

Exegetical Notes, Numbers 34:1-29

“There ARE Boundaries”

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Numbers 34:1-29

Verses 1-12

The LORD said to Moses,² “Command the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter Canaan, the land that will be allotted to you as an inheritance is to have these boundaries:

³ *“Your southern side will include some of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. Your southern boundary will start in the east from the southern end of the Dead Sea,⁴ cross south of Scorpion Pass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon,⁵ where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Mediterranean Sea.*

⁶ *“Your western boundary will be the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This will be your boundary on the west.*

⁷ *“For your northern boundary, run a line from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor⁸ and from Mount Hor to Lebo Hamath. Then the boundary will go to Zedad,⁹ continue to Ziphron and end at Hazar Enan. This will be your boundary on the north.*

¹⁰ *“For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham.¹¹ The boundary will go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Galilee.¹² Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea.*

“This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.”

- God clearly laid out the boundaries of the land which was given to Israel.
- The boundaries do two things. They show the exact size of the gift with which Israel has been blessed, and they mark the place in which Israel is to live.

Verses 13-15

Moses commanded the Israelites: “Assign this land by lot as an inheritance. The LORD has ordered that it be given to the nine and a half tribes,¹⁴ because the families of the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance.¹⁵ These two and a half tribes have received their inheritance east of the Jordan across from Jericho, toward the sunrise.”

- The land was to be distributed as God's gift to the tribes which had not requested territory outside of the Promised Land. See Numbers 32.
- It was to be distributed by lot, the casting of dice, and according to the size of the tribes. See Numbers 33:54.

Verses 16-29

The LORD said to Moses,¹⁷ “These are the names of the men who are to assign the land for you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun.¹⁸ And appoint one leader from each tribe to help assign the land.¹⁹ These are their names:

Caleb son of Jephunneh,

from the tribe of Judah;

²⁰ *Shemuel son of Ammihud,*

from the tribe of Simeon;

²¹ *Elidad son of Kislou,*

from the tribe of Benjamin;

²² *Bukki son of Jogli,*

the leader from the tribe of Dan;

²³ *Hanniel son of Ephod,*

the leader from the tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph;

²⁴ *Kemuel son of Shiphtan,*

the leader from the tribe of Ephraim son of Joseph;

²⁵ *Elizaphan son of Parnak,*
the leader from the tribe of Zebulun;

²⁶ *Paltiel son of Azzan,*
the leader from the tribe of Issachar;

²⁷ *Ahihud son of Shelomi,*
the leader from the tribe of Asher;

²⁸ *Pedahel son of Ammihud,*
the leader from the tribe of Naphtali.”

²⁹ *These are the men the LORD commanded to assign the inheritance to the Israelites in the land of Canaan.*

- A committee chaired by the High Priest, and composed of these men, one from each of Israel's tribes which was to be inherited inside the Promised Land, was appointed to oversee the distribution of the land among the people.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *There ARE Boundaries*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)