
NUMBERS 34:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

The land of Canaan is described, Num 34:1, Num 34:2. The south quarter, Num 34:3-5. The western border, Num 34:6. The north border, Num 34:7-9. The east border, Num 34:10-12. This land to be divided by lot among the nine tribes and half, Num 34:13; two tribes and half, Reuben and Gad, and the half of Manasseh, having already got their inheritance on the east side of Jordan, Num 34:14, Num 34:15. Eleazar the priest, and Joshua, to assist in dividing the land, Num 34:16, Num 34:17; and with them a chief out of every tribe, Num 34:18. The names of the twelve chiefs, Num 34:19-29.

NUMBERS 34:2 "Command the children of Israel, and tell them, 'When you come into the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, even the land of Canaan according to its borders),

Verse 2

The land of Canaan with the coasts thereof - All description here is useless. The situation and boundaries of the land of Canaan can only be known by actual survey, or by consulting a good map.

NUMBERS 34:3 then your south quarter shall be from the wilderness of Zin along by the side of Edom, and your south border shall be from the end of the Salt Sea eastward.

Verse 3

The salt sea - The Dead Sea, or lake Asphaltites. See the note on Gen 19:25.

NUMBERS 34:4 Your border shall turn about southward of the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass along to Zin; and it shall pass southward of Kadesh Barnea; and it shall go from there to Hazar Addar, and pass along to Azmon.

NUMBERS 34:5 The border shall turn about from Azmon to the brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the sea.

Verse 5

The river of Egypt - The eastern branch of the river Nile; or, according to others, a river which is south of the land of the Philistines, and falls into the gulf or bay near Calieh.

NUMBERS 34:6 "For the western border, you shall have the great sea and its border. This shall be your west border.

Verse 6

Ye shall even have the great sea for a border - The Mediterranean Sea, called here the Great Sea, to distinguish it from the Dead Sea, the Sea of Tiberias, etc., which were only a sort of lakes. In Hebrew there is properly but one term, *D' yam*, which is applied to all collections of water apparently stagnant, and which is generally translated sea. The Greek of the New Testament follows the Hebrew, and employs, in general, the word *θαλασσα*, Sea, whether it speaks of the Mediterranean, or of the sea or lake of Galilee.

NUMBERS 34:7 "This shall be your north border: from the great sea you shall mark out for yourselves Mount Hor.

NUMBERS 34:8 From Mount Hor you shall mark out to the entrance of Hamath; and the border shall pass by Zedad.

NUMBERS 34:9 Then the border shall go to Ziphron, and it shall end at Hazar Enan. This shall be your north border.

NUMBERS 34:10 "You shall mark out your east border from Hazar Enan to Shepham.

NUMBERS 34:11 The border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain. The border shall go down, and shall reach to the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward.

Verse 11

The sea of Chinnereth - The same as the sea of Galilee, sea of Tiberias, and sea of Gennesareth.

NUMBERS 34:12 The border shall go down to the Jordan, and end at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land according to its borders around it."

Verse 12

The border shall go down to Jordan - This river is famous both in the Old and New Testaments. It takes its rise at the foot of Mount Libanus, passes through the sea of Chinnereth or Tiberias, and empties itself into the lake Asphaltites or Dead Sea, from which it has no outlet. In and by it God wrought many miracles. God cut off the waters of this river as he did those of the Red Sea, so that they stood on a heap on each side, and the people passed over on dry ground. Both Elijah and Elisha separated its waters in a miraculous way, 2Kgs 2:8-14. Naaman, the Syrian general, by washing in it at the command of the prophet, was miraculously cured of his leprosy, 2Kgs 5:10-14. In this river John baptized great multitudes of Jews; and in it was Christ himself baptized, and the Spirit of God descended upon him, and the voice from heaven proclaimed him the great and only Teacher and Savior of men, Mat 3:16, Mat 3:17; Mar 1:5-11.

NUMBERS 34:13 Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, "This is the land which you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes, and to the half-tribe;

Verse 13

This is the land which ye shall inherit by lot - Much of what is said concerning this land is peculiarly emphatic. It is a land that contains a multitude of advantages in its climate, its soil, situation, etc. It is bounded on the south by a ridge of mountains, which separate it from Arabia, and screen it from the burning and often pestiferous winds which blow over the desert from that quarter. On the west it is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea; on the north, by Mount Libanus, which defends it from the cold northern blasts; and on the east by the river Jordan, and its fertile, well-watered plains. It is described by God himself as "a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains, and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land wherein there was no scarcity of bread, and where both iron and copper mines abounded," Deu 8:7-9 : a land finely diversified with hills and valleys, and well watered by the rain of heaven, in this respect widely different from Egypt; a land which God cared for, on which his eyes were continually placed from the beginning to the end of the year; watched over by a most merciful Providence; in a word, a land which flowed with milk and honey, and was the most pleasant of all lands; Deu 11:11, Deu 11:12; Eze 20:6. Such was the land, and such were the advantages that this most favored people were called to possess. They were called to possess it by lot that each might be satisfied with his possession, as considering it to be appointed to him by the especial providence of God; and its boundaries were ascertained on Divine authority, to prevent all covetousness after the territories of others.

NUMBERS 34:14 for the tribe of the children of Reuben according to their fathers' houses, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to their fathers' houses, have received, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received, their inheritance.

NUMBERS 34:15 The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan at Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise."

NUMBERS 34:16 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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

NUMBERS 34:18 You shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land for inheritance.

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

Verse 19

And the names of the men - are these - It is worthy of remark that Moses does not follow any order hitherto used of placing the tribes, neither that in Numbers 1, nor that in Numbers 7, nor that in Numbers 26, nor any other; but places them here exactly in that order in which they possessed the land.

1. Judah

2. Simeon
3. Benjamin
4. Dan
5. Manasseh
6. Ephraim
7. Zebulun
8. Issachar
9. Asher
10. Naphtali

Judah is first, having the first lot; and he dwelt in the south part of the land, Jos 15:1, etc.; and next to him Simeon, because his inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah, Jos 19:1. Benjamin was third; he had his inheritance by Judah, between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph, Jos 18:11. Dan was the fourth; his lot fell westward of that of Benjamin, in the country of the Philistines, as may be seen in Jos 19:40, Jos 19:41, etc. Fifth, Manasseh; and sixth, by him, his brother Ephraim, whose inheritances were behind that of Benjamin, Jos 16:7. Next to these dwelt, seventh, Zebulun; and eighth, Issachar; concerning whose lots see Jos 19:10-17. Ninth, Asher; and tenth, Naphtali; see Jos 19:24, Jos 19:32, etc.

And as in encamping about the tabernacle they were arranged according to their fraternal relationship, (see Numbers 2)., so they were in the division and inheriting of the promised land. Judah and Simeon, both sons of Leah, dwelt abreast of each other. Benjamin, son of Rachel, and Dan, son of Rachel's maid, dwelt next abreast. Manasseh and Ephraim, both sons of Joseph, son of Rachel, had the next place abreast. Zebulun and Issachar, who dwelt next together, were both sons of Leah; and the last pair were Asher, of Leah's maid, and Naphtali, of Rachel's maid. Thus God, in nominating princes that should divide the land, signified beforehand the manner of their possession, and that they should be so situated as to dwell together as brethren in unity, for the mutual help and comfort of each other. See Ainsworth. In this arrangement there is much skill, judgment, and kindness every where displayed.

NUMBERS 34:20 Of the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud.

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

NUMBERS 34:22 Of the tribe of the children of Dan a prince, Bukki the son of Jogli.

NUMBERS 34:23 Of the children of Joseph: of the tribe of the children of Manasseh a prince, Hanniel the son of Ephod.

NUMBERS 34:24 Of the tribe of the children of Ephraim a prince, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan.

NUMBERS 34:25 Of the tribe of the children of Zebulun a prince, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.

NUMBERS 34:26 Of the tribe of the children of Issachar a prince, Paltiel the son of Azzan.

NUMBERS 34:27 Of the tribe of the children of Asher a prince, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.

NUMBERS 34:28 Of the tribe of the children of Naphtali a prince, Pedahel the son of Ammihud.”

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