

# Joshua 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There was also a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh by their families; for the children of Abiezer, and for the children of Helek, and for the children of Asriel, and for the children of Shechem, and for the children of Hephher, and for the children of Shemida: these were the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph by their families.

## Analysis

**There was also a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh by their families**—After addressing Machir's Transjordanian inheritance, the text turns to the western half-tribe's Cisjordanian allotment. The phrase *lemishpechotam* (לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם, "by their families") emphasizes equitable distribution according to clan divisions, ensuring each family unit received its *nachalah* (נַחֲלָה, permanent inheritance).

The detailed genealogy lists six clans: **Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida**—each representing a major family division within Manasseh. These are **the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph by their families**, emphasizing patrilineal inheritance as the standard pattern. Gideon descended from Abiezer (Judges 6:11), connecting this land allotment to later redemptive history. The specificity demonstrates God's providential care in fulfilling promises to particular families, not just to Israel generically.

## Historical Context

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The six clans listed here correspond to the census in Numbers 26:30-33, showing continuity between wilderness organization and Canaan settlement. Each clan would have comprised hundreds or thousands of individuals requiring substantial territory. The region west of Jordan assigned to Manasseh included some of Canaan's most fertile land in the Jezreel Valley and Samarian highlands. Shechem, mentioned as a clan founder here, would become one of Manasseh's most important cities and first Israelite capital (Joshua 24:1, 25). The clan structure created stable social organization balancing tribal unity with family autonomy.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the detailed recording of family allotments demonstrate God's concern for individual families within His larger covenant community?
2. What can we learn from the orderly distribution of inheritance about the relationship between corporate blessing and individual responsibility?
3. How does God's faithfulness to preserve these specific family lines encourage your faith in His sovereign plan for your own family?

## Interlinear Text

וְיְהִי H1961	בְּנֵי H1121	מְנַשֶּׁה H4519	הַנּוֹתָרִים H3498	
and for the children	of Manasseh	There was also a lot for the rest		
לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם: H4940	בְּנֵי H1121	אַבְיָעֵזֶר H44	בְּנֵי H1121	חֵלֵק H2507
by their families	and for the children	of Abiezer	and for the children	of Helek
בְּנֵי H1121	אַשְׁרִיֵּאל H844	בְּנֵי H1121	שֶׁכֶם H7928	
and for the children	of Asriel	and for the children	of Shechem	
בְּנֵי H1121	חֵפְרַי H2660	בְּנֵי H1121	שְׁמִידָה H8061	אֵלֶּה H428
and for the children	of Hephher	and for the children	of Shemida	
בְּנֵי H1121	מְנַשֶּׁה H4519	בְּנֵי H1121	יוֹסֵף H3130	
and for the children	of Manasseh	and for the children	of Joseph	
הַזָּכָרִים H2145	לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם: H4940			
these were the male	by their families			

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Chronicles 7:18** (Parallel theme): And his sister Hammoleketh bare Ishod, and Abiezer, and Mahalah.