

Numbers 34:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the names of the men which shall divide the land unto you: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Analysis

God designates those who 'shall divide the land unto you: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.' The combination of priest (Eleazar) and leader (Joshua) ensured both spiritual and practical oversight in land distribution. The Hebrew 'nachal' (divide/inherit) indicates apportioning tribal inheritances by divine lot. This partnership of priestly and governmental leadership typified Israel's theocracy - God ruled through appointed mediators. Christ combines both offices perfectly - our great High Priest and coming King, ensuring perfect distribution of spiritual inheritance to believers. The church similarly has spiritual leaders and administrators, both gifts from Christ (Eph 4:11-12).

Historical Context

Eleazar succeeded his father Aaron as high priest (Num 20:25-28). Joshua, Moses' successor, led military conquest. Together they oversaw land distribution using Urim and Thummim for casting lots (Josh 14-19). This ensured fair, divinely-directed distribution preventing favoritism or conflict. The tribal princes (v.18-28) represented each tribe in the process, providing accountability and acceptance. Moses gave these instructions on Moab's plains before his death (v.1), ensuring orderly transition. The system demonstrated that godly governance requires both spiritual insight (priestly) and practical leadership (governmental), anticipating Christ's combined offices and church leadership's diverse gifts working together.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you appreciate how God provides both spiritual and practical leadership for His people's benefit?
2. How does Christ's combination of priestly and kingly offices give you confidence He perfectly oversees your spiritual inheritance?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	שְׁמֹת	הָאֲנָשִׁים	אֲשֶׁר	יִנְחָל וְ	לְכָם	
H428	These are the names	H376	H834	which shall divide	H0	
	H8034			H5157		
אֶת	הָאֶרֶץ	אֶלְעָזָר	הַכֹּהֵן	וְיֵהוֹשֻׁעַ	בֶּן	נֹחַן
H853	the land	unto you Eleazar	the priest	and Joshua	the son	of Nun
	H776	H499	H3548	H3091	H1121	H5126

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 14:1 (Parallel theme): And these are the countries which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance to them.

Joshua 19:51 (Parallel theme): These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, divided for an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. So they made an end of dividing the country.

