

Numbers Chapter 36 Commentary

1 And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near, and spake before Moses, and before the princes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel: 2 And they said, The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel: and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother unto his daughters. 3 And if they be married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then shall their inheritance be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and shall be put to the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall it be taken from the lot of our inheritance. 4 And when the jubile of the children of Israel shall be, then shall their inheritance be put unto the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall their inheritance be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers.

We have, in this chapter, a question posed, that has arisen since the commandment given back in **Nu 27:1-11**. There, the daughters of Zelophehad had requested inheritance of property, because their father died having no sons. If they had no inheritance, they would be forced out of any support for life. God had given answer to the previous question; that when a man died having no sons, the inheritance would go to the daughters, and so on, as described in Numbers 27.

Now, the families of Joseph asked for clarification of how to keep the property in the proper possession, when the daughters that inherited had married. To point out the reason this was a problem, we reference: **Le 25:10 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 here; in the year of Jubilee the property, of every man, not woman, was returned to his possession. Therefore, as I understand it, if the daughter inherited a possession of property, and she married a man outside of her father's family, in the Jubilee year, that property would become the permanent possession of the man the daughter married. Since she was a daughter, the property possession did not return to her family, but became a possession of her husband's family.

Now this question is posed, since they see a problem, which could cause the loss of inheritance, and possession of property in the Promised Land. God will again give answer to the problem, and as the original question was answered in a way to make application to all such cases as they may arise in the future, so it is here in **Nu 27:1-11**.

Some commentators say, this chapter and **Nu 27:1-11** should have been put together. I believe; this has only been opened to their eyes of late, and now they turn once again to God for direction. I once asked an old elder in the church about some issues that came up at one point in history. My question was why did they wait so long to address it? The answer I got was they first had to get in sight of the question. I believe that is the situation here.

5 And Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, The tribe of the sons of Joseph hath said well. 6 This is the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry. 7 So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the

inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. 8 And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers. 9 Neither shall the inheritance remove from one tribe to another tribe; but every one of the tribes of the children of Israel shall keep himself to his own inheritance. 10 Even as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad: 11 For Mahlah, Tirzah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married unto their father's brothers' sons: 12 And they were married into the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of the family of their father. 13 These are the commandments and the judgments, which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses unto the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.

We see in these verses that God again provides an answer to their problem and gives the answer in a way that it can be applicable, as time goes on, to keep his division of the property in effect. God is making sure that things remain as he set them up, as long as the children of Israel are in possession of the Promised Land. Certainly, they will lose their possession through disobedience, but that is their fault and not God's.

We remember now, at this close of the book of Numbers, that many things have transpired, and soon the children of Israel will enter the Promised Land. Much of what we have read and studied in Numbers is of the wilderness journey, which was the consequence of the disobedience of Israel. Certainly, this is a good lesson to us, which reminds us, if we are obedient and faithful to God; he will be faithful and bless us with a multitude of blessings. God will protect and keep us in all the trials, troubles, and tribulations of life, if we are a willing people. However, as we have seen in the lives of Israel; disobedience will lead to such judicial wrath, and judgement, from God; that we will die in the wilderness; and not enter into the rest he has prepared for us here in time, the Church of Salvation by Grace.

We praise, and glorify, the name of God the Father, for the revelations of God the Son in this book of Numbers. We pray that this journey has been a learning process for each reader and student of God's Word of Truth.

We pray, as we move into the study of Deuteronomy, God will continue to enlighten each of us, and reveal our Saviour, and God's sovereign will for our own lives in Christ, to us, and inscribe those revelations in our hearts and minds, that they may be a ready sword of defense in our walk with God.

Praise ye the Lord, Ye children of Salvation by Grace, for this wonderful blessing, of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost and the revelations, of the truths, and mysteries, of God's word, in our lives. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!