

# Numbers 33:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.

## Analysis

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The instruction that land be divided by lot 'according to the families' combines divine sovereignty (lot) with providential distribution (family size). God determines inheritance through ordained means, not arbitrary chance. The balance between what God ordains (the lot's outcome) and natural factors (family needs) teaches that providence works through means. The Reformed doctrine of divine concurrence—God works in, with, and through natural factors while remaining sovereignly in control—is clearly illustrated in this land distribution system.

## Historical Context

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The lot-casting system for land distribution appears throughout Joshua's conquest account. It prevented disputes by making God the arbiter of boundaries. The proportional aspect meant larger tribes received more land, smaller tribes less, ensuring both divine sovereignty and practical justice. The system's wisdom became evident as disputes were resolved by appealing to the lot's divine determination.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's use of means (lot and census) teach about providence working through natural processes?
2. What does combining divine sovereignty with proportional justice demonstrate about God's character?
3. In what ways should Christians trust God's sovereignty expressed through natural means?

## Interlinear Text

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לְךָ שֶׁתִּ	אֶת	הָאֲרָץ	וְיֹשְׁבֵיהֶם	כִּי	יָהּ	
And ye shall dispossess	H853	the inhabitants of the land	and dwell	H0		H3588
H3423		H776	H3427			
לָכֵן	נָתַתִּי	אֶת	הָאֲרָץ			
H0	therein for I have given	H853	the inhabitants of the land			
	H5414		H776			
לְךָ שֶׁתִּ	אֶתָּה:					
And ye shall dispossess	H853					
H3423						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 11:31** (Parallel theme): For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.