



NUMBERS 27:1-11

Bible Study

MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
105 LANKFORD AVENUE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902
*Alvin Edwards, Ph.D.,
Senior Pastor*

VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



THEME

MOVING FORWARD

AS A

GROWING CHURCH



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph: and these are the names of his daughters; Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah. ² And they stood before Moses,



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

And before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, ³ Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not in the company of them that gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

died in his own sin and had no sons.

⁴ Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he hath no son? Give unto us, therefore, a possession among the brethren of our father. ⁵ And Moses brought their cause before the LORD. ⁶ And the Lord spake



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

unto Moses, saying, ⁷ The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them. ⁸ And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel,



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter. ⁹ And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his brethren. ¹⁰ And if he have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his father's brethren.



Numbers 27:1-11 (KJV)

Women's Rights

¹¹ And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family, and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the Lord commanded Moses.



The daughters of Zelophehad showed up. Their father was the son of Hopher son of Gilead son of Makir son of Manasseh, belonging to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

2-4 They came to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. They stood before Moses and Eleazar the priest and before the leaders and the congregation and said, "Our father died in the wilderness. He wasn't part of Korah's rebel anti-GOD gang. He died for his own sins.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

And he left no sons. But why should our father's name die out from his clan just because he had no sons? So, give us an inheritance among our father's relatives.” ⁵ *Moses brought their case to GOD. ⁶⁻⁷ GOD ruled:*
“Zelophehad's daughters are right.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

Give them land as an inheritance among their father's relatives. Give them their father's inheritance. 8-11 "Then tell the People of Israel, 'If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter. If he has no daughter, give it to his brothers. If he has no brothers,



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

give it to his father's brothers. If his father had no brothers, give it to the nearest relative so that the inheritance stays in the family. This is the standard procedure for the People of Israel, as commanded by GOD through Moses.”



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

Dr. Savola Monroe

The Problem/Predicament

The Prognosis

The Pronouncement

The Prescription/Proclamation from

God



THE PROBLEM: (v3)

The cultural tradition for land allotment occurred **ONLY** through a male relative which perpetuated the family name and lineage. Zelophehad did not have any sons, but rather five daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

THE PROGNOSIS: (v4a)

Bleak! Since there is no male heir, Zelophehad's family name, his inheritance, and portion of the Promised Land would be lost...**FOREVER!**



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

THE PRONOUNCEMENT: (4b)

The five daughters make an outstanding and commanding statement that they want what is **RIGHTFULLY** theirs. Perhaps they could not legally fight, but they believed God would intervene on their behalf.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

THE PRESCRIPTION/PROCLAMATION
FROM GOD: (v6,7)

God's decree agrees with Zelophehad's daughter's request.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

AND FURTHERMORE: (v8-11)

God's decree moves beyond the current situation to establish general regulations when there are no sons, thus allowing daughters to have **FIRST** inheritance rights, followed by other male relatives in a set sequence.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

What do we mean by women's rights?

They should receive the same as their brothers received, even though they had none.

What rights did they have while in the desert?



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

The same as everyone else. They had not seen the Promise Land, but God made a Covenant with them, which belonged to them and their descendants. Even though they had no brothers, they should not be left out of the distribution, nor lose their rights.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

Did the desert influence their decision?

NO! These women were women of strong faith, believing in the land believing that it would be won; the majority report did not bother them, they believed the minority report.



What prompted the question?

They knew that if there were troubles in the household, they would be sure to have their share of them; if the bread ran out, or if there was sickness, they would be the nurses. They said, *“God said, it is a good land, a land of hills and valleys, a land of*



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

brooks and rivers, a land of olive oil and honey, a land out of whose hills we may dig iron and brass; and we will not believe what these 10 spies say; it is a good land and we will ask for our share.”



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

How did they pursue “their share?”

They were filled with anxious thoughts about their own part in the Promise Land and were right in desiring to have a portion there when they remembered that the land had been given by the Covenant to their fathers. The land had been promised over and over again by divine authority.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

And they said inside of words, *“Let us have our portion there.”*

*Were they too aggressive or assertive?
Too antagonistic and overconfident?*

They didn't go from tent to tent complaining, they went straight to Moses and *“brought their cause.”*



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

These women did not try to get what they wanted by force. They did not say, "We will take care to get our share of the land when we get there." They did not suppose that they had any merit with which they might plead, and so, get it; they went straight to Moses



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

How would you characterize these women?

They were women of great faith, they believed God would give the land to the Israelites and they wanted their share.



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”

What would you commend about them?



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

Were they right to want their father's share?

How did they go about it?

What do we learn from these 5 women?

What do we learn from Moses?



Numbers 27:1-11 (MSG)

Women's Rights

Next Week

Read chapter 32:16-27

The Sin

of

Doing Nothing

