

# Numbers 26:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites: and of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites.

## Analysis

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**Of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites: and of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites**—Shemida (שְׁמִידָא, 'name of knowing' or 'wise fame') suggests reputation built on understanding, while Hephher (הֶפֶר, 'a pit/well' or 'shame') seems less auspicious. Yet Hephher's clan produced Zelophehad, whose daughters revolutionized inheritance law (Numbers 27:1-11).

This juxtaposition—'wise fame' beside 'the pit'—mirrors Scripture's pattern: God chooses foolish things to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). The Hephherites, despite their inauspicious name, became agents of covenant justice and women's rights. The census doesn't rank clans by prestige but counts them equally, each essential to Israel's completeness. No clan is expendable; the 'least' may birth landmark legal precedent.

## Historical Context

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The Hephherites' later significance through Zelophehad's daughters (v. 33) shows how census genealogies preserve information that becomes crucial later. This clan's name appears in Joshua's land division (Joshua 17:2-3), where the daughters' inheritance is formally granted. Their case became precedent for property law throughout Israel's history (Numbers 36).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Hephher's story of 'the pit' producing legal reformers encourage believers from disadvantaged or stigmatized backgrounds?
2. What does the equal counting of prestigious and humble clans teach about God's valuation versus human social hierarchies?
3. How might Zelophehad's case, arising from 'shameful' Hephher, typologically point to Christ bringing redemption through the shame of the cross?

## Interlinear Text

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וּשְׁמִידָא ע	מִשֵּׁפַּ חַת	הַשְּׁמִידָאֵי י	וְחֵפֶר	מִשֵּׁפַּ חַת
And of Shemida	the family	of the Shemidaites	and of Hephher	the family
H8061	H4940	H8062	H2660	H4940
הַחֶפְרִי:				
of the Hephherites				
H2662				