

## Numbers 34 Bible Study Notes

**1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Command the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land of Canaan; (this is the land that shall fall unto you for an inheritance, even the land of Canaan with the coasts thereof:)**

Clarke Lee's Commentary: God sets the boundaries of our habitations today as he did here for Israel in Numbers. ***Ac 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;***

I believe that we can apply this setting of boundaries; to physical placement upon the earth, as well as our boundaries in living the spiritual life of a Christian.

Setting boundaries may well teach us that we should be content with those things that God has blessed us with. It should teach us to know what God has promised us and define the line between the gifts of God and the love of money or covetousness.

Matthew Henry states that this possession was only about 150 miles long and about 50 miles wide. This points out that the possession given to Israel was small in comparison to the surrounding land mass, but, the land given was a very fruitful and productive.

This is a picture, of the Church of Salvation by Grace, as established upon the earth, and is like little Gardens of Eden, oases in a desert land. The works of the flesh, the world surrounding the oasis spots, is only lucrative to the eyes of the dead, who is looking only for temporal things. The Church of Salvation by Grace, on the other hand, is the land flowing with milk and honey and every need for the Christian's life, and focuses on the beauty of the eternal home in the eternal heaven, seeing the glorified Saviour and King.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Many of its borders were its defenses and natural fortifications, to render the access of enemies the more difficult, and to intimate to Israel that the God of nature was their protector, and with his favour would compass them as with a shield.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: These natural defenses are a picture of the whole armor of God that the Christian is to put on when they are born again. It is to us like the Ten Commandments; which are to us defensive weapons. How? Think about the giving of the commandments. Where had Israel just come from when they received them? A land of slavery and idolatry. Where are the children of Israel going? To the Land of Canaan, which presently is a land inhabited by idolaters and bondsmen. Thus we see the picture of the giving of the Ten Commandments in this perspective; as a warning of where you came from and defensive tools that if adhered to will protect and keep you safe where you are going to live.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: The border reached to the river of Egypt (Nu 34:5), that the sight of that country which they could look into out of their own might remind them of their bondage there, and their wonderful deliverance thence.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: Another picture of the born again and the fact that our vile fleshly nature is still with us in our flesh.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Their border is here made to begin at the Salt Sea (Nu 34:3), and there it ends, Nu 34:12. This was the remaining lasting monument of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. That pleasant fruitful vale in which these cities stood became a lake, which was never stirred by any wind, bore no vessels, was replenished with no fish, no living creature of any sort being found in it, therefore called the Dead Sea. This was part of their border, that it might be a constant warning to them to take heed of those sins which had been the ruin of Sodom; yet the iniquity of Sodom was afterwards found in Israel (Eze 16:49), for which Canaan was made, though not a salt sea as Sodom, yet a barren soil, and continues so to this day.

5. Their western border was the Great Sea (Nu 34:6), which is now called the Mediterranean. Some consider this sea itself to have been a part of their possession, and that by virtue of this grant, they had the dominion of it, and, if they had not forfeited it by sin, might have rode masters of it.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: As Matthew Henry points these natural facts of scripture; we see the great comparative of God's blessing in the life of the born again sinner.

**3 Then your south quarter shall be from the wilderness of Zin along by the coast of Edom, and your south border shall be the outmost coast of the salt sea eastward: 4 And your border shall turn from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass on to Zin: and the going forth thereof shall be from the south to Kadeshbarnea, and shall go on to Hazaraddar, and pass on to Azmon: 5 And the border shall fetch a compass from Azmon unto the river of Egypt, and the goings out of it shall be at the sea. 6 And as for the western border, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border. 7 And this shall be your north border: from the great sea ye shall point out for you mount Hor: 8 From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings forth of the border shall be to Zedad: 9 And the border shall go on to Ziphron, and the goings out of it shall be at Hazarenan: this shall be your north border. 10 And ye shall point out your east border from Hazarenan to Shepham: 11 And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward: 12 And the border shall go down to Jordan, and the goings out of it shall be at the salt sea: this shall be your land with the coasts thereof round about. 13 And Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, This is the land which ye shall inherit by lot, which the LORD commanded to give unto the nine tribes, and to the half tribe: 14 For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance: 15 The two tribes and the half tribe have received their inheritance on this side Jordan near Jericho eastward, toward the sunrising. 16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 17 These are the names of the men which shall divide the land unto you: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun. 18 And ye shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land by inheritance. 19 And the names of the men are these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. 20 And of the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud. 21 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon. 22 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli. 23 The prince of the children of Joseph, for the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod. 24 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan. 25 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach. 26 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan. 27 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi. 28 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud. 29 These are they whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance unto the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.**

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: God here appoints commissioners for the dividing of the land to them. The conquest of it is taken for granted, though as yet there was never a stroke struck towards it. Here is no nomination of the generals and commanders-in-chief that should carry on the war; for they were to get the land in possession, not by their own sword or bow, but by the power and favour of God; and so confident must they be of victory and success while God fought for them that the persons must now be named who should be entrusted with the dividing of the land, that is, who should preside in casting the lots, and determine controversies that might arise, and see that all was done fairly.

1. The principal commissioners, who were of the quorum, were Eleazar and Joshua (Nu 34:17), typifying Christ, who, as priest and king, divides the heavenly Canaan to the spiritual Israel; yet, as they were to go by the lot, so Christ acknowledges the disposal must be by the will of the Father, Mt 20:23. Compare, Eph 1:11.

2. Besides these, that there might be no suspicion of partiality, a prince of each tribe was appointed to inspect this matter, and to see that the tribe he served for was in no respect injured. Public affairs should be so managed as not only to give their right to all, but, if possible, to give satisfaction to all that they have justice done them, It is a happiness to a land to have the princes of their people meet together, some out of every tribe, to concert the affairs that are of common concern, a constitution which is the abundant honour, ease, and safety, of the nation that is blessed with it.

3. Some observe that the order of the tribes here very much differs from that in which they hitherto, upon all occasions, been named, and agrees with the neighborhood of their lots in the division of the land. Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin, the first three here named, lay close together; the inheritance of Dan lay next them on one side, that of Ephraim and Manasseh on another side; Zebulun and Issachar lay abreast more northerly, and, lastly, Asher and Naphtali most northward of all, as is easy to observe in looking over a map of Canaan; this (says bishop Patrick) is an evidence that Moses was guided by a divine Spirit in his writings. Known unto God are all his works beforehand, and what is new and surprising to us he perfectly foresaw, without any confusion or uncertainty.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: Thus we see; the hand of our God, is the same hand that set the affairs of men in order and put the victory, of the Promised Lands occupation, in them before it ever came to pass. God is always orderly and has purpose in all things to bring about his will and purpose in the lives of his people. Thus we see; the prophetic picture of the Church of Salvation by Grace, in the working of the Lord's hand in Old Testament, set in proper order and discipline, and given unto God's people, before it ever came to fruition.

God's plan and purpose for the Church of Salvation by Grace could not be routed by any conceived evil of satan or the rest of the world. Why? Because, it rested solely upon Jesus Christ and his finished work, and was established on the Sure Foundation Stone.

What great glory we should give to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ both incarnate and as the Son of God. How proudly, and purposefully, we should inhabit the Land of Promise, here in time, and spend our time there dressing and keeping the vineyard of God's Grace and Mercy.

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

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