

# Numbers 27 - The Daughters of Zelophehad

III. Preparation of the second generation on the plains of Moab to enter Canaan (Num 26:1—36:13)

(1) Reorganization of Israel (Num 26:1—30:16)

(A) Military reorganization (Num 26:1—27:23)

(b) Inheritance for Zelophehad's daughters (27: 1-11)

(c) Joshua to succeed Moses (27:12-23)

## Numbers 27

(b) Inheritance for Zelophehad's daughters (27: 1-11)

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

**1** Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, 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.

**1** Now the daughters of Hopher's son Zelophehad, Gilead's grandson, who had been fathered by Machir, who had been fathered by Manasseh, from the tribe of Manasseh, the direct son of Joseph, were named Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They approached

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

**2** They stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, before the leaders, and all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying,

**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,

**2** Moses, Eleazar the priest, the elders, and the entire community at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, stood before them, and said,

2 And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

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

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.

3 "Our father died in the wilderness, but he wasn't with the company of those who gathered against the LORD along with the company of Korah. He died in his own sin, and he had no sons.

3 Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not in the company of them that gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but died in his own sin, and had no sons.

4 Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family *simply* because he had no son? Give us property among our father's brothers."

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."

4 Why are you going to eliminate the name of our father from his family, just because he had no son? Give us a possession from among our father's relatives."

4 Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he hath no son? Give unto us therefore a possession among the brethren of our father.

5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

5 So Moses brought the family into the LORD's presence,

5 And Moses brought their cause before the LORD.

6 Then the LORD said to Moses,

6 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

6 and the LORD told Moses,

6 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

7 "The daughters of Zelophehad are right *about their* statements. You shall certainly give them hereditary property among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

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.

7 "The daughters of Zelophehad are telling the truth. You are certainly to give to them a possession for an inheritance among their father's relatives. You are to pass on the inheritance of their father to them.

7 The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them.

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.

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.

8 Tell the Israelis that when a man dies without a son, you are to pass his inheritance to his daughter.

8 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter.

9 And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

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

9 If he doesn't have a daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers.

9 And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his brethren.

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

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

10 If he doesn't have brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

10 And if he have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his father's brethren.

11 And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall take possession of it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the LORD has commanded Moses."

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."

11 If his father doesn't have brothers, then give his inheritance to a relative who is nearest to him from the family and he'll take possession of it. This is to be a permanent ordinance for the Israelis, just as the LORD commanded Moses."

11 And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family, and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the LORD commanded Moses.

### **The Blood Curse on Jeconiah**

Jeconiah or Coniah are alternative names for Jehoiachin.

Jer 22:30: Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

- Matthew's genealogy of Jesus begins with "the first Jew": Abraham
- Luke's genealogy begins with Adam ("Son of God" vs. ourselves: sons of Adam)
  - The first 10 are familiar from Gen 5, and from Abraham to David they're identical

\*Note the Blood Curse on Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) in Jer 22:30: Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah all died violent deaths; God thus dealing with idolatry literally "to the 3rd and 4th generations (Ex 20:4-5), their names therefore "blotted out" according to the Law (Deut 29:20).

Jehoiakim and Jechoniah likewise, since the kingdom ended as an independent kingdom with Josiah's death at Megiddo. Thus these were "blotted out" of the groups of "14 generations" in Matthew's account. [E. W. Bullinger's *Companion Bible*, Appendix 99.] Matthew's 3rd "14" only 13... Matt 1:11: copyist's error? Jehoiakim omitted between Josiah and Jeconiah. Josiah did not beget Jeconiah, and Jeconiah did not have "brethren."

\*\*Salathiel, the son of Jeconiah (Matt 1:12; 1 Chr 3:17) is also called the son of Neri (Luke 3:27). [If these are the same person, a probable explanation is that the son of Neri, the descendant of Nathan, was deemed heir to the throne of David on the death of Jeconiah (Jer 22:30) due to the blood curse.]

### **Daughters of Zelophehad**

There is a peculiar exception recorded in the Torah, the result of a petition by the daughters of Zelophehad, which provided for inheritance through the daughter, if no sons were available and she married within her tribe.

- Torah exception on rules of inheritance:
  - Requested of Moses (Num 27:1-11)
  - Granted by Joshua (Joshua 17:3-6)

It became traditional in such cases that the father would legally adopt his son-in-law (Ezra 2:61=Neh 7:63; Num 32:41, Cf. 1 Chr 2:21-22,34-35; Num 27:3-8)

- Anticipates the lineage of Christ: Joseph was the son-in-law of Heli (Luke 3:2)
  - *nomizo*, reckoned as by law

## **The Virgin Birth**

- Hinted at the Garden of Eden: "the Seed of the Woman" (Gen 3:15)
- Prophesied by Isaiah: "a virgin shall conceive" (Is 7:14)
- An "end run" on the blood curse on the royal line (Jer 22:30)

(c) Joshua to succeed Moses (27:12-23)

**12** 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.

**12** 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.

**12** Then the LORD told Moses, "You are to climb these Abarim mountains and look over the land that I'm going to give the Israelis.

**12** And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel.

13 When you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother was;

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

13 After you've seen it, you'll be taken to be with your people just as your brother Aaron was gathered to them,

13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered.

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.)

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.)

14 because in the wilderness of Zin, when the community rebelled, you rebelled against my command to treat me as holy before their eyes in regards to the Meribah Springs in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin."

14 For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

15 Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,  
15 Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,  
15 Moses responded to the LORD,  
15 And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying,

16 "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of humanity, appoint a man over the congregation,  
16 "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation,  
16 "May the LORD God of the spirits of all living creatures appoint a man over the community  
16 Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,

17 who will go out and come in before them, and lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep that have no shepherd."  
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."  
17 who will go in and out before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in so that the LORD's community won't be like a flock without a shepherd."  
17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.

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;

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;

18 "Select Nun's son Joshua. The Spirit is in that man," the LORD answered Moses. "You are to lay your hand on him

**18** And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

- "...a man in whom is the Spirit" - the Holy Spirit selectively indwelt men in the OT: Daniel (Dan 6:3); the prophets (1 Peter 1:10-11).

— The Holy Spirit also "came upon" some people: Othniel (Judges 3:9-10); Gideon (Judges 6:34); Jephthah (Judges 11:29); Samson (Judges 13:24-25; 14:6,19; 15:14); Saul (1 Sam 10:9-10); and David (1 Sam 16:13).

— And "filled" some people (Ex 28:3; 31:3; 35:30-31)

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

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

19 and make him stand in front of Eleazar the priest and the entire community. Then you are to set him in charge right before their eyes,

19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.

20 And you shall put **some** of your authority on him, so that all the congregation of the sons of Israel will obey *him*.

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

20 turning over your authority to him so that the entire community of Israel knows to obey him.

20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

- "...some" - God spoke to Moses face-to-face and granted him the power to work miracles

-- Joshua will seek God's will by going to the high priest, and using the Urim and Thummim (Cf. Ex 28:30)

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 all the sons of Israel with him, all the congregation."

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."

21 You are to make him stand in the presence of Eleazar the priest, who is to inquire on his behalf using the Urim in the presence of the LORD regarding a decision of judgment, because by his command he and all the Israelis with him will go out or come in."

21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of **Urim** before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

- "...Urim" - see note on Ex 28:30

22 Then Moses did just as the LORD commanded him; he took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation.

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.

22 So Moses did what the LORD had commanded him. He took Joshua, made him stand in the presence of Eleazar the priest and the entire community,

**22** And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation:

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

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

23 laid his hands on him, and charged him, just as the LORD had commanded, using Moses' authority.

23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.