

# 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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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מִשְׁפָּט חַתָּם  
into the families of the sons of Manasseh of the sons of Joseph H1961

H4940 H1121 H4519 H1121 H3130

לְנֶשׁ יָמִין תְּמִימָה תְּמִימָה עַל מִטְּהָרָה  
And they were married and their inheritance remained in the tribe H4294

H802 H1961 H5159 H5921

מִשְׁפָּט חַתָּם אֲבִיכָן  
into the families of their father H1

H4940 H1

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