

Numbers 34:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are they whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance unto the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.

Analysis

These are they whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance unto the children of Israel in the land of Canaan—The concluding formula emphasizes divine command: **the LORD commanded** (צִוָּה יְהוָה tzivah YHWH) these specific men for this sacred task. The phrase **divide the inheritance** (לְנַחֲלָה) אֶת-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל lenachel et-benei-Yisra'el, 'to cause Israel's children to inherit') shows that human leaders facilitated divine gift distribution—God gave the land, leaders administered the giving.

This verse demonstrates that God's sovereignty operates through ordained human agents. The land was divine gift (inheritance, נַחֲלָה), but its distribution required human administration under divine authority. Similarly, the gospel is God's gift, but its proclamation requires human heralds: 'How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?' (Romans 10:14-15). Divine sovereignty and human responsibility operate in complementary partnership, not contradiction.

Historical Context

The land distribution process (Joshua 13-21) combined supernatural guidance (casting lots, Joshua 18:6-10) with practical administration (surveying, Joshua 18:4-9; tribal representatives ensuring fairness). This balance of divine direction and human responsibility characterizes biblical governance—neither

presumptuous human autonomy nor passive waiting for miraculous provision, but cooperative partnership under God's ultimate authority.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'the LORD commanded to divide' demonstrate divine sovereignty operating through human agency rather than bypassing it?
2. What does the balance between divine gift (land as inheritance) and human administration (leaders overseeing distribution) teach about the relationship between grace and responsibility?
3. How can you cultivate both confidence in God's sovereign provision and faithful stewardship in administering what He provides?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי הָעֵדָה אֲשֶׁר אָשֶׁר לְהָעֵד
H428 H834 commanded These are they whom the LORD
H6680 H3068