

Numbers 27 Bible Study Notes

1 Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph: and these are the names of his daughters; Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah. 2 And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We note that; the civil heads of Israel, as well as the spiritual heads, gathered at the door of the tabernacle to do business. In other words, they came near the place where God would meet with them, and if they had not already received instruction from God about something, they were conveniently located to be able for their spiritual leader to inquire of God for them.

Think about this and then consider the USA and its present condition of government and rule. This nation, by and large, has put God out of the picture, even though the government was established upon the principles of God and his written word. Do you see how satan has presented to men that they don't need God, enticing them to believe that they are as gods themselves, as in the garden of Eden?

When the government tells the people that God is not necessary, then the people are in trouble. This is exactly what has happened over the years, in the USA, as we see men in error trying to bring about the separation of church and state, banning prayer from schools, destroying all things that bear godly or scriptural references, and passing laws to make legal things that God say are an abomination in his sight.

Consider, the present pandemic of the corona virus, and see that it may well be a judicial, judgment of God upon a people that have cast him aside.

3 Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not in the company of them that gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but died in his own sin, and had no sons. 4 Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he hath no son? Give unto us therefore a possession among the brethren of our father.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We observe here; the 5 daughters of Zelophehad come to the ruling civil council and ask for a possession in their father's name. You understand that in the previous chapter; the numbering of the males was for the numbering of those able to go to war and for the division of the land of Canaan.

- These daughters are considered as one in their totality and not as 5 individuals in the case set forward. They are asking for the portion of their father, which would have come to them had their father been alive. This is inclusive of; if they had a brother, to get possession of the portion of their father, the family possession would still have been preserved.
- In presenting their case, the daughters make it known that their father was not one who died in rebellion against God, as did the company of Korah. He simply died having no sons.
- Their request is based on this fact that their father was faithful to Israel and God. They request to be given a possession in the land. Without this possession of property; it would be as if the line of their father was dead, and they would have no sustenance in the Promised Land.

Notice, the daughters speak as though the land has already been conquered, even though the possession of it has not begun yet. This is glorifying to the name of God; in that they believe that the land will indeed become their possession as promised by God.

5 And Moses brought their cause before the LORD.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We see that Moses went directly to God for an answer to the question raised. This was a stupendous question; the answer of which would have large circumstances.

Heretofore, women were not regarded at all in headship of families. We see this in the numbering of the families in the previous chapter. One reason that the women had not been considered before was that God was numbering the men that were able and responsible for going to war to protect their women and children.

We see the largeness, of the implications, of this answer in the instruction given about the perpetual possession of property given in Leviticus and the jubile year.

Le 25:10; 8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. 9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

We see, in this reference text, God providing a way for the preservation, of the names, of each tribe of Israel, their families, and the property possession.

6 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 7 The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: Take note, as we stated in our opening commentary, that the possession was one that was given to all 5 of the daughters. They didn't get 5 possessions, a possession for each daughter, only one for their father's house. Although, we have some indication; that the size of the families was considered; in the amount of the possession of the property given, in the division of the land.

8 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter. 9 And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his brethren. 10 And if he have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his father's brethren. 11 And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family, and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: In these verses we see that God goes ahead and makes provision for all circumstances about the possession of properties in the future. Thus we see, that civil law was given by God and given to the people to follow. This is what I was pointing out earlier about government, and the fact that, at this time, the civil government gathered at the entrance to the tabernacle. This would be representative of godly men today being representatives in the government head.

Following this thought; we remember that the leaders are to be men in whom the spirit of the Lord is as seen in: ***Nu 11:16-17; 16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. 17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.*** In this scripture, we see God's answer to Moses for help in the leadership and ministering to the needs of the people.

I believe this is the group that was present at this time and before whom the 5 daughters of Zelophehad presented their case.

12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel. 13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered. 14 For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: Moses is instructed by God to get to the mount where he will die; reminding him why he cannot enter the land of Canaan.

15 And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, 16 Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We see Moses, even in the face of death at hand, still pleading for the lives of the people Israel. Here, he asks God for a replacement leader to be established before his demise. As we consider the intercessory prayer of Moses; we see a picture of the future and the incarnation and ascension of Christ. How? Just as Moses request here that the people not be left without a God appointed leader; so Christ before he ascended back into the eternal heaven said He would send the Comforter to be with God's chosen people here in time. The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, is our God appointed leader in our spiritual lives in Christ Jesus.

18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: In these verses we see God's answer to Moses' request for a replacement leader. Notice; God told Moses to lay hands upon Joshua, and that in so doing some of the honor of Moses would be transferred to Joshua. This would be done in the presence of the people Israel so that they would see the spirit of God moving upon Joshua. This would give them a willing heart, to observe that God had replaced Moses with Joshua, and they would be willing to obey the command of Joshua as the command of God, as they had followed Moses.

We see in this a picture, our practice of the ordination of elders in the church today. Many times when a new preacher is come forth, we hear people asking or telling that he favors another preacher that has gone before. Thus, people are still looking for signs about those who are their leaders. However, a reminder to us all; we should never choose leaders because they remind us of some other person in whom we had great faith. We are to seek leaders that are filled with the Spirit and Wisdom of God.

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