



The Daughters of Zelophehad

Following the second census of the nation (Num. 26), there is a brief story about five women—the daughters of Zelophehad. These women take up little space in the Biblical narrative, but their story is a good one and teaches us some important lessons. We can call learn from the daughters of Zelophehad, and seek to enjoy the blessing they enjoyed.

They spoke what was right (Num. 27:5) They were honest; they respected what their father did right, but did not hide his shortcomings.

They knew God's Law They had an accurate understanding of the Law. They had listened and learned!

They obeyed God (Num. 36:10) When God gave an answer, they listened and obeyed.

They received an inheritance (Josh. 17:3-6) Because of their wise conduct, honest speech, and humble obedience the daughters of Zelophehad also received an inheritance in the Promised Land. If we will emulate the same characteristics, we can inherit the promised land of Heaven!

1. What was the name of Aaron's grandson whose actions stopped the plague of the Lord? _____
2. Did the number of fighting men increase or decrease between the two censuses of Numbers? _____
3. Summarize the request of the daughters of Zelophehad and the Lord's response: _____

4. How many men from each tribe were sent out against Midian? _____
5. Which tribes requested to settle on the eastern side of the Jordan River? What was the condition they had to meet first? _____

6. How many cities were to be given to the Levites? _____
7. How many cities of refuge were there to be? _____

Looking Back at Numbers: It may seem like Numbers is a book of failure. In one sense it is, in that it records many personal failures of people or groups of people (even large groups). As the book ends, however, we see that it is actually a book about success; not because of the people, but because of God. Despite the error and rebellion of so many, God's will was still coming to fruition. He promised the land of Canaan to the descendants of Abraham, and by the end of Numbers, Israel was camped just to the east ready to take the land! This is a sweet and also sobering reminder—God's will is going to be accomplished, and His promises will be kept. It is up to us though to listen to and obey Him, so that we can be the recipients of His favor and promises when His will is finally and fully accomplished!

Numbers 25-36 Moving Toward the Promised Land

Overview

The fledgling nation of Israel was off to a rocky start. Despite witnessing God's power on multiple occasions, the people grumbled, complained, and rebelled time and time again. Their rebellious attitudes brought about God's punishment, and the nation was forced to wander the wilderness for 40 years. As the years rolled by, all of the adult generation that had rebelled died (except for Joshua and Caleb), and a new generation came up—a generation that had grown up in the wilderness because of their parent's mistakes. How would this new generation fare? Would they follow in their parent's footsteps, or learn from their mistakes? The final chapters of Numbers introduce the new generation of Israelites, and their early preparations to finally move into the Promised Land. A new census is taken, instructions are given anew, Joshua is appointed as Moses' replacement, and the nation's brief history is reviewed. Finally, the nation moves to the eastern bank of the Jordan River. From there, Moses will speak to the nation in a final series of lessons (recorded in Deuteronomy), and the Israelites will prepare to finally inherit the Promised Land!

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Numbers 25-26
- Tuesday: Numbers 27-29
- Wednesday: Numbers 30-32
- Thursday: Numbers 33-34
- Friday: Numbers 35-36

Evil Influence

While Balaam couldn't utter a curse against Israel, he was cunning, and knew how to get the Israelites to curse themselves. The Moabite women were sent into the camp, and seduced many of the men of Israel. As if immorality wasn't bad enough, they soon descended into idolatry also. God's wrath was kindled, and over 20,000 Israelites died. This lesson reminds us of an important truth—God's people must be careful about the relationships they develop. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:33, “*Bad company ruins good morals.*” Too many people have been led astray by choosing ungodly friends, and especially spouses (think of Samson and Solomon). While Christians strive to influence others for good, they must be careful avoid relationships that could ultimately pull them away from serving God.

Allotment of the Land





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“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan

Numbers 25-36

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