

Numbers 34 - The Land of Promise

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

(2) Preparation for conquest of the land (Num 31:1—36:13)

(E) Canaan's borders (34:1-12)

(a) Southern border (34:1-5)

(b) Western border (34:6)

(c) Northern border (34:7-9)

(d) Eastern border (34:10-12)

(F) Leaders responsible for apportioning the land (34:13-29)

(a) Transjordan (34:13-15)

(b) West of the Jordan (34:16-29)

(E) Canaan's borders (34:1-12)

The boundaries described below match those known from Egyptian texts of the second millennium BC. 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.

- Abraham was promised the land between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates (Gen 15:18-21; Cf. Deut 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 the 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 (Ezek 47:15-20)
 - The promise to Abraham awaits fulfillment

Numbers 34

(a) Southern border (34:1-5)

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

1 The LORD told Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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, *that is, the* land of Canaan according to its borders.

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.

2 "Issue these orders to the Israelis: 'You're about to enter the land of Canaan. This territory has been apportioned to you as your inheritance: the entire land of Canaan, all the way to its borders.'"

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:)

3 Your southern region 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.

3 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.

3 "'To your south is the Wilderness of Zin, bordering Edom. Your southern border is to extend east toward the far end of the Dead Sea,

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:

4 Then your border shall change 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.

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.

4 then it is to turn southward to the ascent of Akrabbim, cross Zin, and then run south of Kadesh-barnea and proceed from there to Hazar-addar and across to Azmon.

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:

5 Then the border shall change direction from Azmon to the brook of Egypt, and its termination shall be *at* the sea.

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

5 Then the border is to turn from Azmon toward the wadi of Egypt and from there to the Mediterranean Sea.'"

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.

(b) Western border (34:6)

6 'As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea, that is, *its* coastline; this shall be your western border.

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

6 "'The western border is to be the Mediterranean Sea. This is to be the western border.'"

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

(c) Northern border (34:7-9)

7 'And this shall be your northern border: you shall draw your boundary from the Great Sea to Mount Hor.

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

7 "'Your northern border is to extend from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor.

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

8 You shall draw a boundary from Mount Hor to the Lebo-hamath, and the termination of the border shall be at Zedad;

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

8 From Mount Hor, you are to mark out the entrance to Hammath, with the border running through Zedad,

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:

9 and the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and its termination shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your northern border.

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

9 then through Ziphron, and then to Hazar-enan. This is to be the northern border.'"

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.

(d) Eastern border (34:10-12)

10 'For your eastern border you shall also draw a boundary from Hazar-enan to Shepham,

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

10 "'You are to mark the border on the east from Hazar-enan to Shepham.

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

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.

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.

11 The border is then to extend from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain, then to the Sea of Chinnereth on the east.

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:

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 on all sides.'"

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.'"

12 The border is to continue along the Jordan River all the way to the Dead Sea. This is to be your land, as measured by its boundaries.'"

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.

(F) Leaders responsible for apportioning the land (34:13-29)

(a) Transjordan (34:13-15)

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

13 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.

13 Moses commanded the Israelis, "You are to inherit this land by lot, just as the LORD commanded to give it to the remaining nine and a half tribes.

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:

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.

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.

14 The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, as defined by their ancestral houses, have received their inheritance.

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 Manasseh have received their inheritance:

15 The two and a half tribes have received their possession across the Jordan *opposite* Jericho, eastward toward the sunrise."

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

15 These two and a half tribes received their inheritance this side of the Jordan River, east of Jericho, facing the rising sun."

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

(b) West of the Jordan (34:16-29)

16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

16 Then the LORD told Moses,

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

17 "These are the names of the men who shall assign the land to you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.

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.

17 "These are the names of the men who are to divide the land for your inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Nun's son Joshua.

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

18 And you shall take one leader of each tribe to assign the land as an inheritance.
18 You shall take one leader of every tribe to apportion the land for inheritance.
18 You are to appoint a leader from each tribe to divide the land for inheritance.
18 And ye shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land by inheritance.

19 These are the names of the men: of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.
19 These are the names of the men: of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.
19 These are the names of the men: Appoint Jephunneh's son Caleb from the tribe of Judah,
19 And the names of the men are these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

20 Of the tribe of the sons of Simeon, Samuel the son of Ammihud.
20 Of the tribe of the sons of Simeon, Samuel the son of Ammihud.
20 Ammihud's son Shemuel from the tribe of Simeon,
20 And of the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud.

21 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon.
21 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon.
21 Chislon's son Elidad from the tribe of Benjamin,
21 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon.

22 And of the tribe of the sons of Dan, a leader, Bukki the son of Jogli.
22 Of the tribe of the sons of Dan a leader, Bukki the son of Jogli.
22 and Jogli's son Bukki is to be leader of the tribe of Dan.
22 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli.

23 Of the sons of Joseph: of the tribe of the sons of Manasseh, a leader, Hanniel the son of Ephod.
23 Of the sons of Joseph: of the tribe of the sons of Manasseh a leader, Hanniel the son of Ephod.
23 From the tribe of Joseph, you are to appoint Ephod's son Hanniel to be leader of the half tribe of Manasseh,
23 The prince of the children of Joseph, for the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod.

24 Of the tribe of the sons of Ephraim, a leader, Kemuel the son of Shiptan.
24 Of the tribe of the sons of Ephraim a leader, Kemuel the son of Shiptan.

24 Shiphtan's son Kemuel to be leader of the half tribe of Ephraim,
24 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan.

25 Of the tribe of the sons of Zebulun, a leader, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.
25 Of the tribe of the sons of Zebulun a leader, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.
25 Parnach's son Elizaphan to be leader of the tribe of Zebulun,
25 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.

26 Of the tribe of the sons of Issachar, a leader, Paltiel the son of Azzan.
26 Of the tribe of the sons of Issachar a leader, Paltiel the son of Azzan.
26 Azzan's son Paltiel to be leader of the tribe of Issachar,
26 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan.

27 Of the tribe of the sons of Asher, a leader, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.
27 Of the tribe of the sons of Asher a leader, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.
27 Shelomi's son Ahihud to be leader of the tribe of Asher,
27 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.

28 Of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali, a leader, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."
28 Of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali a leader, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."
28 and Ammihud's son Pedahel to be leader of the tribe of Naphtali."
28 And the prince of the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud.

29 These are the ones whom the LORD commanded to apportion the inheritance to the sons of Israel in the land of Canaan.

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

29 These are the ones whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance of the Israelis in the land of Canaan.

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