



**Zelophehad, a Man
Who Raised Insightful
Daughters!
Numbers 27:1-7**

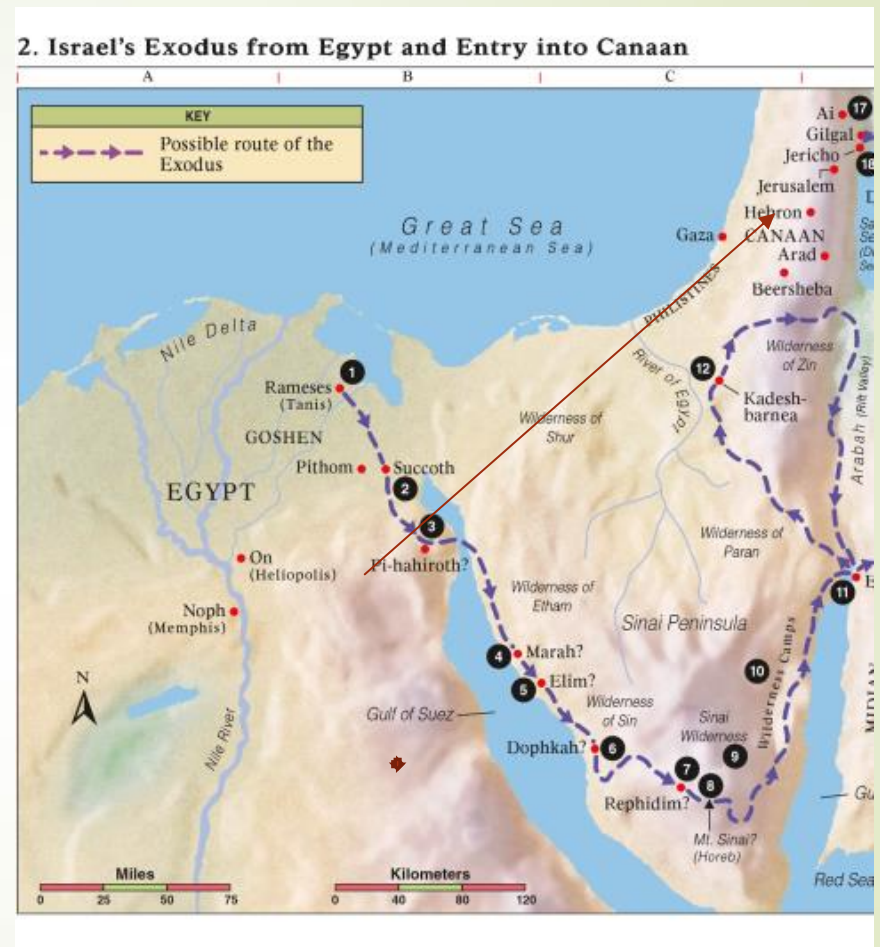
Observations



- Relating to daughters, from what I have observed, doesn't always come easy for fathers (Testosterone vs. Estrogen)
- But a father who takes part in the spiritual formation of his daughter can bless his family for generations to come
- A father who participates in getting his daughter, from his perspective, ready for life can be critical to his family's generational success (what she accepts, or does not accept can be heavily influenced by her father)

Background To This Story

- The Israelite nation, in Numbers 27, was preparing to cross over to Canaan their promised land
- But because of their disobedience, it took them 40 years to make an 11-day trip
- Their disobedience in their Godly walk had cost them years of success
- What about you and me? (decisions on Godly relationships, education, jobs, etc.)



The Story in the Text

- ▶ As Moses and the Israelite leaders stood in the sanctuary one day, the Bible says that 5 daughters of a man by the name of Zelophehad came and stood before the whole assembly (imagine their courage) with an issue
- ▶ They assert that their father was already dead
- ▶ They assert that their father was a Godly man and had not taken part in the rebellion and attempted insurrection that a man named Korah had recently tried against Moses and lost; Numbers 16



Observations



- In Numbers 26, Moses and the leaders had proposed sectioning off the land of Canaan by the names of the male heirs (larger tribes got more land)
- In these daughters' peculiar situation, there were no male heirs (their father was deceased, and they had no brothers)
- Therefore, due to no fault of their own, under the present system proposed, these daughters stood to lose the inheritance that rightfully belonged to them simply because they had the wrong set of chromosomes (they wondered aloud about their rights and privileges, since Moses' land distribution plans didn't cover their circumstance)

Listen to the Plight of These Daughters!

- Under the present system, these daughters felt marginalized
- Their family had just travelled 40 years through the wilderness just like everybody else
- Now, just after losing their father, without an inheritance, they were about to lose their rights to any homes and property
- These daughters knew that the continuity of family name, for generations to come, depended on the inheritance of the land





The Plight Of These Daughters!

- Why should their father's name die out in Canaan simply because they had no sons
- But even in their desperate situation and with angry emotions, they showed courage, humility, and tact when treated in a perceived and unjust way
- They appealed to their Godly leaders to see if *“God’s grace would make space”* for them



How Did Moses React?

- He certainly didn't tell the daughters to, *"Just shut up and cook!" "Shut up and dribble!" or "Go back to the kitchen, and birthing babies!"*
- The Bible says that Moses took their case before the Lord (*these assertive daughters had a relevant question not only for themselves, but for others*)
- The Bible says that God told Moses that the daughters of Zelophehad were right in their assessment of the situation
- God then has Moses to make an addendum to his law in Numbers 26, that secured an inheritance for these daughters, and any other daughters in the same circumstance in the future



What Was Zelophehad's Legacy With His Daughters?

#1 Their Religious Commitment Was Modeled After Their Father's

- They remembered and exhibited the faithfulness of their father, recounting his faithfulness to Moses, Numbers 27:3

(In this story, there is no mention of their mother accompanying them to Moses with their complaint)

- Fathers, live a life so that your daughters can recall stories of your faithfulness to God as a strength when they face their own circumstances; Ephesians 6:4
- Fathers, raise your children to be able to think, *"What would daddy have done spiritually in this situation?"*



#2 The Daughters of Zelophehad Were Critical Thinkers


- These 5 daughters had the cognitive acumen to recognize that in making laws, Moses, being a man, had missed some significant peculiarities in drawing up laws; and his map didn't cover their case (Hidden Figures)
- Men with daughters must invest in them the ability to think (analyze) *for themselves*, whether they pursue a marriage relationship or not
- Daughters, be able to think on your own (these daughters could not rely on a man's wisdom; there was none for them)
- Fathers, men need daughters who have been raised by you to think independently without the emotional baggage that can, many times, obscure the best decision (husbands or fathers may not always be around for you or their children) If they are around, they might need your help

Observations

- ▶ Young women are under a lot of pressure today to look a certain way, speak a certain way, to act a certain way, having to face body shaming issues (these daughters in the story were not raised to act or think as the status quo)
- ▶ You, fathers, can raise the bar for men in terms of what your daughter will and will not accept (if she is not used to being cursed or hit, she is less likely to accept that kind of behavior)
- ▶ If you ignore her or reject her, psychologists say that she will spend a lot of her life trying to replace you in her heart

Don't let some boy be the first male to tell your daughter, *"I love you,"* or *"You are pretty,"* or *"You are so smart."*

Don't let a CrackerJtoy ring from a boy be the first one she gets (let her compare his gift to the one you have already given her; daughters shouldn't give up their body, their car, their living arrangements, their finances due to compliments she never received enough, looking for "man's love")



God's Grace Has Made Space For Us!

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins

Acts 2:38

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38