

Numbers 26:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

The LORD's instruction that the land be divided by lot according to tribal names combines divine sovereignty (the lot) with human identity (tribal names). The lot's casting acknowledged that God determined each tribe's inheritance, not human preference or power. Yet tribal identity was honored—each received according to who they were. This balance of divine sovereignty and human particularity reflects Reformed theology—God elects and calls while respecting our identity and agency. We are neither absorbed into uniformity nor left to determine our own destiny.

Historical Context

The lot was a means of discerning divine will, used at various points in Israel's history. Proverbs says 'the lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.' The combination of lot (divine determination) and census (human counting) meant inheritance was both divinely ordained and proportionately distributed according to each tribe's size.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the combination of divine sovereignty and human responsibility shape our understanding of providence?
2. What does proportional land distribution teach about justice and equity in God's kingdom?
3. In what ways does God's plan honor both His sovereignty and our individual identity?

Interlinear Text

לִאְמֹר: מֹשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה הָיָה וַיֹּאמֶר רְאֵינוּ כִּי
spake And the LORD unto Moses saying
H1696 H3068 H413 H4872 H559

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