

# Numbers 36:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers.

## Analysis

**And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father**—The Hebrew construction emphasizes universality: kol bat yoreseth nachalah (כָּל-בַּת יֹרֶשֶׁת נַחֲלָה, 'every daughter possessing inheritance'). This wasn't merely advice but divine legislation ensuring tribal boundary preservation. The requirement for endogamous marriage (within the tribe) protected covenant structure while honoring women's inheritance rights established in Numbers 27.

This balance between individual rights and communal good reflects God's wisdom. Neither radical individualism nor oppressive collectivism characterizes biblical law, but rather ordered liberty within covenant community.

## Historical Context

This law refined the precedent set by Zelophehad's daughters. It applied specifically to heiresses (daughters without brothers) who received tribal land inheritance. The restriction limited marriage options but was necessary to maintain the tribal land system fundamental to Israel's identity. This demonstrates how biblical law evolved to address complexities.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage challenge both hyper-individualism ('I can do whatever I want') and authoritarianism?
2. What does God's concern for tribal boundaries teach about the importance of community identity in the church?
3. How might the principle of sacrificing personal preference for community good apply to Christian decision-making?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָל בִּתּוּלָהִים יִירָשׁוּ נַחֲלַת מַטֵּה בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
H3605 And every daughter may enjoy an inheritance in any tribe of the children  
H1323 H3423 H5159 H4294 H1121

תְּהִי הָאֵבֶתִּיּוֹת מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת לְאֶחָד מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
of Israel unto one of the family in any tribe of her father  
H3478 H259 H4940 H4294 H1 H1961

אֵשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִשׁוֹ לְמַעַן יִירָשׁוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
shall be wife H4616 may enjoy of the children of Israel every man  
H802 H3423 H1121 H3478 H376

אֵבֶתִּיּוֹת נַחֲלַת  
of her father an inheritance  
H1 H5159

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 23:22** (Parallel theme): And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters: and their brethren the sons of Kish took them.

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