

# Numbers 36:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel: and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother unto his daughters.

## Analysis

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The reference to God's command that land be given by lot establishes the divine origin of land distribution. The leaders' concern isn't with overturning earlier decisions but with preserving the system's integrity. They acknowledge both the LORD's command to give the daughters inheritance and the principle that tribal allocations are permanent. This demonstrates that God's commands don't contradict but must be harmonized through wisdom. The Reformed hermeneutical principle that Scripture interprets Scripture and doesn't contradict itself is illustrated.

## Historical Context

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The combination of lot (determining location) and inheritance law (determining transmission) created Israel's land system. The lot established tribal boundaries as permanent, divinely ordained, and not subject to change. If daughters marrying outside their tribe transferred land permanently, it would violate the lot's divine determination of tribal boundaries.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How do we harmonize seemingly competing biblical principles through wisdom?
2. What does the appeal to divine command teach about grounding arguments in Scripture?
3. In what ways should Christians resolve tensions between valid principles?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֶת	וַאֲדֹנִי	צִוָּה	בְּיְהוָה	לֵתֵת	אֶת
And they said		and my lord	commanded	The LORD	to give	
H559	H853	H113	H6680	H3068	H5414	H853
הָאָרֶץ	נַחֲלָת	בְּגוֹרָל	לְבָנָי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַאֲדֹנִי	
the land	for an inheritance	by lot	to the children	of Israel	and my lord	
H776	H5159	H1486	H1121	H3478	H113	
צִוָּה	בְּיְהוָה	לֵתֵת	אֶת	נַחֲלָת	צֶלְפֶּחֶד	
commanded	The LORD	to give		for an inheritance	of Zelophehad	
H6680	H3068	H5414	H853	H5159	H6765	
אָחֵינוּ	לְבָנָתָיו:					
our brother	unto his daughters					
H251	H1323					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 33:54** (Parallel theme): And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more

inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.

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