

Numbers 36:1 ¶ And the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near, and spake before Moses, and before the princes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel:

Numbers 36:2 And they said, The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel: and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother unto his daughters.

Numbers 36:3 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.

Numbers 36:4 And when the jubile of the children of Israel shall be, then shall their inheritance be put unto the inheritance of the tribe whereunto they are received: so shall their inheritance be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers.

The leaders of the family of Gilead, son of Machir of the tribe of Manasseh presented themselves before Moses with an inheritance issue. They were concerned that since the daughters of Zelophehad were to be included in the assignment of land inheritance, their allotment of land might actually be transferred permanently to another tribe if they married outside the tribe of Manasseh.

The jubilee law only applied to land that was sold—not inherited.

Numbers 36:5 ¶ And Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, The tribe of the sons of Joseph hath said well.

Numbers 36:6 This is the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.

Numbers 36:7 So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

Moses obviously sought the LORD for an answer and got one. He admitted that these sons of Joseph had spoken rightly. The LORD commanded that the daughters of Zelophehad should be able to marry whomever they wanted, but only within family of the tribe of their father—or one of their cousins. That way the land inheritance of the tribe would not be jeopardized.

Numbers 36:8 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.

Numbers 36:9 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.

The LORD also applied His ruling to the women of other tribes that found themselves in the rather unique position as the daughters of Zelophehad—children of a father who had no sons. These women were to marry within their family and tribe, protecting the land inheritance of both. Land inheritance was not to be moved from one tribe to another.

It seems to be implied that if the women did not obey this command, they would forfeit their right of inheritance.

Numbers 36:10 Even as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad:

Numbers 36:11 For Mahlah, Tirzah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married unto their father's brothers' sons:

Numbers 36:12 And they were married into the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of the family of their father.

The daughters of Zelophehad obeyed the LORD's command and married within their tribe keeping their inheritance within the family of their father.

Numbers 36:13 These *are* the commandments and the judgments, which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses unto the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan *near* Jericho.

This evidently ends the record of judgments made by the LORD through Moses at this time.