

# 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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

## Study Questions

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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

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מִתְּמֻט וְתַּסְבֵּב יְלָא  
H3808 remove Neither shall the inheritance from one tribe from one tribe  
H5437 H5159 H4294 H4294

יְלָא רַבְּכָל אַחֲרֵי אֲשֶׁר בְּנֵי חֶלְתִּים  
to another H3588 but every one Neither shall the inheritance shall keep  
H312 H376 H5159 H1692

מִתְּמֻט וְתַּסְבֵּב יְשָׁרָאֵל:  
from one tribe of the children of Israel  
H4294 H1121 H3478

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