5 Daughters of Zelophehad

Numbers 27 & 36
5 Sisters
Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah
Laws of inheritance

only sons get to inherit...
THIS IS NOT FAIR TO OUR FATHER...

He did not rebel with Korah so why shouldn’t his descendants be given land just because he has no sons?
The Concern of Giving Land to Daughters

The land may go to another tribe after the marriage of the girl since her own son who would inherit the land belongs to her husband’s tribe. This would cause some tribes to lose their traditional land.
Main Issues

What happens when a man dies and has no male heirs?
What happens to the land?
What happens to his inheritance including his lineage?
So Moses brought their case before the Lord... Num 27:5
Inheritance can flow through the female line on two conditions:

- No male offspring in the family (Num 27:8)
- If they should marry, they must marry within their tribe so that the land does not go to another tribe. (Num 36:6)
7 No inheritance in Israel is to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite shall keep the tribal inheritance of their ancestors. 8 Every daughter who inherits land in any Israelite tribe must marry someone in her father’s tribal clan, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of their ancestors. (Numbers 36)
10 So Zelophehad’s daughters did as the Lord commanded Moses.
11 Zelophehad’s daughters—Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milkah and Noah—married their cousins on their father’s side.

(Numbers 36)
5 godly women worthy of mention in the Bible.

• In a society that favours men
• Women expected to stay close to their tents and out of sight
• Too vocal?
• Expected to just accept the laws and keep silent.
Daughters of Zelophehad

- They knew their law.
- They knew their history and presented their argument – their father was not part of Korah’s rebellion.
- They knew that the continuity of their father’s name was dependent on the inheritance of land.
- The current law was not adequate – there were other circumstances not considered.
- They appealed to Moses and the Lord.
Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Calls the daughters of Zelophehad

- Wise
- Astute interpreters
- Pious – a faith proclamation for a land not theirs yet.

They dared to trust that God will be fair, to dare make a stand for what they believe is right.
Proverbs 31:30-31

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

A GODLY WOMAN - one who fears GOD and dares to obey.
Proverbs 31:25

She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.

Proverbs 31:25
The appeal of Zelophehad’s daughters would change the course of history!
It was a preparation for the coming of the Messiah!
According to prophecies and God’s promises, the Messiah has to be descended from the royal line of David.
One problem
The curse of Jeconiah
Blood Curse of Jeconiah (Jechonias, Jehoiachin, Coniah)

This is what the Lord says: “Record this man as if childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah.”
The problem

The Messiah has to have the legal right to rule but the legal line of Kingship has to pass through Jeconiah and... there is a CURSE on his BLOODLINE.

meaning

If the Messiah has an earthly father, he has to be from this line which has been cursed in order to claim the throne.
v16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Matthew 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>David &amp; Wife of Uriah</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Mary</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Jesus of Nazareth</td>
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Joseph was the legal heir to the throne but he descended from Jeconiah.
GOD’S AMAZING SOLUTION
God’s solution

The Virgin Birth

Jesus does not inherit the Curse of Jeconiah because He is not from the bloodline. He has legal rights to the throne because of his adopted lineage through Joseph. (He also does not inherit the Curse of Adam (SIN).)
Scripture and traditional sources tell us that Mary had no brothers but only another sister.

John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and **His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**
Because of Zelophehad’s Daughters, daughters can inherit the father’s inheritance so Mary can inherit her father’s inheritance including his lineage. Her husband is considered as the son of her father.
Through this changed inheritance law brought about by Zelophehad’s daughters, Joseph was considered as a son to Eli (Heli). This bloodline of Jesus through Mary made Him the **Son of David** and all the way to Adam to also be the **Son of Man**.
The Legal Right to the throne

Still the Son of David but not inheriting the curse of Jeconiah
No earthly biological father – God was His Father

SON OF GOD

The King who is the Son of David, the Son of Man and the Son of God – the Messiah!
Every situation in life has a purpose in the hands of God.
Zelophehad may not understand but God had a plan for Zelophehad to have only daughters. They paved the way for the Messiah. Through them, his name is still remembered.
When you don’t understand, just TRUST in the one who KNOWS the future and the past!

I DON’T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS BUT I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE

Oprah
Many things about tomorrow,
I don’t seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.
Learn to trust in the Lord in every situation. He is the God of the Ages ....

Even through bad times
Even if I don’t understand my situation...

- Just trust and obey!
- God will make a way in every situation to turn it for good!