

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes
3-23-22
Numbers 34

The Boundaries Of The Promised Land – Verses 1-2

34 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:

34:1-2 The division of the land was determined by sacred lot. No tribe was to claim its own land. Everything was an inheritance, granted to them by God. The boundaries declared by God are larger than the area ever actually occupied by the Hebrews. The boundaries correspond more to the land conquered by David and to the ideal territory portrayed by Ezekiel (Ezekiel 47–48). The size of the land portrays God’s generosity. He always gives us more than we could ask or think.

Borders Of The Promised Land – Verses 3-15

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, ⁴cross 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, ⁵where 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 Hor ⁸ 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.” ¹³ 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.”

34:3-12 Moses described the boundary of the land from south (**Numbers 34:3-5**) to west (**Numbers 34:6**) to north (**Numbers 34:7-9**) to east (**Numbers 34:12**). This boundary encompassed the territory the people would divide among the nine and one-half tribes. This was not the same territory promised to Abraham but was what God gave the Israelites at their entrance into the land. If they had been obedient to Him, He would have eventually enlarged their borders to include the whole area promised to Abraham. Even though they disobeyed God He still enlarged their border beyond the boundaries given here later in their history though not yet to the extent promised Abraham. . . . on any estimate and interpretation, the ‘Canaan’ that was the inheritance given to Israel was larger and more extensive than they were ever able to possess, even in David’s and Solomon’s time.”

34:13-15 Some of the sites mentioned are still unknown to archaeologists. Hamath (**Numbers 34:8**) was a kingdom and a city, the capital of the kingdom. This reference is probably to the kingdom since there is no biblical record that the city of Hamath ever belonged to Israel. The land included within these boundaries was about 150 miles long and 50 miles wide, about 7,500 square miles. It was the approximate size of New Jersey.

Leaders Appointed To Divide The Land – Verses 16-29

¹⁶ 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.

34:16-17 Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun: The division of the land was, in fact, a potentially divisive - even explosive - issue among the people of Israel. It was right to take the two most godly and prominent leaders of the nation to direct this essential and controversial duty.

34:16-29 In God’s plan for settling the land, he (1) explained what to do, (2) communicated this clearly to Moses, and (3) assigned specific people to oversee the apportionment of the land. No plan is complete until each job is assigned and everyone understands his or her responsibilities. When you have a job to do, determine what must be done, give clear instructions, and put people in charge of each part.

THE BORDERS OF THE PROMISED LAND

Num. 34:1-29 The borders of the Promised Land stretched from the Deserts of Zin and Kadesh Barnea in the south to Lebo Hamath and Riblah in the north, and from the Mediterranean seacoast on the west to the Jordan River on the east. The land of Gilead was also included.

Some 3,500 years ago the Canaanites inhabited the land that God promised to give to the offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God promised that He would give the land of Israel to the Jewish people as an eternal possession. The promise was unconditional. God confirmed it at least 55 times with an oath and stated at least 12 times that the covenant was everlasting. God did bring the Israelites into the Promised Land forty years after the Exodus from Egypt. Israel reached the peak of her power some 500 years later under King Solomon.

Israel entered the Promised Land and hundreds of years later, under King Solomon, they occupied a large part, but not all, of the territory which God had promised to them. Israel was required to obey the Law of Moses and, when they failed, God thrust them out of the land. However, God’s promise that they will inherit the land still stands. We see the Jews being brought back to the Promised Land in our day. We expect that God’s word will be fulfilled and that they will enter their full inheritance.



Turkey

Syria

Lebanon

Israel

Gaza

Jordan

Iraq

The Biblical Promised Land

Egypt

Kuwait

Saudi Arabia