

Numbers 36:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Mahlah, Tirzah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married unto their father's brothers' sons:

Analysis

For Mahlah, Tirzah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married unto their father's brothers' sons—The specific naming of all five daughters and their marriages to paternal cousins (Hebrew *benei dodeihem*, בְּנֵי דֹדֵיהֶם, 'sons of their uncles') provides concrete historical closure to their case. Cousin marriage, common in ancient Near Eastern cultures, kept property within the extended family while fulfilling the tribal endogamy requirement. Their obedience ensured Manasseh's territory remained intact.

These women's names are preserved in Scripture—not erased despite their unusual situation. God honors those who trust His justice and submit to His wisdom. Their story demonstrates that biblical feminism isn't modern individualism but covenant faithfulness that benefits the entire community.

Historical Context

Zelophehad was from the tribe of Manasseh (grandson of Gilead, Numbers 26:33). The family received land in both Transjordan and Canaan proper (Joshua 17:3-6). The daughters' marriages to cousins ensured their father's name and line continued—the original concern that prompted their petition (Numbers 27:4). This case shaped Israel's inheritance law permanently.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation of these women's names in Scripture encourage you about His notice of faithful obedience?
2. What does this case teach about how cultural practices (like cousin marriage) can serve biblical principles without being universal commands?
3. In what areas might God be calling you to sacrifice personal preference for the good of your spiritual community?

Interlinear Text

וְתָהִי יָנָה	מַחֲלָה	תִּרְצָה	וְהוֹגְלָה	וּמִלְכָּה	וְנֹחַ
H1961	For Mahlah	Tirzah	and Hoglah	and Milcah	and Noah
	H4244	H8656	H2295	H4435	H5270
בָּנוֹת	זִלְפֶּחֶד	לְבָנָיו	אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם		נָשִׁים:
the daughters	of Zelophehad	brothers' sons	unto their father's		were married
H1323	H6765	H1121	H1730		H802

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 27:1 (Parallel theme): Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hephher, 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.