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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 30-31	Instructions regarding the vows of women; The war of Yahweh's vengeance upon Midyan
Tuesday:	Num. 32	The tribes of Re'uben, Gad, and half the tribe of Menashsheh choose to settle on the East side of the Yarden
Wednesday:	Num. 33	Yahweh delineates the borders of the land of Yisra'el, along with instructions for dividing the land inheritance for the remaining $9\frac{1}{2}$ tribes
Thursday:	Num. 34	Mosheh records all the stop-overs and departures of the children of Yisra'el in the wilderness
Friday:	Num. 35:1-36:13	Yahweh assigns cities for the Lewites, including 6 cities of refuge; Yahweh's instructions concerning manslaughter, and final right-rulings regarding marriage of female heirs

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will continue to learn about the land inheritance for the children of Yisra'el and the Lewites. We will also finish the book of Numbers, which ends with an additional right-ruling regarding the inheritance of the daughters of Tselophhad. Now, let's read Num. 33:50-56; 34:1-29; 35:1-8 & 36:1-13.

## PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh spoke to Mosheh in the desert plains of Mo'ab by the Yarden (Jordan) of Yeriho (Jericho) - 33:50
- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to tell the children of Yisra'el what to do when they enter the land of Kena'an (33:51-54):
  - Drive out all the inhabitants (**yoshvey**) of the land from before you
  - Destroy all their engraved stones (**maskit**)
  - Destroy all their molded images (**massechah**)
  - Lay waste all their high places (**bamah**)
  - Possess the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess
  - Divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your clans
  - Give the larger inheritance to the larger clans
  - Give the smaller inheritance to the smaller clans
  - Wherever the lot falls to anyone, that is his inheritance
  - You, inherit according to the tribes of your fathers



- Yahweh cautioned the people that if they did not drive out the inhabitants of the land of Kena'an, then (33:55-56):
  - Those that remain will be pricks in your eyes and thorns in your sides
  - They shall trouble you in the land where you dwell
  - I shall do to you as I thought to do to them
- Yahweh told Mosheh that Kena'an was the inheritance of the children of Yisra'el to its boundaries - 34:1-2
- Yahweh then specified what the southern, western, northern, and eastern borders for the land of Kena'an were - 34:3-12
- Mosheh then commanded the nine and a half tribes regarding their land inheritance, to be determined by drawing lots - 34:13
- The tribes of Re'uben, Gad, and half the tribe of Menashsheh had already received their inheritance (refer to Chapter 32), which lay eastward beyond the Yarden of Yeriho, toward the sunrise - 34:14-15
- El'azar the priest and Yehoshua, son of Nun were to divide the land among the remaining tribes as their inheritance - 34:17
- One leader from each tribe was to divide the inheritance of the land of Kena'an among the children of Yisra'el (34:18-29):



- Yehudah - Kaleb
- Shim'on - Shemu'el
- Binyamin - Elidad
- Dan - Buqqi
- Menashsheh - Hanni'el
- Ephrayim - Qemu'el
- Zebulun - Elitsaphan
- Yissaskar - Palti'el
- Asher - Ahihud
- Naphtali - Pedah'el



- Yahweh also described to Mosheh how the families of the tribe of Lewi were to receive their inheritance (35:1-8):

- The children of Yisra'el were to give the Lewites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession
- The Lewites were to have open land around the cities for their cattle, herds and livestock
- Yahweh gave specific measurements for the open land around their cities
- The Lewites were to possess the 6 (**shesh**) cities of refuge that would protect a fleeing manslayer, as well as 42 (**arbaim v'shtayim**) more cities: 48 (**arbaim v'shmone**) in all, with their open land
- The Lewites would receive more cities from the larger tribes, and fewer cities from the smaller tribes, in proportion to the size of their tribal inheritance



- The heads of the tribe of Menashsheh came before Mosheh and before the leaders to discuss their concerns regarding the inheritance of the daughters of Tselophhad - 36:1-2
- They said, "If the daughters marry within another tribe, or else when the Yobel takes place, then our inheritance will be taken from our tribe and given to the tribe they marry into" - 36:3-4
- Mosheh then pronounced Yahweh's right-ruling to the children of Yisra'el regarding the daughters of Tselophhad (36:5-9):
  - Let them marry whomever they want, but only from the clan of their father's tribe
  - The inheritance of the children of Yisra'el is not to change hands from tribe to tribe
  - Every tribe of the children of Yisra'el is to cling to its own inheritance
  - Any daughters possessing an inheritance shall only marry within their clan, in order to keep the land inheritance within the tribe
- As Yahweh commanded Mosheh, so the daughters of Tselophhad did - the 5 (**chamesh**) women married sons of their father's brothers (cousins) - 36:10-12
- These are the commands and right-rulings which Yahweh commanded the children of Yisra'el by the hand of Mosheh in the desert plains of Mo'ab by the Yarden of Yeriho - 36:13



# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Write down all the places where Yahweh led the people to camp and then depart from, using the wilderness 'travelogue' that Mosheh wrote down in Chapter 33. How many are there?
- Discuss the command that Yahweh gave to rid the land of all its inhabitants and the consequences if they did not. Has Yisra'el obeyed the command? Are they still suffering its consequences?
- Two methods were used to assign territory to the tribes: lots and tribe size. Lots would be cast to determine the general region in Kena'an that each tribe would receive, but the size of each tribe's territory would be proportional to their population. What evidence do you see of Yahweh's fairness and correct right-ruling in His instruction regarding their inheritance?
- How do you think the Yisra'elites might have felt, going to a place where the people were not Torah observant and served false gods? Discuss the challenges they would face in the new land - even as they did in Mitsrayim.
- Do further research on the boundaries (borders) of Kena'an given to the children of Yisra'el. Are those boundaries in place today, or have they changed? Discuss why.
- Notice Yahweh's ruling that women who have inherited property must not choose a husband from just within their tribe, but specifically within their clan. Discuss the possible reasoning behind this law.

