

11/12/2023

NUMBERS CHAPTERS 34-36

Crossing and Entering the Promise Land

"Command the Israelites, 'When you enter the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall be yours as an inheritance, the land of Canaan according to its boundaries..."

Chapter 34

Boundaries of the Land of Canaan—The Southern Quarter, 3-5; the Western Border, 6; the Northern Border, 7-9; the East Border, 10-12. Eleazar the priest, and now new leader, Joshua, to assist in dividing the land; and with them a chief out of every 9½ tribes: Caleb, Shemuel, Elidad, Bukki, Hanniel, Kemuel, Elizapan, Paltiels, Ahihud, and Pedahel. Out of the tribes of Reuben and Gad none were taken, because their inheritance had been granted already; Levi was not allowed to inherit land.

Chapter 35

Common Land, Cities of Refuge and Capital punishment—the Israelites are commanded to give the Levites, out of their inheritances, cities, and their suburbs, for themselves, and for their livestock and goods. The suburbs are to extend 1,500 feet from the town walls in every direction. Measured 3,000 feet outside the town walls in every direction—east, south, west, north—with the town at the center.

And out of forty-eight cities, six were to be designated as *Cities of Refuge* for the manslayer (Murderer). On the west of Jordan were *Kadesh*, in Naphtali; *Shechem*, in Mount Ephraim; *Hebron*, in Judah. On the east of Jordan were, *Golan*, in Bashan; *Ramoth-Gilead*, in Gad; and *Bezer*, in Reuben.

Chapter 36

Five daughters, and no sons—we met these ladies in Chapter 26:33—descendants of the sons of the tribe of Joseph, Zelophehad's daughters. The problem: When married, they would then lose their inheritance. Solution: Marrying men from their own tribe. This obviously kept the land inheritance within the tribe, and even within the larger family.

Many today find difficulty, on ostensibly Christian grounds, with the concept of divine judgment, and thus find it hard to accept judgments in the OT as the work of the Christian God. The case of the Canaanites causes particular difficulty because of the involvement of Israel in carrying out the judgment.





