

Numbers 26:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to the lot shall the possession thereof be divided between many and few.

Analysis

The summary statement—'according to the lot shall the possession thereof be divided'—combines divine sovereignty (lot) with fair distribution (according to numbers). The two principles work together: God determines the what and where (by lot), while proportionality ensures the how much (by census). This dual emphasis teaches that God's sovereignty doesn't negate justice, and justice doesn't limit sovereignty. The Reformed understanding that God's decrees are both absolute and wise is illustrated—He ordains what He wills, and what He wills is just.

Historical Context

The actual land division, recorded in Joshua, demonstrated this principle in practice. Each tribe's territory was determined by lot, then boundaries were set according to population needs. The process combined divine initiative with human administration, showing that God works through ordained means to accomplish His purposes.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do divine sovereignty and proportional justice coexist in God's providence?
2. What does the combination of lot and census teach about God's methods?
3. In what ways does God's sovereignty expressed through just means encourage trust in His character?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יְמִינְתְּךָ וְנִסְלְתָה לְפִי עַל
H5921 According to the lot thereof be divided shall the possession H996
H6310 H1486 H2505 H5159

לְמִתְּעָטָה בּוּנְכָבָד
between many and few H7227 H4592

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