן³⁰ וְאִם-לֹא יַעֲבְרוּ חִלּוּצִים אִתְּכֶם וּנְאֻחֲזוּ בְתֹכְכֶם בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן³¹ וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי-גָד וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן לֵאמֹר אֶת אֲשֶׁר
דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֶל-עֲבָדֶיךָ כֵּן נַעֲשֶׂה³² נַחֲנוּ נַעֲבֹר חִלּוּצִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְאִתָּנוּ אַחֲזַת נַחֲלָתָנוּ מֵעַבְרָ לַיַּרְדֵּן³³ וַיִּתֵּן
לָהֶם מֹשֶׁה לְבְנֵי-גָד וּלְבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן וּלְחֹצֵי שִׁבְט מְנַשֶּׁה בְּדִיּוֹסָף אֶת-מַמְלַכַת סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֲמֹרִי וְאֶת-מַמְלַכַת עֹוג מֶלֶךְ
הַבָּשָׁן הָאָרֶץ לְעָרֵיהָ בְּגִבְלַת עָרֵי הָאָרֶץ סָבִיב³⁴ וַיָּבִנוּ בְנֵי-גָד אֶת-דִּיבֹן וְאֶת-עֵטְרוֹת וְאֶת עֲרַעֲר³⁵ וְאֶת-עֵטְרוֹת שׁוּפָן
וְאֶת-יַעֲזֹר וַיִּגְבְּהָ³⁶ וְאֶת-בֵּית נַמְרָה וְאֶת-בֵּית הָרָן עָרֵי מִבְּצָר וּגְדֹרֹת צֹאן³⁷ וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן בָּנוּ אֶת-חֶשְׁבוֹן וְאֶת-אֱלֻעָלָא
וְאֶת קִרְיָתִים³⁸ וְאֶת-נָבוֹ וְאֶת- בַּעַל מַעֲזֹן מוֹסַבַת שֵׁם וְאֶת-שִׁבְמָה וַיִּקְרְאוּ בְשֵׁמֹת אֶת-שְׁמוֹת הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ³⁹ וַיִּלְכוּ
בְּנֵי מְכִיר בְּדֹמְנֶשֶׁה גִלְעָדָה וַיִּלְכְּדוּהָ וַיֹּרְשׁוּ אֶת-הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר-בָּהָ⁴⁰ וַיִּתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַגִּלְעָד לְמְכִיר בְּדֹמְנֶשֶׁה וַיֵּשֶׁב בָּהּ
⁴¹וַיֹּאִיר בְּדֹמְנֶשֶׁה הַלֵּךְ וַיִּלְכַּד אֶת-חֹתֵימָהּ וַיִּקְרָא אֶתְהֶן חֹת יֹאִיר⁴² וּנְבַח הַלֵּךְ וַיִּלְכַּד אֶת-קִנְתָּ וְאֶת-בְּנֹתֶיהָ וַיִּקְרָא

לָה נָבַח בְּשֵׁמוֹ

¹ The Reubenites and the Gadites owned cattle in very large numbers and they saw that the lands of Jazer *and Gilead* were good cattle land; ² **the Gadites and the Reubenites came and they said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest, and the chieftains of the community,** ³ “**Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon,** ⁴ the land that YHWH has conquered for the community of Israel is cattle country, and your servants have cattle.” ⁵ They said, “If we find favor in your eyes, **let this land be given to your servants as a holding;** do not move us across the Jordan. ⁶ **Moses replied to the Gadites and the Reubenites, “Are your brothers to go to war while you stay here?** ⁷ *Why will you turn the minds of the Israelites from crossing into the land that*

YHWH has given them? ⁸ That is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to survey the land. ⁹ After going up to the wadi Eshcol and surveying the land, they turned the minds of the Israelites from invading the land that YHWH had given them. ¹⁰ Thereupon YHWH was incensed and He swore, ¹¹ 'None of the men from twenty years up who came out of Egypt shall see the land that I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for they did not remain loyal to Me — ¹² none except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they remained loyal to YHWH.' ¹³ YHWH was incensed at Israel, and for forty years He made them wander in the wilderness, until the whole generation that had provoked YHWH's displeasure was gone. ¹⁴ And now you, a breed of sinful men, have replaced your fathers, to add still further to YHWH's wrath against Israel. ¹⁵ If you turn away from Him and He abandons them once more in the wilderness, you will bring calamity upon all this people." ¹⁶ **Then they approached him and said, "We will build here sheepfolds for our flocks and towns for our children.** ¹⁷ We will hasten to fight at the head of all the Israelites until we have established them in their home, **and our children stay in the fortified towns because of the inhabitants of the land."** ¹⁸ We will not return to our homes until every one of the Israelites is in possession of his portion. ¹⁹ But we will not have a share with them in the territory beyond the Jordan, for we have received our share on the east side of the Jordan." ²⁰ Moses said to them, "If you do this, **if you go to battle to fight before YHWH,** ²¹ **and every fighter among you crosses the Jordan before YHWH, until he has dispossessed his enemies before him,** ²² **and the land has been subdued before YHWH and then you return, you shall be clear before YHWH and before Israel, and then this land shall be your holding before YHWH.** ²³ But if you do not do so, then you will have sinned against YHWH; and know that your sin will overtake you. ²⁴ **Build towns for your children and sheepfolds for your flocks; do what you have promised."** ²⁵ **The Gadites and the Reubenites answered Moses, "Your servants will do as my lord commands. ²⁶ Our children, our wives, our flocks, and all our other livestock will stay behind in the towns of Gilead; ²⁷ while your servants, all those recruited for war, cross over before YHWH to engage in battle as my lord orders."** ²⁸ Then Moses gave instructions concerning them to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the family heads of the Israelite

tribes. ²⁹ Moses said to them, “If every fighter among the Gadites and the Reubenites crosses the Jordan with you to do battle before YHWH and the land is subdued before you, you shall give them the land of Gilead as a holding. ³⁰ But if they do not cross over with you to fight, then they shall receive holdings among you in the land of Canaan.” ³¹ The Gadites and the Reubenites said in reply, “Whatever YHWH has spoken concerning your servants, that we will do. ³² We ourselves will cross over to fight before YHWH into the land of Canaan, and we shall keep our hereditary holding across the Jordan.” ³³ Then Moses gave them *to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph* the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of King Og of Bashan, the land with its various cities and the territories of their surrounding towns. ³⁴ The Gadites rebuilt Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, ³⁵ Atrothshophan, Jazer, Jogbehah, ³⁶ Beth-nimrah, and Beth-haran as fortified towns or as enclosures for flocks. ³⁷ The Reubenites rebuilt Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim, ³⁸ Nebo, Baal-meon — some names being changed — and Sibmah; they gave names to towns that they rebuilt. ³⁹ The descendants of Machir son of Manasseh went to Gilead and captured it, dispossessing the Amorites who were there. ⁴⁰ Moses gave Gilead to Machir son of Manasseh, and he settled there. ⁴¹ Jair son of Manasseh went and captured their villages, which he renamed Havvoth-jair. ⁴² And Nobah went and captured Kenath and its dependencies, renaming it Nobah after himself.