

In The Wilderness

Numbers 36:1-13

- Moses and Eleazar have obeyed the Lord and divided the Promised Land in accordance to God's instructions, as the larger tribes would inherit larger portions of the land while the smaller tribes inherit smaller portions of the land, and none of the land was to be transferable it was to always stay within the families that it was originally allotted to.
- That means no one could because of hardship or greed sell their portion of their families land, and no other tribe was suppose to come and expand their inheritance by taking land other tribes, wherever The Lord placed you is where they were supposed to bloom. Which is why we read in the last chapters boundaries in which each tribe was to adhere to as their borders, in this chapter we are going to see exactly why this was so important to follow.

V1-13

- **V1-2** a problem is brought before Moses and the leaders by the half tribe of Manasseh, those who had settled on the other side of the Jordan, that concerned daughters, marriage and inheritance. Earlier in **chapter 27** the daughters of a man named Zelophehad were concerned that their father's inheritance would vanish because there were no sons in their family. Typically the inheritance always goes to the eldest son of the father, but in this case the father had died in the wilderness with the first generation and he only had daughters.
- Now in the Promised Land the second generation is raised up and they are dividing the Land and these five sisters are daughters of a man who was a head in the family of Manasseh that was supposed to inherit a significant portion of Land. But since he had no sons there was talk of taking his inheritance and giving it to another family, this upset the daughters so they smartly went to Moses and Eleazar asking for a ruling that would prevent such a thing.
- **Num 27:6-8** God declared through Moses that inheritances could be passed down to daughters if there were no living sons to claim it, and it became a statute in Israel. **V3-4** now another problem is presented what if these daughters marry someone of another tribe, then where would the land go? Would it stay in the father's tribe or be transferred to the husbands tribe, if its transferred to the husbands tribe then the original tribe's land would become depleted as his inheritance becomes another something Moses wanted to avoid.
- But part of a brides dowry in that day was the land that she inherited from family while being single, once she marries it then becomes the property of her husbands. So what will Moses do, should he overrule one principle in order to establish another, or will he allow another tribe through marriage be able to take over lands that previously didn't belong to them. We know that countries did this all the time, Kings marrying their sons to daughters of other lands, in order to inherit parts of their country so they could expand their countries territory.

- **V5-9** Moses gives an answer that solves both the daughters dilemma and the marrying tribe, he tells them that if a woman who has received an inheritance of land because she has no brothers desires to marry then she must marry within her own tribe in order to keep the inheritance from enlarge another's tribe thus causing Israel to become unbalanced.
- He also gives another option, if she insists on marrying someone outside of her tribe than she would forfeit the inheritance so that it could stay within her original tribe thus not mixing up the land between the tribes and therefore keeping the boundaries. By doing this she would really find out whether he was marrying her for love or for what she had that's for sure
- **V10-12** for the Zelophehad girls this ruling certainly worked out for them, as they would go on to marry within their tribe thus keeping their families inheritance and enlarge their family unit. **V13** these are the Commandments God gave to Moses prior to Israel entering into the Promise Land. Every time I go through the Book of Numbers I am amazed about how much we learn about myself even though the entire book is talking about the children of Israel.
- There are four things that stand out to me that the book of Numbers teaches us and the first is > **1. About Life-** life is about meeting new circumstances many of which we don't expect and certainly can't control, and yet here we are being faced with them on a regular basis. Things like meeting new people and developing new relationships, meeting new ideas, some of which we don't particularly like and may upset us, life is about meeting ourselves and not always liking what we see, but most of all life is about meeting God.
- **2. About God-** throughout the Numbers story we see that God was always there, protecting them, sometimes even from themselves, providing for them, teaching them, maturing them, and yet they kept committing the same three mistakes > looking back and glorifying Egypt, looking around and complaining about their circumstances, looking within and magnifying their own selfish desires, thus causing them to want what was wrong and to be dissatisfied with what was right, and we see people doing the same thing today.
- **3. About Ourselves-** through Israel's experiences we see that it is possible to grow old and not grow up, that age is no guarantee of maturity. Notice the fault didn't lie with the younger generation, instead it was with the older generation whom God swore that He would not let into the land. Today people are blaming how bad our young people are, but really most of what we see out of them is because the older generation dropped the ball just like here.
- **4. About Faith-** scripture says in **2 Cor 5:7** "**that we walk by faith and not by sight**" life is a journey that we make by faith, but Israel had a bad habit of walking by sight and not by faith, and it was this failure to trust God that caused them so much trouble. The difference between Christians and non Christians is the object of faith: Christians trust God, and His Word, non Christians trust themselves, experiences, their abilities.

- Three things about faith > **1st** Faith chooses the imperishable- **Heb 11:24-26**, **2nd** Faith sees the invisible- **Heb 11:27**, **3rd** Faith does the impossible- **Heb 11:28-29**. Faith is believing despite of what I see, hear, or feel, might happen, I still am going to trust in God.