

Numbers 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

Analysis

The daughters of Zelophehad standing 'before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle' demonstrates public legal proceedings in Israel's theocratic system. The Hebrew *amad lipnei* (stand before) indicates formal court proceedings. Their case was brought to the highest authorities at the central sanctuary, ensuring divine guidance in the decision. This establishes that difficult legal cases should seek divine wisdom through authorized channels—a principle affirmed in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). God's law accommodates new circumstances without compromising justice.

Historical Context

This incident occurred after the wilderness generation's death sentence (Numbers 14) but before entering Canaan. The daughters' concern was about land inheritance in the soon-to-be-conquered territory. Their bold approach demonstrated faith that Israel would indeed possess the land despite the forty-year delay. Their question prompted permanent legislation (verses 6-11) governing female inheritance throughout Israel's history.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does bringing difficult cases to divine wisdom through proper channels demonstrate faith?
2. What does the daughters' boldness teach about approaching authority with legitimate concerns?
3. How should churches handle unprecedented situations—by abandoning biblical principles or applying them faithfully?

Interlinear Text

וַתַּעַמְדוּ דָּנָה	וְלִפְנֵי י	מֹשֶׁה	וְלִפְנֵי י	אֶלְעָזָר	הַכֹּהֵן	וְלִפְנֵי י
And they stood	and before	Moses	and before	Eleazar	the priest	and before
H5975	H6440	H4872	H6440	H499	H3548	H6440
וְכָל הַנְּשִׂאִים	וְכָל	הָעֵדָה	כִּי	תַח	אֹהֶל	
the princes		and all the congregation	by the door		of the tabernacle	
H5387	H3605	H5712	H6607		H168	
מִזֶּד	לֵאמֹר:					
of the congregation	saying					
H4150	H559					

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