

# Numbers 36:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if they be married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then shall their inheritance be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and shall be put to the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall it be taken from the lot of our inheritance.

## Analysis

**And if they be married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then shall their inheritance be taken from the inheritance of our fathers**—The Hebrew nachalah (נָכָלָה, 'inheritance') refers not merely to property but to covenant identity rooted in tribal land allotment. The concern raised by Zelophehad's daughters' male relatives addresses a genuine legal gap: if heiresses marry outside their tribe, land transfers permanently to another tribe, violating God's fixed tribal boundaries.

This passage reveals how God's law addresses emerging situations not explicitly covered in original legislation. The solution (endogamous marriage within the tribe) preserved both women's inheritance rights and tribal integrity—a balance of justice and order.

## Historical Context

This dialogue occurred circa 1406 BC on the plains of Moab as Israel prepared to enter Canaan. The case of Zelophehad's daughters (Numbers 27:1-11) established women's inheritance rights when no male heirs existed. Numbers 36 refines this

ruling to prevent unintended consequences. Ancient Israel's tribal land system was foundational to covenant identity.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's attention to this inheritance detail demonstrate His concern for both justice and social order?
2. What does the development of case law in Scripture teach about applying biblical principles to new situations?
3. How should Christians balance individual rights with community responsibilities in church life?

## Interlinear Text

נְחָלָתָנוּ יְגָרְעָן לְנָשִׁים נְחָלָתָנוּ נְחָלָתָנוּ

גָּרְעָן: נִסְלָתָה כָּו וּמְגַנֵּן לְהַמְּתָה תְּהִי יְנָה  
H1961 H0 **from the lot** **from the inheritance** **be taken**  
H1486 H5159 H1639

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