

# Numbers 36:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near, and spake before Moses, and before the princes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel:

## Analysis

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The family heads of Gilead (Joseph's descendants through Manasseh) coming before Moses demonstrates responsible leadership concerned about tribal integrity. Their question about the daughters of Zelophehad's inheritance addresses the practical implications of earlier rulings. If the daughters marry outside their tribe, their inherited land would pass to another tribe, permanently diminishing Manasseh's territory. This shows that justice requires considering not just immediate cases but long-term consequences. The Reformed emphasis on wisdom and foresight in applying principles is reflected here.

## Historical Context

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The earlier ruling (Numbers 27) gave daughters the right to inherit when there were no sons. This protected family continuity and individual justice. But tribal leaders recognized a potential problem—if these women married outside Manasseh, tribal boundaries would be affected. Their concern balanced individual rights with communal integrity, showing that both matter in covenant community.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does responsible leadership anticipate long-term consequences of immediate decisions?
2. What does balancing individual justice with community integrity teach about wise governance?
3. In what ways should church decisions consider both immediate fairness and long-term implications?

## Interlinear Text

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גָּלְעָד לְבָנָי מִמְּשֶׁפֶחָת אֲבֹת בְּאֵשׁ וַיָּקָרְבָּ 1  
came near And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead  
H7126 H7218 H1 H4940 H1121 H1568

מִמְּשֶׁפֶחָת הַמְנַשֶּׁה לְבָנָי מִמְּשֶׁפֶחָת הַמְנַשֶּׁה לְבָנָי  
of the families of Manasseh of the children of the children of Machir of the children  
H4940 H4519 H1121 H4353

הַפְּשָׁא יִם לְפָנָי מֹשֶׁה לְפָנָי יְהִידָּר וַיֹּסֶף יְהִידָּר וַיֹּסֶף  
the princes and before Moses and before and spoke and before and before  
H5387 H6440 H4872 H1696 H3130 H1121

יִשְׂרָאֵל: לְבָנָי אֲבֹת וְבְאֵשׁ  
of Israel of the children fathers And the chief  
H3478 H1121 H1 H7218

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 27:1** (Parallel theme): Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph: and these are the names of his daughters; Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah.

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