



*God Is Government*

*Isaiah 33:22*

*“For the LORD is our judge, the  
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is our king; he will save us.”*

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**TEACHINGS OF YESHUA HAMASHIACH**  
**BIBLICAL AND WORLD HISTORY MASTERCLASS**

**A Study of The BOOK of NUMBERS**  
**Chapters 32 – 36 “The Land of Promise”**  
**May 26, 2024**



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## Numbers Covered

- Reuben, Gad Select Gilead                      Chapters 32
- Summary of 42 Encampments                    Chapters 33 – Numbers of 42 in the Bible?
- The Land of Promise                              Chapters 34
- The Levitical Cities                                Chapters 35
- The Daughters of Zelophehad                Chapters 36



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:1 Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;*

*Num 32:2 The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spake unto Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and unto the princes of the congregation, saying,*

A complete conquest had been made of the country east of the Jordan, comprising “the land of Jazer,” which formed the southern district between the Arnon and Jabbok and “the land of Gilead,” including Bashan, which lay on the north of that river. In the camp of ancient Israel, Reuben and Gad were preeminently pastoral; and these two tribes, being placed under the same standard, had opportunities of arranging their common concerns.



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:3 Ataroth, and Dibon, and Jazer, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Shebam, and Nebo, and Beon,*

*Num 32:4 Even the country which the LORD smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and thy servants have cattle:*

*Num 32:5 Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.*

Gilead was bounded on the north by Bashan, and on the south by Moab (Genesis 31:21; Deuteronomy 3:12-7). The deep ravine of the river Hieromax separated Bashan from Gilead, which was about 60 miles in length and 20 miles in breadth, extending from near the south end of the Sea of Galilee to the north end of the Dead Sea.



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:6 And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?*

*Num 32:7 And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?*

*Num 32:8 Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadeshbarnea to see the land.*

Moses' initial reaction to Reuben and Gad's request was unfavorable because he was afraid that their willingness to cross the Jordan and dispossess the Canaanites would undermine the morale of the other tribes who might also want to stay where they were. Their fathers (i.e., ancestors), he said, had done this very thing when they listened to the report of the spies and lost heart about the Conquest. This had caused the Lord to be angry (numbers 32:10), and He caused that generation to die in the wilderness Numbers 14:1-35). Now, Moses said, they wanted to repeat the sin of their fathers and bring God's anger on Israel again.



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:9 For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.*

*Num 32:10 And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying,*

*Num 32:11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:*

*Num 32:12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.*

*Num 32:13 And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.*



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*Num 32:14 And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel.*

*Num 32:15 For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.*

*Num 32:16 And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:*

*Num 32:17 But we ourselves will go ready armed before the children of Israel, until we have brought them unto their place: and our little ones shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land.*

*Num 32:18 We will not return unto our houses, until the children of Israel have inherited every man his inheritance.*

*Num 32:19 For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen*



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There was good policy in leaving a sufficient force to protect the conquered region lest the enemy should attempt reprisals; and as only forty thousand of the Reubenites and Gadites, and a half of Manasseh, passed over the Jordan (Joshua 4:13), there were left for the security of the new possessions 70,580 men, besides women and children under twenty years (Numbers 26:7, 18, 34).





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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:19 For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.*

*Num 32:20 And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war,*

*Num 32:21 And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him,*

*Num 32:22 And the land be subdued before the LORD: then afterward ye shall return, and be guiltless before the LORD, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.*

*Num 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Any failure would be sin. Be sure that your sin will find you out. These words have become a proverb in the English language.



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:24 Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth.*

*Num 32:25 And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth.*

*Num 32:26 Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead:*

*Num 32:27 But thy servants will pass over, every man armed for war, before the LORD to battle, as my lord saith.*

*Num 32:28 So concerning them Moses commanded Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel:*

*Num 32:29 And Moses said unto them, If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, before the LORD, and the land shall be subdued before you; then ye shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession:*



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:30 But if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan.*

*Num 32:31 And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying, As the LORD hath said unto thy servants, so will we do.*

*Num 32:32 We will pass over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, that the possession of our inheritance on this side Jordan may be ours.*

*Num 32:33 And Moses gave unto them, even to the children of Gad, and to the children of Reuben, and unto half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land, with the cities thereof in the coasts, even the cities of the country round about.*

*Num 32:34 And the children of Gad built Dibon, and Ataroth, and Aroer,*



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*Num 32:35 And Atroth, Shophan, and Jaazer, and Jogbehah,*

*Num 32:36 And Bethnimrah, and Bethharan, fenced cities: and folds for sheep.*

Moses allotted to Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (first mentioned here in Numbers as part of the Transjordanian tribes) the areas that had formerly belonged to the Amorite kings Sihon and Og (Numbers 21:21-35). Sihon had ruled in the southern part (Gilead) and Og in the north (Bashan). The Gadites rebuilt cities in southern Gilead from Aroer on the Arnon River to the south to Jogbehah, 10 miles northwest of Rabbath Ammom to the north. The Reubenite cities were generally from Heshbon west and southwest to the Jordan and the Dead Sea. So, Reuben was more or less a west-central enclave within Gad.



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*Num 32:37 And the children of Reuben built Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Kirjathaim,*

*Num 32:38 And Nebo, and Baalmeon, (their names being changed,) and Shibmah: and gave other names unto the cities which they builded.*

*Num 32:39 And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead, and took it, and dispossessed the Amorite which was in it.*

The half-tribe of Manasseh consisted of the clan of Makir AND THE Gilead clan (Numbers 26:29). Their territory, to the north of Gad and Reuben, consisted of a cluster of settlements named Havvoth Jair (“settlements of Jair”) after a descendant of Manasseh (Deuteronomy 3:13-15). Another descendant, Nobah, captured Kenath and vicinity and renamed it Nobah after himself. Kenath was in Bashan, about 60 miles due east of the Sea of Galilee.



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## **REUBEN, GAD and the ½ TRIBE OF MANASSEH - Chapter 32**

*Num 32:40 And Moses gave Gilead unto Machir the son of Manasseh; and he dwelt therein.*

*Num 32:41 And Jair the son of Manasseh went and took the small towns thereof, and called them Havothjair.*

*Num 32:42 And Nobah went and took Kenath, and the villages thereof, and called it Nobah, after his own name.*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:1 These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

*Num 33:2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out.*

The record is strictly a list of camp sites, not a brief history, and therefore it makes passing reference to the Exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea, and no mention of all the long stay at Sinai. Why? Ancestor relation but forgetting the old generation that disobeyed God.



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:3 And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.*

*Num 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.*

*Num 33:5 And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.*

Rameses: generally identified with Heropolis, now the modern Abu-Keisheid, which was probably the capital of Goshen, and, by direction of Moses, the place of general rendezvous previous to their department.





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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:6 And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which is in the edge of the wilderness.*

*Num 33:7 And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pihahiroth, which is before Baalzephon: and they pitched before Migdol.*

*Num 33:8 And they departed from before Pihahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah.*

Etham: edge, or border of all that part of Arabia-Petraea which lay contiguous to Egypt and was known by the general name of Shur.



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:9 And they removed from Marah, and came unto Elim: and in Elim were twelve fountains of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they pitched there.*

*Num 33:10 And they removed from Elim, and encamped by the Red sea.*

*Num 33:11 And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin.*

*Num 33:12 And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah.*



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## **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

### **Parallel Passages**

**v. 2-5**

**Exodus 12:37**

**v. 17**

**Numbers 11:35**

v. 6

Exodus 13:20

v. 31-33

Deuteronomy 10:6-7

v. 7-8

Exodus 14:20

v. 36

Numbers 20:1

v. 8

Exodus 15:22b

v. 37-39

Numbers 20:22b

v. 9

Exodus 15:27

v. 40

Numbers 21:1-3

v. 10-12

Exodus 16:1

v. 41

Numbers 21:4

V. 14

Exodus 17:1

v. 43

Numbers 21:10

v. 15

Exodus 19:2

v. 44

Numbers 21:11



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## **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

### **Parallel Passages**

This record bridges the gap between chapters 19 and 20, giving the route which Israel took (Chapters 19-35). The extensive nature of the camp implies great numbers – the ten thousand thousands of Israel waited on the edge of their inheritance. Before they entered, they had to receive instructions to the law.



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:13 And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush.*

*Num 33:14 And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink.*

*Num 33:15 And they departed from Rephidim, and pitched in the wilderness of Sinai.*

*Num 33:16 And they removed from the desert of Sinai, and pitched at Kibrothhattaavah.*

*Num 33:17 And they departed from Kibrothhattaavah, and encamped at Hazeroth.*

*Num 33:18 And they departed from Hazeroth, and pitched in Rithmah.*

*Num 33:19 And they departed from Rithmah, and pitched at Rimmonparez.*

*Num 33:20 And they departed from Rimmonparez, and pitched in Libnah.*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:21 And they removed from Libnah, and pitched at Rissah.*

*Num 33:22 And they journeyed from Rissah, and pitched in Kehelathah.*

*Num 33:23 And they went from Kehelathah, and pitched in mount Shapher.*

*Num 33:24 And they removed from mount Shapher, and encamped in Haradah.*

*Num 33:25 And they removed from Haradah, and pitched in Makheloth.*

*Num 33:26 And they removed from Makheloth, and encamped at Tahath.*

*Num 33:27 And they departed from Tahath, and pitched at Tarah.*

*Num 33:28 And they removed from Tarah, and pitched in Mithcah.*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:29 And they went from Mithcah, and pitched in Hashmonah.*

*Num 33:30 And they departed from Hashmonah, and encamped at Moseroth.*

*Num 33:31 And they departed from Moseroth, and pitched in Benejaakan.*

*Num 33:32 And they removed from Benejaakan, and encamped at Horhagidgad.*

*Num 33:33 And they went from Horhagidgad, and pitched in Jotbathah.*

*Num 33:34 And they removed from Jotbathah, and encamped at Ebronah.*

*Num 33:35 And they departed from Ebronah, and encamped at Eziongaber.*

*Num 33:36 And they removed from Eziongaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh.*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:37 And they removed from Kadesh, and pitched in mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom.*

*Num 33:38 And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first day of the fifth month.*

The day Aaron's death is important for dating events. Beginning with the first Passover, the record covers the forty years and ends with a picture of Israel's hosts stretched out alongside the Jordan between two places several miles apart. Beth Jeshimoth (Modern Tell el-Azeimeh) and Able Shittim (modern Tell Kefrain).





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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:39 And Aaron was an hundred and twenty and three years old when he died in mount Hor.*

*Num 33:40 And king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the children of Israel.*

*Num 33:41 And they departed from mount Hor, and pitched in Zalmonah.*

*Num 33:42 And they departed from Zalmonah, and pitched in Punon.*

*Num 33:43 And they departed from Punon, and pitched in Oboth.*

*Num 33:44 And they departed from Oboth, and pitched in Ijeabarim, in the border of Moab.*

*Num 33:45 And they departed from Iim, and pitched in Dibongad.*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:46 And they removed from Dibongad, and encamped in Almondiblathaim.*

*Num 33:47 And they removed from Almondiblathaim, and pitched in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.*

*Num 33:48 And they departed from the mountains of Abarim, and pitched in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.*

*Num 33:49 And they pitched by Jordan, from Bethjesimoth even unto Abelshittim in the plains of Moab.*

*Num 33:50 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,*

*Num 33:51 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;*



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:*

The Israelites did in fact succumb in temptation, and centuries later were driven from the promised Land. Thus, God did “do to you” what He planned to do to the original Canaanites; drive them from the land because of gross sin.



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### **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

*Num 33:53 And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.*

*Num 33:54 And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.*

*Num 33:55 But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.*

*Num 33:56 Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.*



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## **SUMMARY OF 42 ENCAMPMENTS - Chapter 33**

### **The Lord’s Commands**

- The land is given to Israel, as promised in the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 15:18-21)
- The way it was to be distributed (Numbers 26:52-56)
- The command to drive out the nations, destroy their idols and their high places (Exodus 23:23-33; 34:11-17; Leviticus 20:1-5; 22- 26; Deuteronomy 7:1-5; 12:29-30; 13:6-18; 29:16-28)



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## **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

The boundaries described in the following match those known from Egyptian texts of the second millennium a.c. This indicates that the definition of Canaan given here is a truly ancient one. By the time Israel arrived in Moab, the boundaries could be defined by reference to towns and places, and Joshua followed these same boundaries (Joshua 15-19).

Even today, Israel maintains a claim, on a more limited scale, to this territory.

### Boundaries of the Land

- Abraham was promised the land between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates (Genesis 15:18-21; Deuteronomy 11:24)
- The full extent of the land promised was never possessed. For a brief period during the reigns of David and Solomon, Israel held the land from Euphrates to the Gaza strip, or from Dan to Beersheba (1 Kings 4:24-25). Nevertheless, the ideal of the promise was not lost sight of (Ezekiel 47:15-20)
- The promise to Abraham awaits fulfillment today!



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## **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

*Num 34:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*Num 34:2 Command the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land of Canaan; (this is the land that shall fall unto you for an inheritance, even the land of Canaan with the coasts thereof:)*

*Num 34:3 Then your south quarter shall be from the wilderness of Zin along by the coast of Edom, and your south border shall be the outmost coast of the salt sea eastward:*

*Num 34:4 And your border shall turn from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass on to Zin: and the going forth thereof shall be from the south to Kadeshbarnea, and shall go on to Hazaraddar, and pass on to Azmon:*

*Num 34:5 And the border shall fetch a compass from Azmon unto the river of Egypt, and the goings out of it shall be at the sea.*



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### **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

*Num 34:6 And as for the western border, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border.*

*Num 34:7 And this shall be your north border: from the great sea ye shall point out for you mount Hor:*

*Num 34:8 From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings forth of the border shall be to Zedad:*

*Num 34:9 And the border shall go on to Ziphron, and the goings out of it shall be at Hazarenan: this shall be your north border.*

*Num 34:10 And ye shall point out your east border from Hazarenan to Shepham:*

*Num 34:11 And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward:*





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## **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

*Num 34:12 And the border shall go down to Jordan, and the goings out of it shall be at the salt sea: this shall be your land with the coasts thereof round about.*

*Num 34:13 And Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, This is the land which ye shall inherit by lot, which the LORD commanded to give unto the nine tribes, and to the half tribe:*

*Num 34:14 For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and half the tribe of*

*Num 34:15 The two tribes and the half tribe have received their inheritance on this side Jordan near Jericho eastward, toward the sunrising.*

*Num 34:16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*



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*Isaiah 33:22*

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### **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

*Num 34:17 These are the names of the men which shall divide the land unto you: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

*Num 34:18 And ye shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land by inheritance.*

*Num 34:19 And the names of the men are these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.*

*Num 34:20 And of the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud.*

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

*Num 34:22 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli.*

*Num 34:23 The prince of the children of Joseph, for the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod.*



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### **THE LAND OF PROMISE - Chapter 34**

*Num 34:24 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan.*

*Num 34:25 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.*

*Num 34:26 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan.*

*Num 34:27 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.*

*Num 34:28 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud.*

*Num 34:29 These are they whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance unto the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.*



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,*

*Num 35:2 Command the children of Israel, that they give unto the Levites of the inheritance of their possession cities to dwell in; and ye shall give also unto the Levites suburbs for the cities round about them.*

*Num 35:3 And the cities shall they have to dwell in; and the suburbs of them shall be for their cattle, and for their goods, and for all their beasts.*

*Num 35:4 And the suburbs of the cities, which ye shall give unto the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the city and outward a thousand cubits round about.*

*Num 35:5 And ye shall measure from without the city on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits; and the city shall be in the midst: this shall be to them the suburbs of the cities.*



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:6 And among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge, which ye shall appoint for the manslayer, that he may flee thither: and to them ye shall add forty and two cities.*

*Num 35:7 So all the cities which ye shall give to the Levites shall be forty and eight cities: them shall ye give with their suburbs.*

There were no prisons or police in ancient Israel.

The tribes will be allocated their portion by casting lots.

Levites were assigned 48 cities: Six of which were designed “Cities of Refuge.”



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:8 And the cities which ye shall give shall be of the possession of the children of Israel: from them that have many ye shall give many; but from them that have few ye shall give few: every one shall give of his cities unto the Levites according to his inheritance which he inheriteth.*

*Num 35:9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*Num 35:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan;*

*Num 35:11 Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.*

*Num 35:12 And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment.*



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:13 And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge.*

*Num 35:14 Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge.*

*Num 35:15 These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.*

*Num 35:16 And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death.*

*Num 35:17 And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death.*



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:18 Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death.*

*Num 35:19 The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him.*

*Num 35:20 But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurl at him by laying of wait, that he die;*

*Num 35:21 Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him.*

*Num 35:22 But if he thrust him suddenly without enmity, or have cast upon him any thing without laying of wait,*

*Num 35:23 Or with any stone, wherewith a man may die, seeing him not, and cast it upon him, that he die, and was not his enemy, neither sought his harm:*





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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:24 Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments:*

The Hebrew word *rasah* means a personal killing, but includes what we would call premeditated murder, manslaughter, and even accidental homicides. This passage makes it clear that God expects His people to examine intent in the case of a homicide. Killings involving hostility are to be treated very differently than those which are the result of accidents. The passage makes it very clear that hostile intent may be established by witnesses before anyone can be put to death, and that it is necessary to have more than one witness (v. 30).



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.*

There was no police force in ancient Israel. A close relative became responsible to serve as the “avenger of blood,” and execute the divine sentence on a murderer. The cities of refuge were necessary, lest an angry relative take revenge on a person who killed a loved one inadvertently. This wise and humane system not only protected the innocent, but also secured Israel from the dangerous rounds of blood feuds common in many societies.



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:26 But if the slayer shall at any time come without the border of the city of his refuge, whither he was fled;*

*Num 35:27 And the revenger of blood find him without the borders of the city of his refuge, and the revenger of blood kill the slayer; he shall not be guilty of blood:*

*Num 35:28 Because he should have remained in the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: but after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession.*

*Num 35:29 So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.*

*Num 35:30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die.*



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## **THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE - Chapter 35**

*Num 35:31 Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.*

*Num 35:32 And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest.*

*Num 35:33 So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.*

*Num 35:34 Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.*



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## **THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD - Chapter 36**

*Num 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:*

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*



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## **THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD - Chapter 36**

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*



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## **THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD - Chapter 36**

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

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

*Num 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.*

*Num 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.*



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## Lessons from Numbers

- *Expositionally: Integrity of Design*
- *Homiletically: Those were real people with practical problems*
- *Devotionally:*
  - ❖ *“Crossing over Jordan” is not “Going to Heaven”; life is a warfare*
  - ❖ *We are in our own “wilderness”*
  - ❖ *Every day is our “Kadesh Barnes”*

## Types

- *The Order of the Camp*      *Numbers 2*
- *Manna*                      *Numbers 11*
- *Water from the Rock (2)*      *Numbers 20*
- *Brazen Serpent*              *Numbers 21:3-14*
- *The Cities of Refuge*        *Numbers 35*