

Mattot – Masa’ei

Numbers 30:2 (1)-36:13

Mattot -Tribes (Numbers 30:2 [1]- 32:42):

Numbers 28:1- 30:17 previously covered in last lesson.

(C) Numbers 31:1-54 – War against the Midianites.

(C) Numbers 32:1-42 – Promise of Reubenites and Gadites.

Masa’ei – Stages (Numbers 33:1-36:13):

Numbers 33:1-49 Travel from Egypt – previously covered in last lesson.

(P) Numbers 33:50-34:29 – When Taking The Land...

(P) Numbers 35:1-34 – Cities of Refuge.

(P) Numbers 36:1-13 -- Inheritances Must Stay Within the Same Tribe.

War Against the Midianites			
C	Numbers 31:1-24	Numbers 31:25-54	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Numbers 31:1-5</p> <p>31 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."</p> <p>3 So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the Lord on Midian. 4 A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war."</p> <p>5 So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from</p>	<p>Numbers 31:48-54</p> <p>48 Then the officers who were over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses; 49 and they said to Moses, "Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who are under our command, and not a man of us is missing. 50 Therefore we have brought an offering for the Lord, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the Lord." 51 So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments. 52 And all the gold of the offering that they offered to the Lord, from the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels. 53 (The men of war had taken</p>	<p>1200 Soldiers, 1000 from each tribe of Israel were commanded to go to war.</p> <p>This war, like all wars should, had a purpose. It was to take vengeance for YHWH on Midian for leading His people away from Him by causing them to follow after another god.</p> <p>None were lost. How miraculous!</p> <p>They brought an offering of gold from all of the booty of war:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make atonement for themselves. • as a memorial.

	each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.	<p>spoil, every man for himself.) 54 And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting as a memorial for the children of Israel before the Lord.</p>	
B 1, 2	<p>Numbers 31:6-12</p> <p>6 Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. 7 And they warred against the Midianites, just as the Lord commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. 8 They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed — Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.</p> <p>9 And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods. 10 They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts. 11 And they took all the spoil and all the booty — of man and beast.</p> <p>12 Then they brought the captives, the booty, and</p>	<p>Numbers 31:31-47</p> <p>31 So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the Lord commanded Moses.</p> <p>32 The booty remaining from the plunder, which the men of war had taken, was six hundred and seventy-five thousand sheep, 33 seventy-two thousand cattle, 34 sixty-one thousand donkeys, 35 and thirty-two thousand persons in all, of women who had not known a man intimately.</p> <p>36 And the half, the portion for those who had gone out to war, was in number three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep;</p> <p>37 and the Lord's tribute of the sheep was six hundred and seventy-five. 38 The cattle were thirty-six thousand, of which the Lord's tribute was seventy-two. 39 The donkeys were thirty thousand five hundred, of which the Lord's tribute was sixty-one.</p> <p>40 The persons were sixteen thousand, of which the Lord's tribute was thirty-two persons. 41 So Moses gave the tribute which was the Lord's heave offering to Eleazar the priest, as the Lord commanded Moses.</p>	<p>Taking and distribution of booty.</p> <p>The men of Midian, including the 5 kings and Balaam were killed with the sword.</p> <p>The booty of war included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The virgins (32,000) and female children of Midian • Their cattle (72,000) • Their flocks (675,000 sheep) • Their donkeys (61,000) • Their goods • The spoil and booty of man and beast. • This was divided in half; ½ for the warriors and ½ for the congregation. <p>A half portion went to the congregation of Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep (337,500) • Cattle (36,000) • Donkeys (30,500) • People (16,000) <p>YHVH was given a 1/500 tribute from the ½ portion belonging to the warriors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sheep (675) • cattle (72) • donkeys (61) • people (32). • This heave offering was given to Eleazar.

	<p>the spoil to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.</p>	<p>42 And from the children of Israel's half, which Moses separated from the men who fought — 43 now the half belonging to the congregation was three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep, 44 thirty-six thousand cattle, 45 thirty thousand five hundred donkeys, 46 and sixteen thousand persons —</p> <p>47 and from the children of Israel's half Moses took one of every fifty, drawn from man and beast, and gave them to the Levites, who kept charge of the tabernacle of the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses.</p>	<p>The portion for the Levites was 1/50 from the ½ belonging to the children of Israel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep (7,350) • Cattle (720) • Donkeys (610) • People (320) <p>The Midianite cities and forts were burned with fire.</p>
C 1, 2	<p>Numbers 31:13-20</p> <p>13 And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp. 14 But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, with the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle.</p> <p>15 And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive? 16 Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord. 17 Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones,</p>	<p>Numbers 31:25-30</p> <p>25 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 26 "Count up the plunder that was taken — of man and beast — you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the congregation;</p> <p>27 and divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.</p> <p>28 And levy a tribute for the Lord on the men of war who went out to battle: one of every five hundred of the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep;</p> <p>29 take it from their half, and give it to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the Lord. 30 And from the children of Israel's half you shall take one of every fifty, drawn from the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep, from all the livestock, and give them to the</p>	<p>Commands regarding the booty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kill the women who are not virgins because they led the men of Israel to trespass against YHWH, causing a plague from YHWH. Was there a concern for STD or pregnancy? • Kill all the male children as well. They could potentially grow up to retaliate against Israel. They also carry the seed of their people. • Count and divide the plunder. • Purify those who came in contact with the dead and remain outside the camp for 7 days-- be cleansed with the ashes of a red heifer on the 3rd and 7th day. • Purify every garment with water of purification (see below).

	<p>and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. 18 But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.</p> <p>19 And as for you, remain outside the camp seven days; whoever has killed any person, and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day.</p> <p>20 Purify every garment, everything made of leather, everything woven of goats' hair, and everything made of wood."</p>	<p>Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the Lord."</p>	
D	<p>Numbers 31:21-24</p> <p>21 Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to the battle, "This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord commanded Moses:</p> <p>22 "Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, 23 everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification.</p> <p>But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water. 24 And you shall wash your</p>		<p>Command about purification:</p> <p>Whatever can endure fire shall be put through the fire.</p> <p>Whatever cannot endure fire shall be cleansed with the water of purification.</p> <p>Clothing shall be washed on the 7th day and be clean.</p> <p>Afterward, you may re-enter the camp.</p> <p>What future significance might this purification process have?</p> <p>YHVH's people are purified with the washing of the water of the word because they are sensitive to the word of YHVH.</p>

	clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp."		<p>Those who are not sensitive and responsive to the water of the word will be burned with fire.</p> <p>Does this mean that the lake of fire will purify them so they may eventually enter the camp?</p> <p>1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Revelation 21:8, 22:15</p> <p>In Revelations, the wicked (or those who were) are outside the New Jerusalem. How did they get there? Did they eventually come out of the lake of fire?</p>
--	---	--	---

Promise of Reubenites and Gadites			
C	Numbers 32:1-24	Numbers 32: 25-42	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Numbers 32:1-4</p> <p>32 Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock, 2 the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying, 3 "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon, 4 the country which the Lord defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a</p>	<p>Numbers 32:33-42</p> <p>33 So Moses gave to the children of Gad, to the children of Reuben, and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land with its cities within the borders, the cities of the surrounding country. 34 And the children of Gad built Dibon and Ataroth and Aroer, 35 Atroth and Shopnan and Jazer and Jogbehah, 36 Beth Nimrah and Beth Haran, fortified cities, and folds for sheep.</p> <p>37 And the children of Reuben built Heshbon and Elealeh and Kirjathaim, 38 Nebo and Baal Meon (their names being changed) and</p>	<p>Reuben, Gad, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh (sons of Machir, Jair and Nobah) did not want to cross over the Jordan to live within the intended boundaries of the Promised Land.</p> <p>They felt a suitable place for them would be on the east side of the Jordan in the cities they had already taken from Og (Bashan) and Sihon (Amorites):</p> <p>Gad: Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, Atroth,</p>

	land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."	<p>Shibmah; and they gave other names to the cities which they built.</p> <p>39 And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead and took it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it. 40 So Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he dwelt in it. 41 Also Jair the son of Manasseh went and took its small towns, and called them Havoth Jair. 42 Then Nobah went and took Kenath and its villages, and he called it Nobah, after his own name.</p>	<p>Shopnan, Jazer, Jogbehah, Beth Nimrah, Beth Haran.</p> <p>Reuben: Heshbon, Elealeh, Kirjathaim, Nebo, Baal Meon, Shibmah</p> <p>Machir: Gilead</p> <p>Jair: Havoth Jair</p> <p>Nobah: Kenath (Nobah)</p>
B 1, 2	<p>Numbers 32:5</p> <p>5 Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."</p>	<p>Numbers 32:31-32</p> <p>31 Then the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying: "As the Lord has said to your servants, so we will do. 32 We will cross over armed before the Lord into the land of Canaan, but the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us on this side of the Jordan."</p>	<p>The Gadites and Reubenites made a promise to help the other tribes take their land when they requested to have the land on the east side of the Jordan.</p>
C 1, 2	<p>Numbers 32:6-15</p> <p>6 And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here? 7 Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord has given them? 8 Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Kadesh Barnea to see the land. 9 For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, so that they did not go into the land which the Lord had given them. 10 So the Lord's</p>	<p>Numbers 32:28-30</p> <p>28 So Moses gave command concerning them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel.</p> <p>29 And Moses said to them: "If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben cross over the Jordan with you, every man armed for battle before the Lord, and the land is subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead as a possession.</p> <p>30 But if they do not cross over armed with you, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan."</p>	<p>Moses was concerned that the Gadites and Reubenites wanted to sin just as their father's had refused to enter the land. However, upon hearing their promise, Moses gave a command concerning them to Eleazar and Joshua because he himself was going to die before their promise was fulfilled.</p> <p>Provision for land was to be made for these tribes, on either the east (in Gilead) or west side of the</p>

	<p>anger was aroused on that day, and He swore an oath, saying,</p> <p>11 'Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me,</p> <p>12 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord.'</p> <p>13 So the Lord's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone.</p> <p>14 And look! You have risen in your fathers' place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the Lord against Israel. 15 For if you turn away from following Him, He will once again leave them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all these people."</p>		<p>Jordan (in Canaan), depending on whether or not they kept their promise.</p>
<p>D 1, 2</p>	<p>Numbers 32:16-19</p> <p>16 Then they came near to him and said: "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, 17 but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will</p>	<p>Numbers 32:25-27</p> <p>25 And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spoke to Moses, saying: "Your servants will do as my lord commands.</p> <p>26 Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our livestock will be there in the cities of Gilead; 27 but your servants will cross over, every</p>	<p>The Gadites and Reubenites promised to help the other tribes take their possessions on the other side of the western side of the Jordan river (in Canaan) while their families and all livestock remained in Gilead.</p>

	<p> dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.</p> <p>18 We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance.</p> <p>19 For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Jordan."</p>	<p>man armed for war, before the Lord to battle, just as my lord says."</p>	
E	<p>Numbers 32:20—24</p> <p>20 Then Moses said to them: "If you do this thing, if you arm yourselves before the Lord for the war, 21 and all your armed men cross over the Jordan before the Lord until He has driven out His enemies from before Him, 22 and the land is subdued before the Lord, then afterward you may return and be blameless before the Lord and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord.</p> <p>23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.</p> <p>24 Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what has proceeded out of your mouth."</p>		<p>Moses felt that if they kept their promised before YHWH to help their brothers from the other 9 ½ tribes drive out YHWH's enemies from the land so that their brothers could possess it, they would be blameless before YHWH and Israel, and they could have the land they desired for their inheritance. To not fulfill this promise would be sin.</p>

Numbers 33:1-49 Travel from Egypt – previously covered in last lesson.

When Taking the Land...			
P	Numbers 33:50-34:12	Numbers 34:13-29	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Numbers 33:50-56</p> <p>50 Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, 51 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; 53 you shall dispossess (וְהוֹרַשְׁתֶּם from יָרַשׁ ; inherit, dispossess) the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.</p> <p>54 And you shall divide (וְהִתְנַחֲלֶתֶם ; ve-hit-nachaltem; <i>hitpael</i>, inherit, possess oneself) the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot.</p> <p>You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. 55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.</p> <p>56 Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them."</p>	<p>Numbers 34:13-15</p> <p>13 Then Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying: "This is the land which you shall inherit (תִּתְנַחֲלֶוּ , tit-nacha-lu, from נָחַל ; nachal, <i>hitpael</i>, inherit, possess) by lot (בְּגוֹרָל; be-go-ral; by lot, portion), which the Lord has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.</p> <p>14 For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and the half-tribe of Manasseh has received its inheritance.</p> <p>The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance on this side of the Jordan, across from Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise."</p>	<p>Notice that they are not to wipe out all of the inhabitants of the land with the sword. They were to drive them out and take their land.</p> <p>They were to destroy everything related to the idolatry that was taking place in the land by destroying their engraved stones, molded images, and high places. They were not to participate in the idolatry of the land for that would break covenant with YHWH and eventually bring curses, such as exile, upon them. Initially, these peoples would merely be irritants or thorns in their sides, essentially a source of harassment to them. But eventually, over time, they would go into exile.</p> <p>The land was to be divided by lot based on the size of the tribes,</p>

			which was determined by the census.
B 1, 2	<p>Numbers 34:1-12</p> <p>34 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Command the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance — the land of Canaan to its boundaries.</p> <p>3 Your southern border shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea; 4 your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon; 5 the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea.</p> <p>6 'As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border.</p> <p>7 'And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor; 8 from Mount Hor you shall mark out your border to the entrance of Hamath; then the direction of the border shall be toward Zedad; 9 the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and it shall end at Hazar Enan. This shall be your northern border.</p> <p>10 'You shall mark out your eastern border from Hazar Enan to Shepham; 11 the border shall go</p>	<p>Numbers 34:16-29</p> <p>16 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 17 "These are the names of the men who shall divide the land among you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun. 18 And you shall take one leader of every tribe to divide the land for the inheritance.</p> <p>19 These are the names of the men: from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; 20 from the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud; 21 from the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon; 22 a leader from the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli; 23 from the sons of Joseph: a leader from the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod, 24 and a leader from the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan; 25 a leader from the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach; 26 a leader from the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan; 27 a leader from the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi; 28 and a leader from the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."</p> <p>29 These are the ones the Lord commanded to divide the</p>	<p>Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Num, and one leader from each of the tribes was to divide the land for inheritance. This would seem to give no chance for false accusations over what was fair or other kinds of complaints from the tribes.</p> <p>Recall the promise of land to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21), Isaac (Genesis 26:3), and Jacob/Israel (Genesis 28:13).</p> <p>The land divisions are different from what is found/prophesied in Ezekiel 47:13-20.</p> <p>See maps of tribal land borders and Ezekiel's vision below.</p>

	<p>down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; the border shall go down and reach to the eastern side of the Sea of Chinnereth; 12 the border shall go down along the Jordan, and it shall end at the Salt Sea.</p> <p>This shall be your land with its surrounding boundaries."</p>	<p>inheritance among the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.</p>	
--	---	--	--



By 12 tribus de Israel.svg: Translated by Kordas12 staemme
israels heb.svg: by user:12'o1' staemme israels.png: by
user:Janzderivative work: Richardprins [CC-BY-SA-3.0
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>) or GFDL
(<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>)], via Wikimedia
Commons



This is a map of the borders described in Ezekiel 47:13-20.

Map 66 – Ezekiel's Vision of the Promised Land (Moody Atlas of Bible Lands) -- from One Touch.OB, Bible Soft.

Cities of Refuge			
P	Numbers 35:1-8	Numbers 35:9-34	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Numbers 35:1-8</p> <p>35 And the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, saying: 2 "Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall also</p>	<p>Numbers 35:9-34</p> <p>9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 11 then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there. 12 They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment. 13 And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge. 14 You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, which will</p>	<p>A total of 48 cities, with surrounding common land of 2000 cubits each, were to be given to the Levites; these were to be divided among every tribal inheritance.</p> <p>There must be an error in the MT in verse 4. Numbers 35:4 LXE says: And the suburbs of the cities which ye shall give to the Levites, shall be from the wall of the city and</p>

	<p>give the Levites common-land around the cities. 3 They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals. 4 The common-land of the cities which you will give the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits (אַלֶּף אַמָּה) (סָבִיב) all around.</p> <p>5 And you shall measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits (אַלְפִים בְּאַמָּה), on the south side two thousand cubits, on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits. The city shall be in the middle. This shall belong to them as common-land for the cities.</p> <p>6 "Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites you shall appoint six cities of refuge, to</p>	<p>be cities of refuge. 15 These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger (וְלִגֵּר), and for the sojourner (וְלַתּוֹשֵׁב) among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.</p> <p>16 'But if he strikes (הִכָּהוּ [hikkahu; hiphil form] from נָכָה [nakhah]) him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer (רֹצֵחַ); the murderer shall surely be put to death. 17 And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 18 Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.</p> <p>19 The avenger of blood (גֹּאֵל הַדָּם; goel had-dam) himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. 20 If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies, 21 or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.</p> <p>22 'However, if he pushes him suddenly without enmity, or throws anything at him without lying in wait, 23 or uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing it at him without seeing him, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm, 24 then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these judgments.</p> <p>25 So the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall return him to the city of refuge where he had fled, and he shall remain there until the death of</p>	<p>outwards two thousand cubits (δισχιλίους πήχεις κύκλῳ) round about. This number is consistent with verse 5 in both the MT and LXE.</p> <p>6 cities of refuge (Joshua 20:7-9):</p> <p>West of the Jordan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kedesh in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali. 2. Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim 3. Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron) in the mountains of Judah. <p>East of the Jordan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Bezer by Jericho in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Reuben. 5. Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad. 6. Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh. <p>The 48 Levitical cities were divided according to 4 groupings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kohathites who descended from Aaron, 13 cities in the lands of Judah and Benjamin. 2. Kohathites who did not descend from Aaron, 10 cities in the lands of Dan, Ephraim, and Manasseh.
--	--	--	---

	<p>which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities. 7 So all the cities you will give to the Levites shall be forty-eight; these you shall give with their common-land.</p> <p>8 And the cities which you will give shall be from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger tribe you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives."</p>	<p>the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.</p> <p>26 But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, 27 and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, 28 because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.</p> <p>29 'And these things shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 30 Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not sufficient testimony against a person for the death penalty. 31 Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death. 32 And you shall take no ransom (כֹּפֶר ; kopher; price of a life, ransom, bribe) for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest. 33 So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made (לֹא יִכָּפֵר ; lo ye-chup-par; pual, can't be atoned for; same root as kopher that is used above) for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.</p> <p>34 Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the Lord dwell among the children of Israel."</p>	<p>3. Gershonites, 13 cities, on either side of the Jordan and north of the Jezreel valley.</p> <p>4. Merarites, 12 cities, most inside the Transjordan territories of Gad and Reuben.</p> <p>See Joshua 21:4-7, 34-40 and 1 Chronicles 6:54-63, 77-81.</p> <p>Note that the manslayer, who had not committed intentional murder, had to stay in a city of refuge to avoid the avenger of blood until the death of the high priest. It seems that the death of the high priest was a substitute for the death of the manslayer.</p> <p>There was no ransom or substitute for those who intentionally killed someone else; they had to be put to death.</p>
<p>Just think how much the land is defiled by the blood of aborted babies and other murders whose murderers escape capital punishment.</p>			



6 Cities of Refuge

West of the Jordan:

1. **Kedesh** in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali.
2. **Shechem** in the mountains of Ephraim.
3. **Hebron (Kirjath Arba)** in the mountains of Judah.

East of the Jordan:

4. **Golan** in Bashan, tribe of Manasseh.
5. **Ramoth** in Gilead, tribe of Gad.
6. **Bezer** from the tribe of Reuben.

See Deuteronomy 4:41-43, 19:3-13; Joshua 21:13, 21, 27, 32, 38.

Map from BW9, modified by B. Mehaffey.

Inheritances Must Stay Within the Same Tribe			
P	Numbers 36:1-9	Numbers 36:10-13	Comments
A 1, 2	<p>Numbers 36:1-4</p> <p>36 Now the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near and spoke before Moses and before the leaders, the chief fathers of the children of Israel. 2 And they said: "The Lord commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the Lord to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters. 3 Now if they are married to any of the</p>	<p>Numbers 36:10-12</p> <p>10 Just as the Lord commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad; 11 for Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married to the sons of their father's brothers. 12 They were married into the families of the children of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in</p>	<p>Since their father had not participated in the rebellion of Korah, Zelophehad's daughters spoke up to ensure his descendants would have an inheritance in the Promised Land.</p> <p>Their case also set a precedent for future inheritance rights for women with no brothers.</p> <p>See Numbers 27:1-11.</p>

	<p>sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and it will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so it will be taken from the lot of our inheritance. 4 And when the Jubilee of the children of Israel comes, then their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so their inheritance will be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers."</p>	<p>the tribe of their father's family.</p>	
<p>B 1, 2</p>	<p>Numbers 36:5-9</p> <p>5 Then Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the Lord, saying: "What the tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks is right. 6 This is what the Lord commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only within the family of their father's tribe.'</p> <p>7 So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. 8 And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel shall be the wife of one of the family of her father's tribe, so that the children of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers.</p> <p>9 Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."</p>	<p>Numbers 36:13</p> <p>13 These are the commandments and the judgments which the Lord commanded the children of Israel by the hand of Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.</p>	<p>In situations like the daughters of Zelophehad, it was important to keep the inheritance within the same tribe; therefore, they had to marry within the tribe of their father so that the inheritance would not be transferred to another tribe.</p>