

“The Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh Away”

Numbers Chapter 27

Job 1:21 *“Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

- The Lord is in control of His plan and purpose for Israel. This chapter speaks of two incidences where God shows His plan where man had questions. The Daughters of Zelophehad and Moses Entering the Promised Land. It is clear God will have things done His way.

Num 27:1 1) Single Women's Inheritance vs 1-11

Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came near; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah and Hoglah and Milcah and Tirzah.

Num 27:2 They stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the leaders and all the congregation, at the doorway of the tent of meeting, saying,

Num 27:3 "Our father died in the wilderness, yet he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons.

Num 27:4 "Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."

- Zelophehad had 5 daughters and no sons.
- It is said of him that he died in the wilderness but not of any of the plagues from grumblings or rebellion.
- These daughters request an inheritance for their father. Yet they haven't heard that there was such a thing in the law. That daughters have an inheritance
- This is a great truth when looking at Moses. This great leader hadn't had all the answers. The proclamation of the law is great yet there are situations that it was not clear.
- Moses goes before the Lord.

Num 27:5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

Num 27:6 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 27:7 "The daughters of Zelophehad are right in *their* statements. You shall surely give them a hereditary possession among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

Num 27:8 "Further, you shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

Num 27:9 'If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

Num 27:10 'If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

Num 27:11 'If his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall possess it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the LORD commanded Moses.'"

Are godly women just out of luck if men do not step up to the plate?

- *"the daughters of Zelophehad are right in their statements"* Isn't it wonderful when something is not clear, God is gracious in making things understandable.
- These women saw something unclear and in a heave patriarchal society they were able to come to Moses and bring it up. Some have taught that women were just property in this society. This clearly shows that their voice was listened to.
- Chapter 36 will clarify the rules concerning inheritance even more.
 - Numbers 36:6-11 *"This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they wish; only they must marry within the family of the tribe of their father. Thus no inheritance of the sons of Israel shall be transferred from tribe to tribe, for the sons of Israel shall each hold to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. Every daughter who comes into possession of an inheritance of any tribe of the sons of Israel shall be wife to one of the family of the tribe of her father,*

so that the sons of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers. Thus no inheritance shall be transferred from one tribe to another tribe, for the tribes of the sons of Israel shall each hold to his own inheritance."

Just as the LORD had commanded Moses, so the daughters of Zelophehad did: Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad married their uncles' sons."

- The important thing to notice is the faith of these women. They were standing up for an inheritance in the Promised Land in the future, not in the moment. What an example for men and women alike.

Num 27:12 2) Time for A Lead Change vs 12-23

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the sons of Israel.

Num 27:13 "When you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was;

Num 27:14 for in the wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to treat Me as holy before their eyes at the water." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

- The Lord instructs Moses to go up on a mountain to view the Promised Land.
- So far it sounds good. But the Lord goes on. After Moses has seen it the Lord said it is time for you to die. (gathered to your people)
 - Deuteronomy 3:24-28 "O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours? Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon."
But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the LORD said to me, "Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes to the west and north and south and east, and see it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.
But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land which you will see.""
- The reason the Lord cites Moses' failure at Kadesh.
 - Numbers 20:12 "But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.""
 - It was a bad time for Moses.
 - o After 38 years of wandering they return to where it all began. And the sons of Israel grumbled again.
 - o Moses' Sister dies.
 - o Yet even in these tough situations the Lord expects His appointed leader to uphold the standard of obedience and belief.
- Deuteronomy 34 gives the account of Moses on the Mount Pisgah and it says the Lord "caused him to see" the entire land. From Dan to Zoar in the South. Truly a miracle to see that far in the distance to see the entire land but also to see that far into the future where the tribes will receive an inheritance.
(i.e.: Dan to the north. Their inheritance was not in the north but Dan will grow dissatisfied with their lot and relocate to the north. God already knows.)

Num 27:15 Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,

Num 27:16 "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation,

Num 27:17 who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

- When Moses understood that he will not be crossing over, he expresses his concern for Israel.
- He asks God:
 - To Appoint A Man over them (that God would appoint not man selected)
 - A Man who will go out and in before them (that is with them not aloof, part of them)

- A Man who will LEAD them / bring them in (that will keep them together & not scattering)
- That the congregation will not be like sheep without a shepherd.
Moses knew about sheep from his days with Jethro in Median.
Moses chief concern was for the people not his own lack of fortune in entering the Promised Land.
- Isaiah 40:11 "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."
- Hebrews 13:20 "...our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep ..."
- John 21:15-17 (NKJV) "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."
He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."
He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."
Ephesians 4:11 "And He gave some ...pastors" (lit. feeders of sheep)
- God always has and will still provide shepherds.
- It is his heart to provide a man to feed and tend His people.

Num 27:18 So the LORD said to Moses, " Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

Num 27:19 and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight.

Num 27:20 "You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him.

- God names Moses' successor. JOSHUA
- God wants Moses and Eleazar to acknowledge Joshua as the leader raised up to take over for Moses.
- Moses will lay hands on him.
 - This is response to who God has already called.
 - Joshua has been alongside Moses on Mount Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, in Battles.
- Eleazar will Commission him in the sight of Israel.
 - Again as a sign to the people of what God has already done.
- Moses will put some authority on him - Moses is not dying in this encounter. He will have yet a couple more months. During that time Joshua will be brought to the fore front with Moses so the people will be ready to follow the new man when Moses is gone.

Num 27:21 "Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, both he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation."

- This will be a dynamic change in the way God will communicate with leaders after Moses.
- God spoke to Moses face to face.
- Joshua and men after him will hear God through the priest who will use the Urim and Thummim.
 - We have no idea what the Urim and Thummim. Most scholars speculate that it was some stones from the breastplate that were used to cast lots or had some guiding energy that gave yes or no answers to the priest.
- Joshua will be a great leader. He will not be Moses. And God will use Joshua and lead Israel through Joshua even speaking to him differently.

Num 27:22 Moses did just as the LORD commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation.

Num 27:23 Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

- So many times we have seen these words. Moses did just as the Lord commanded him.
- I pray that those same words are spoken of me.

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