

Numbers 36:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were married into the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of the family of their father.

Analysis

Zelophehad's daughters 'were married into the families of the sons of Manasseh... and their inheritance remained in the tribe of the family of their father.' Their obedient compliance with God's law preserved both their inheritance rights and tribal integrity. The Hebrew 'hayah' (remained/continued) indicates successful preservation of the intent. Their willing obedience, though potentially limiting marriage choices, demonstrated faith that God's commands serve our best interests. This exemplifies wise submission to divine restrictions as protection, not punishment. Believers similarly accept God's boundaries (moral law, church discipline, scriptural commands) as loving provision, not arbitrary restriction. Freedom within divine boundaries produces flourishing.

Historical Context

This historical note concludes Numbers, showing compliance with the law just given (v.1-9). Zelophehad's five daughters - Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah - married cousins within Manasseh, preserving their inheritance in the tribe (Josh 17:3-6 confirms they received their inheritance). Their faith and obedience to newly revealed law set precedent for future cases. The account demonstrates that God's laws aren't theoretical but practical guidance for real situations. Their story encouraged other women in similar circumstances and showed that God cares about justice for all, including those without normal inheritance rights (women,

younger sons). Their willing obedience brought lasting honor - their names preserved in Scripture.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you view God's moral boundaries as loving protection or burdensome restriction?
2. How does the example of Zelophehad's daughters challenge you to obey God's Word even when it requires personal sacrifice or limits your options?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁפָּחַת into the families H4940	בְּנֵי of the sons H1121	מְנַשֶּׁה of Manasseh H4519	בְּנֵי of the sons H1121	יוֹסֵף of Joseph H3130	הָיוּ H1961
לָנָשׁ יָמִים And they were married H802	וְנָחֳלָתָם H1961	וְנָחֳלָתָם and their inheritance H5159	עַל H5921	בְּמִטַּה remained in the tribe H4294	
מִשְׁפָּחַת into the families H4940	אֲבִיהֶם: of their father H1				
