

# “Know Your Appointed Boundaries”

## Numbers Chapter 34

The last chapter we learned that God knows our life’s journey. He is focused on our starts; our “stepping out in faith” moments. This pleases the Lord. For Hebrews 11:6 reads “*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*” He knows our journey.

This chapter we will see that God knows our destination. He has ordained our realm of life. He puts limits on our life and they are a benefit for us and for those around us. The example is laid before us in the Land Promised to Israel.

Num 34:1 **1) The Boundaries of the Land** vs 1-12

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 34:2 "Command the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance, *even the land of Canaan according to its borders.*

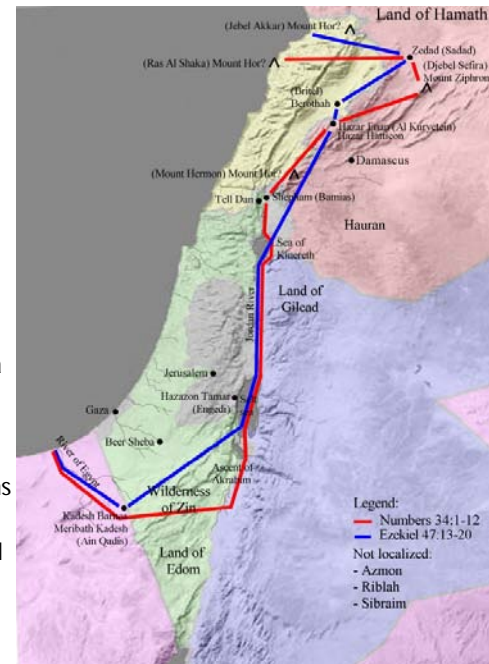
- Israel is about to enter the land. It is a Promised Land to them. The two and half tribes that have chosen not to enter in are not in the Promised Land.
- This land has fallen to Israel “as an inheritance.” It was not earned by Israel. Even the effort of the battles to possess the land does not earn the land. It was given to them by God. They are not being rewarded with the land. It is a land that God has chosen to simply give them.

Num 34:3 **Southern Border** 'Your southern sector shall extend from the wilderness of Zin along the side of Edom, and your southern border shall extend from the end of the Salt Sea eastward.

Num 34:4 'Then your border shall turn *direction* from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim and continue to Zin, and its termination shall be to the south of Kadesh-barnea; and it shall reach Hazaraddar and continue to Azmon.

Num 34:5 'The border shall turn *direction* from Azmon to the brook of Egypt, and its termination shall be at the sea.

- The Southern Border begins at the south end of the Salt Sea. It crosses the wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom. It runs to Kadesh-barnea. From Kadesh-barnea it turns to the Northwest and follows the Brook of Egypt to the Great Sea.
- The Brook of Egypt is not the Nile River. It is a wadi that runs to the sea. Today it is called the Wadi El-Arish.
- It is very interesting that from Kadesh-barnea to the sea and north of that is Philistia. This area was never conquered. From this area came all sorts of trouble:
  - Samson fought the Philistines
  - Saul & David fought the Philistines
  - This is now days called the Gaza Strip, 1948 reluctant agreement with Egypt for this area; In 1967 during the Six Day War Israel captured and took control of the area; but in 2005 Israeli Army and Israeli citizens were evicted from this area.



Num 34:6 **Western Border** 'As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea, that is, *its* coastline; this shall be your west border.

- The Western Border is very easy. It is the Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea)

Num 34:7 **Northern Border** 'And this shall be your north border: you shall draw your *border* line from the Great Sea to Mount Hor.

Num 34:8 'You shall draw a line from Mount Hor to the Lebo-hamath, and the termination of the border shall be at Zedad;

Num 34:9 and the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and its termination shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your north border.

- The Northern Border is the most difficult to map. Much was mapped out using ravines and wadies. These things over the thousands of years have changes. Also, cities have changed hands, been

conquered and renamed many times and the names in the text are not traceable today.

- It is important that these areas describe mountains well north of Mount Hermon. This would put the border north of Damascus into what we know is Syria or Lebanon.
- This would easily include the Golan Heights that is a land issue today.
  - 1949 - after repeated conflicts between Israel and Syria, an agreement was reached that Syria would withdraw from the area. And Israel would refrain from entering the area. It became a demilitarized zone.
  - June 1967 - Six Day War - after Syria shelled Israel, Israel captured the Golan Heights. They refused the current Palestinians to leave for security reasons and Israel began settling in the area with a military presence.
  - 1973 - Yom Kippur War Syria attacked the Golan and took it but lost it again during a counter attack.

Num 34:10 'For your eastern border you shall also draw a line from Hazar-enan to Shepham,

Eastern Border

Num 34:11 and the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; and the border shall go down and reach to the slope on the east side of the Sea of Chinnereth.

Num 34:12 'And the border shall go down to the Jordan and its termination shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land according to its borders all around.'

- The Eastern Border runs from the north eastern corner at Hazar-enan to Chinnereth,
  - Chinnereth means Harp It is an ancient name for the Sea of Galilee because the sea is shaped like a harp.
- From there it runs down the Jordan River as the border, through the Salt Sea where the southern border began.
- As with Gaza and the Golan Heights the West Bank is a territory that makes the headlines today. 1948 the issue was with Jordan. In 1967 Jordan and Egypt and Syria with Iraq help were going to attack from three fronts. Israel attacked with a pre-emptive attack and defeated all armies. They also destroyed two bridges severing the East Bank from the West bank.

### Lessons from God's Boundaries:

- Acts 17:26-27 " He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"
  - God knows our bounds of existence. Our Time and Location. Our Economic and Racial bounds. He establishes them.
- God limits the bounds. He doesn't give Israel the whole world. God protects the bounds of our neighbors as well. We are to be a blessing to our neighbors. Israel was to be a blessing to all peoples. Not conquering all of them.
- Psalm 24:1 " The earth is the LORD'S, and \*all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it."
  - God Owns the Whole Earth. Yet only a small portion (as a small portion of land) knows and understands and serves Him.
  - God gives His people not the whole earth, but a small portion. God does not give quantity but God gives quality.
  - Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

Num 34:13 **2) Apportioned by Lot** vs 13-29

So Moses commanded the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the land that you are to apportion by lot among you as a possession, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine and a half tribes.

Num 34:14 "For the tribe of the sons of Reuben have received *theirs* according to their fathers' households, and the tribe of the sons of Gad according to their fathers' households, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received their possession.

Num 34:15 "The two and a half tribes have received their possession across the Jordan opposite Jericho, eastward toward the sunrising."

- God commanded Moses, so Moses commanded Israel that the land was to be apportioned by Lot to the remaining tribes.
- Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh have chosen their lot outside the Promised Land. We looked at this in Chapter 32.
- The important note is that is division of land is done by casting lot as they conquer the land.

Num 34:16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 34:17 "These are the names of the men who shall apportion the land to you for inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun.

Num 34:18 "You shall take one leader of every tribe to apportion the land for inheritance.

Num 34:19 "These are the names of the men: of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

Num 34:20 "Of the tribe of the sons of Simeon, Samuel the son of Ammihud.

Num 34:21 "Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon.

Num 34:22 "Of the tribe of the sons of Dan a leader, Bukki the son of Jogli.

Num 34:23 "Of the sons of Joseph: of the tribe of the sons of Manasseh a leader, Hanniel the son of Ephod.

Num 34:24 "Of the tribe of the sons of Ephraim a leader, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan.

Num 34:25 "Of the tribe of the sons of Zebulun a leader, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.

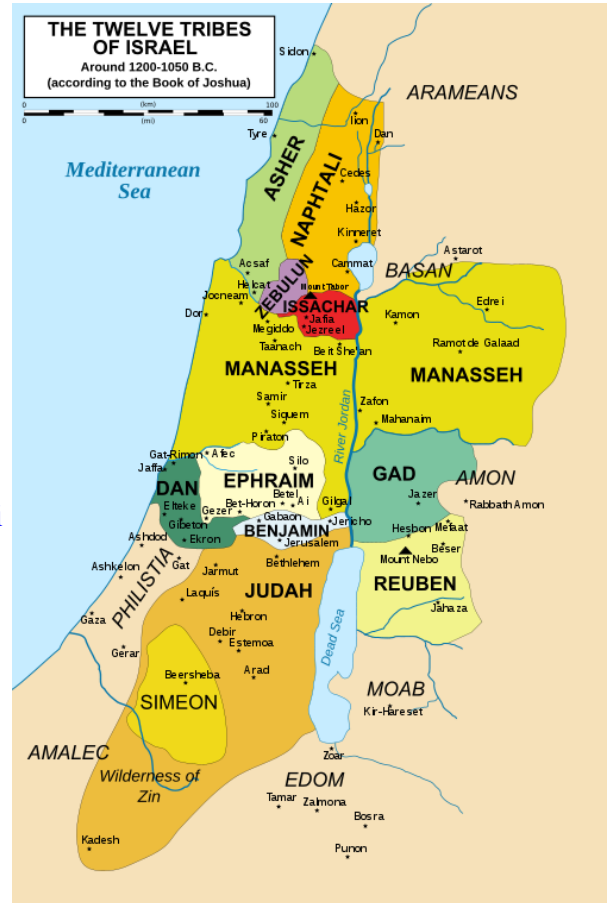
Num 34:26 "Of the tribe of the sons of Issachar a leader, Paltiel the son of Azzan.

Num 34:27 "Of the tribe of the sons of Asher a leader, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.

Num 34:28 "Of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali a leader, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."

Num 34:29 These are those whom the LORD commanded to apportion the inheritance to the sons of Israel in the land of Canaan.

- God has a representative of each tribe to supervise the apportioning to eliminate suspicion or partiality. Public disclosure gives people satisfaction concerning critical issues.
- Even though this apportioning is done by lot and these representatives have two implied divine intervention.
  - These leaders will not be killed during the 7 year battle for Joshua to take the land God knows these will survive the engagement with the Canaanites
  - The list matches from the bottom to the top how these appointments will be lotted out. Even though this casting of lot will be 7 years later it is amazing that the Lord already knows how what we think is chance is already known and ordained by the Lord.



**1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))**