

Numbers 26:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

Analysis

The command that 'the land shall be divided by lot' establishes divine determination as primary in inheritance. Human wisdom, tribal power, and personal preference were subordinated to God's sovereign allocation. The lot ensured that each tribe received what God intended, not what they could negotiate or seize. This reflects the Reformed doctrine of election—God chooses whom He will bless, not based on human merit or effort but according to His sovereign purpose. Our inheritance is by divine decision, not human achievement.

Historical Context

Lot casting was a sacred act, not gambling. It was understood as seeking God's will through divinely appointed means. Joshua would later cast lots 'before the LORD' at Shiloh, making the sacred nature of the process explicit. The lot removed human bias and made each tribe dependent on God's provision.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the lot's use in determining inheritance illustrate God's sovereignty in salvation?
2. What does removing human decision from inheritance allocation teach about grace?
3. In what ways should dependence on divine determination humble us?

Interlinear Text

אֶרֶץ	בְּגוֹרָה ל	יִחַל ק	אֶת	הָאָרֶץ
H389	by lot	shall be divided	H853	Notwithstanding the land
	H1486	H2505		H776
	לְשֵׁם וְ	מִטּוֹת	אֲבוֹתָם	יִנְחִלוּ:
	according to the names	of the tribes	of their fathers	they shall inherit
	H8034	H4294	H1	H5157

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 33:54 (Parallel theme): And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.

Numbers 34:13 (Parallel theme): And Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, This is the land which ye shall inherit by lot, which the LORD commanded to give unto the nine tribes, and to the half tribe:

Joshua 14:2 (Parallel theme): By lot was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes, and for the half tribe.

Joshua 11:23 (Parallel theme): So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

