

Numbers 36:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall the inheritance remove from one tribe to another tribe; but every one of the tribes of the children of Israel shall keep himself to his own inheritance.

Analysis

God commands: 'Neither shall the inheritance remove from one tribe to another tribe; but every one of the tribes of the children of Israel shall keep himself to his own inheritance.' This reiteration emphasizes the importance of maintaining tribal inheritances. The repetition (cf. v.7) stresses that this isn't suggestion but divine command. Each tribe's inheritance was God's specific gift, not to be traded or merged with others. This principle applies to believers - our spiritual inheritance in Christ is specific, purposeful, and to be maintained with vigilance. We're not to exchange our birthright for temporary satisfaction (Gen 25:29-34) or trade heavenly treasure for earthly gain (Matt 6:19-21). What God has given should be stewarded faithfully, not squandered.

Historical Context

This principle governed Israelite land tenure until the exile. The Jubilee year (Lev 25) ensured even sold land returned to original tribal owners every fiftieth year, preventing permanent tribal land loss. This system created economic stability and preserved tribal identities. After Babylonian exile, tribal boundaries became less distinct, though genealogical records maintained tribal affiliations (important for proving Messianic descent from Judah and David). The regulation demonstrated God's concern for long-term community health, preventing wealth concentration and tribal extinction. Spiritually, it teaches that God's gifts and callings are irrevocable (Rom 11:29) and should be maintained through generations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How are you stewarding and passing on to the next generation the spiritual inheritance you've received?
2. Are you treating your identity in Christ and spiritual gifts as precious inheritance to guard, or casually trading them for worldly acceptance?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	תִּסָּר	בְּנֵי הֵרֶשֶׁת וְ	מִטְּוֹת	מִטְּוֹת
H3808	remove	Neither shall the inheritance	from one tribe	from one tribe
	H5437	H5159	H4294	H4294
אֶחָד	כִּי	אִישׁ	בְּנֵי הֵרֶשֶׁת וְ	יִדְבֹקוּ
to another	H3588	but every one	Neither shall the inheritance	shall keep
H312		H376	H5159	H1692
מִטְּוֹת	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:		
from one tribe	of the children	of Israel		
H4294	H1121	H3478		