

Numbers 27:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family, and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

The conclusion 'and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the LORD commanded Moses' establishes this as permanent case law. The Hebrew chukat mishpat (statute of judgment) indicates binding legal precedent. The phrase 'as the LORD commanded Moses' grounds human legislation in divine authority. This demonstrates that proper case law development flows from applying scriptural principles to specific situations under divine guidance. The church similarly develops application of biblical principles to new situations, always subordinate to Scripture's final authority (Acts 15:1-29).

Historical Context

This became foundational for Israel's inheritance law, later cited when Zelophehad's daughters married within their tribe (Numbers 36:1-12) to prevent tribal land transfer. The law functioned throughout Israel's history until the monarchy's corruption and eventually the exile. Jesus later addressed inheritance disputes (Luke 12:13-14), not by providing specific legal rulings but by exposing the greed motivating the request—showing that heart issues underlie property disputes.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does proper application of biblical principles to new situations differ from abandoning Scripture?
2. What safeguards ensure that case law remains subordinate to divine revelation?
3. How should church leaders handle unprecedented situations not explicitly addressed in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת
H518 H369 have no brethren And if his father then ye shall give H853
H251 H1 H5414

מִמְשֻׁפְחָה וְנַחֲלָת וְ
his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family
H5159 H7607 H7138 H413 H4940

לְבָנָי וְיַעֲשֶׂה
and he shall possess it and it shall be unto the children
H3423 H853 H1961 H1121

אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת אֵת
of Israel a statute of judgment commanded as the LORD H853
H3478 H2708 H4941 H834 H6680 H3068

מֹשֶׁה:
Moses
H4872

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 35:29 (Judgment): So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Jeremiah 32:8 (References Lord): So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

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