

In The Wilderness

Numbers 34:1-29

- After forty years of wandering in the wilderness Israel has finally come to its desired destination The Promised Land, and as we'll see in these last few chapters even before they possessed the Land God had already given them the Land. Meaning although the Canaanites were still living in the Promise land, God unbeknownst to them, has already evicted them from out of their cities, villages, and towns, they just didn't know it yet.

V1-29

- **V1-2** all Israel needed to do was to walk by faith and possess the land for themselves, now I know because of the false teaching by prosperity teachers about name it claim it, that the very word "claim" is not readily used in orthodox circles, but just because others have used it incorrectly doesn't take away from the biblical principle of possessing what God has given to His people, and as we see The Lord told Moses to command Israel to possess that land.
- **V3-6** since there wasn't any survey crews or scientific instruments for determining property lines people cited towns and geographical features like mountains, forests, seas and rivers when they wanted to define boundaries. The Lord started with the **Southern boundary** of Canaan, and then moved to the **Western border** which was the Mediterranean Sea **V6**.
- **V7-9** next came the **Northern border**, and finally the **Eastern border** in **V10-13**, Moses was sure to mention the Transjordanian tribes > Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, those who decided they wanted their inheritances on the other side of the Jordan before crossing over because it had premium grazing land for their cattle and sheep **V14-15**.
- Just to see how vast a land The Lord gave to the children of Israel > **The Southern, Western, Northern, and Eastern boundary** begin at the tip of the Salt (Dead) Sea, and extended to the Brook of Egypt, to the Mediterranean Sea, then covered the entire Mediterranean Sea **V6**, stretched from The Mediterranean Sea to the entrance of Hamath and Hazar Enan which is Damascus or modern day Syria, these borders would include today Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, and parts of Libya that border the Mediterranean.
- Now what's interesting is not just the amount of land God gave to them, but how much of it was left unclaimed. Their Eastern border never reached all the way to the Mediterranean Sea as they refused to evict fully the Philistines, and the Philistines and not Israel held that territory until Nebuchadnezzar destroyed them and enslaved Israel. Neither did they get as far as Hamath in the North, and other pockets of resistance continued to exist until Israel was finally exiled from the land by both the Assyrians and Babylonians.

- This goes back to what Moses told them in **Num 33:55**, and it happened during Joshua's time > **Josh 15:63, 16:10, 17:12-13, Judg 1:21-35** you read about at least six of the twelve tribes of Israel unable to drive out the inhabitants but instead using them as laborers which is not what the Lord told them to do in **Num 33:55**, and of course later they helped lead Israel into idolatry and sexual immorality, causing God to allow them to go back into bondage to first the Assyrians with the Northern tribes and the Babylonians Southern tribes.
- Before I come down too hard on Israel I have to ask myself, how much more has the Lord for me, and for my family, and for this congregation, and have I taken full advantage of it? I look at the church today have we as the body of Christ claimed by faith all that we have in Christ? Are there still pockets of resistance in our lives that have prevented us from going further in the Lord, or has taken us away from the Lord, we definitely need to examine ourselves.
- **V16-29** at the beginning of Numbers Moses had a committee of twelve men to assist him in taking the census of the children of Israel, now he appoints another committee this time of ten men to help Joshua and Eleazar divide the land for the tribes who will be living in the Promised Land, remember the two and half tribes Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh already have received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River.
- **2 Kings 13:15-19** many centuries later the Prophet Elisha told King Joash who was having trouble with these same Syrians who shouldn't have even been in the land anymore, to take a bow and some arrows, and then he put his hands on the King's hands who is gripping the bow and arrow, next he tells him to open the East window, and shoot the arrow so he shot it.
- He tells him that was the arrow of the Lord's deliverance from Syria, he said at the next battle you shall strike the Syrians down until you have destroyed them **V17. V18** then Elisha tells him to take another arrow but instead of shooting it out the window to strike the ground like your going to strike Syria the enemy, so the King strikes the ground three times and stops like that's enough, and this is silly anyway. Elisha gets angry with him why?
- **V19** because he should have struck the ground five, six, as many times as your strength allowed him too, until the enemy is no longer around to attack anymore. You see what Joash the King did is what Israel had been doing for centuries, as soon as it got hard and difficult they quit fighting the enemy, and would give in and make a compromise with them, instead of striking them as many times as it takes in order to get rid of them for good.
- Like Israel I can get tired of fighting and battling the enemy and make a compromise in an attempt to get comfortable, even if that means me missing out on what God truly wants to do in and through me. If you and I don't deal with the carnal tendencies in our hearts then like the children of Israel we will only possess a fraction of what The Lord had in store for us, and in the end that compromise that we made looking for comfort only led to more fights and battles than if I had been obedient to what the Lord said in the beginning.