

Faith exercised (Numbers 27)

Outline of Numbers:

- 1:1 – 10:10 Israel encamped at Sinai
- 10:11 – 13:25 Journey from Sinai to Kadesh (first postexodus generation of Hebrews)
- 13:26 – 20:21 Israel encamped at Kadesh
- 20:22 – 21:35 Journey from Kadesh to Moab (second generation)
- 22:1 – 36:13 Israel encamped on the plains of Moab before entering the Promised Lands

Introduction:

The Curious case regarding the inheritance of Zelophehad (v.1-11)

The spotlight falls on a particular group of people from the nation of Israel who raised an unprecedented case.

The daughters of Zelophehad showed faith, the assurance and conviction of a hope that is to come, in a God whom they know will deliver what He has promised to give to His people.

The Changing of command from Moses to Joshua (v.12-23)

The spotlight falls on the current leader of the nation who raised an genuine concern.

Moses showed faith, the assurance and conviction of a hope that is to come, in a God whom he knows will fulfil His promise of leading the people into the Promised land.

Christ our inheritance and king

*"We do not have the full enjoyment of it at present. . . . We walk . . . in hope, and we do not see the thing as if it were present, but we see it by faith. . . . Although, then, the world gives itself liberty to trample us under foot, as they say; although our Lord keeps us tried with many temptations; although he humbles us in such a way that it may seem we are as sheep appointed to the slaughter, so that we are continually at death's door, yet we are not destitute of a good remedy. And why seeing that the Holy Spirit reigns in our hearts, we have something for which to give praise even in the midst of all our temptations. . . . [Therefore,] we should rejoice, mourn, grieve, give thanks, be content, wait"
(from John Calvin's Ephesian sermons, delivered in Geneva, 1558—59).*

Conclusion:

Big Idea: God is a God who loves His people and makes good of what He promises.

Aim: We seek to exercise faith in Him and obedience to Him.

Reflection:

- How has my faith in God & His Word grown recently?