

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 yoresheth nachalah* (כל-בת ירושת נחלה), '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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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

בָּנִים מִטְהָרִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H3605 And every daughter H1323 may enjoy H3423 an inheritance H5159 in any tribe H4294 of the children H1121

תְּהִקְנֹת אֲבָתִים מִטְהָרִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H1961 of her father H1 unto one H259 of the family H4940 in any tribe H4294

אֲבָתִים מִטְהָרִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבָתִים מִטְהָרִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H376 every man H3478 shall be wife H802 may enjoy H4616 of the children H1121 of Israel H3478

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבָתִים מִטְהָרִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H1 an inheritance H5159 of her father H1

Additional Cross-References

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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