

Joshua 17

Verses 1 – 2

Now *this* was the lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph. To Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, were allotted Gilead and Bashan, because he was a man of war. ² So *the lot was made* for the rest of the sons of Manasseh according to their families: for the sons of Abiezer, the sons of Helek, the sons of Asriel, the sons of Shechem, the sons of Hephher, and the sons of Shemida; these *were* the male descendants of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families.

Now *this* was the lot for **the tribe of Manasseh**, for he was the firstborn of Joseph.

Manasseh was the 1st born of Joseph but he would take a secondary role to his brother Ephraim.

This happened to Esau and Jacob (this was a close call)

It also happened to Reuben and Judah (sons 1 and 4)

The first three sons were disqualified for the following reasons:

Reuben slept with his father's concubine

Simeon and Levi killed all the men of Shechem

To **Machir** the firstborn of **Manasseh**, the father of **Gilead**, were allotted Gilead and Bashan, because he was a man of war

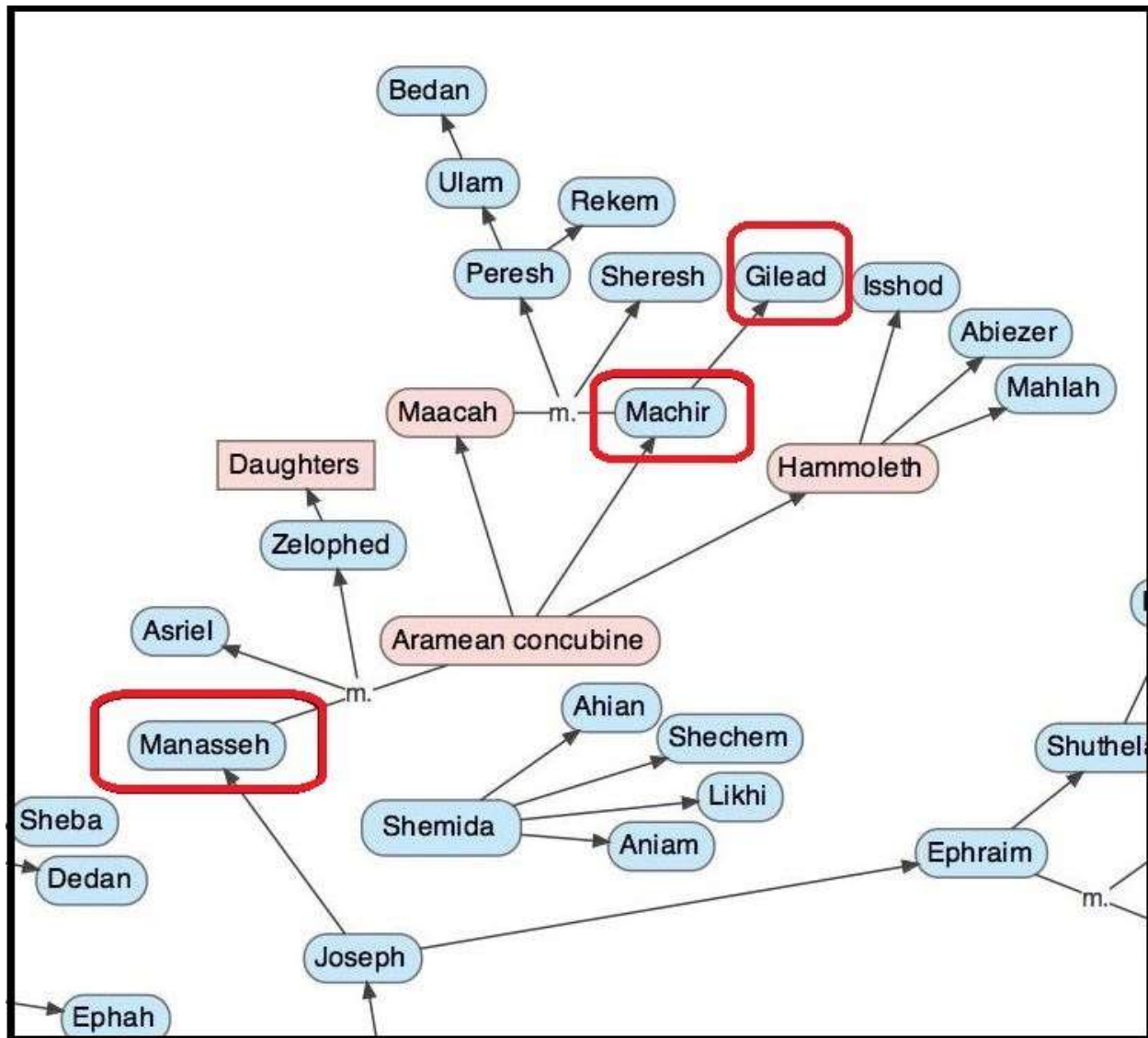
Gilead appears as a man's name.

But also as the name of a fertile district east of the Jordan River.

Machir was a man of war and inherited the land that was given to Manasseh by lot.

There are 3 generations mentioned here

See chart 1705



So the lot was made for the rest of the sons of Manasseh according to their families

There were six other male children of Manasseh

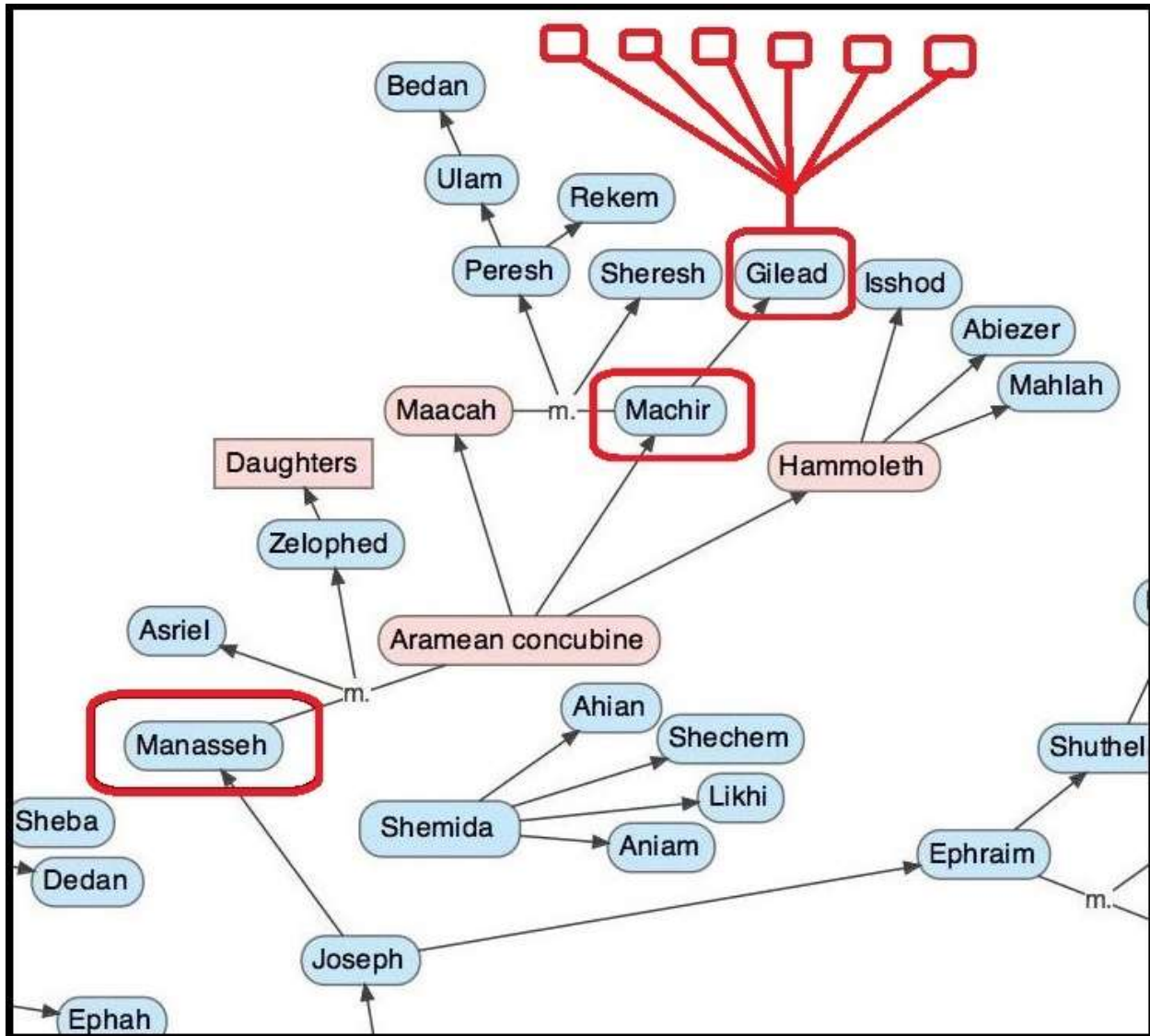
Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, Shemida

However, the six sons mentioned here were GREAT GRANDSONS not sons.

It is not uncommon to call more distant descendants sons in the Old Testament.

See Numbers 26:28-34

See chart 1710



Verses 3 – 6

However, Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, only daughters; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ⁴ They approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the leaders, saying, “The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers.” So in accordance with the command of the Lord he gave them an inheritance among their father’s brothers. ⁵ So ten portions fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which is beyond the Jordan, ⁶ because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons. And the land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the sons of Manasseh.

However, Zelophehad, the son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, only daughters;

Manasseh was born around 1707 BC

Zelophehad was the 5th generation from Manasseh

He had 5 daughters that are the 6th generation after Manasseh

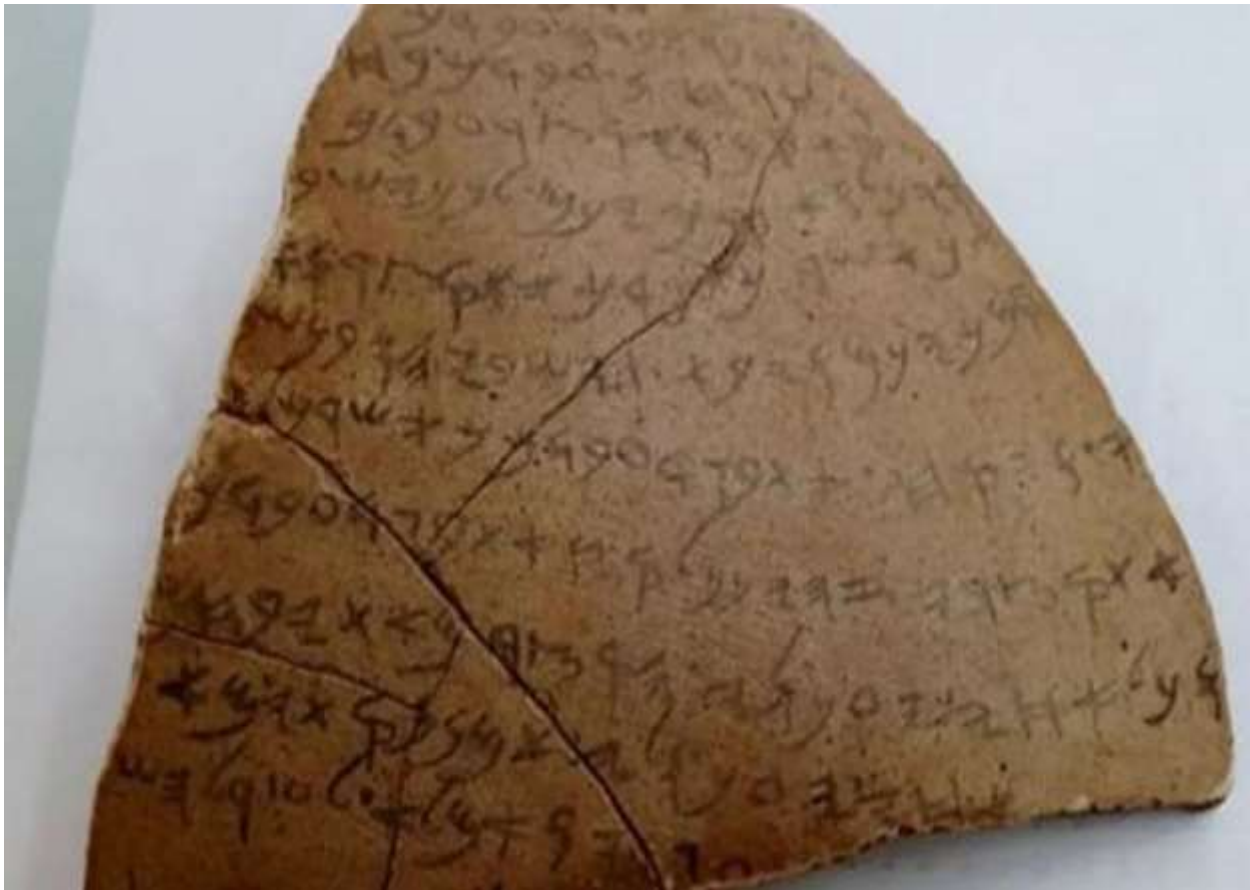
This genealogy is recorded in Numbers 26 and the year is 1407 BC

These 6 generations spanned 300 years and probably another 50 years.

And these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah

The Samaria Ostraca was found in 1910. It includes 102 pieces of pottery of which 63 are legible. They are written in the Hebrew alphabet

See pic 1715



They were found in the treasury of the palace of Ahab, king of Israel (Samaria)

They show tax payments made in districts such as Abiezer Helek, Shechem, Shemida, Noah, and Hoglah.

The first 4 are 4 of the 5 sons mentioned above.

The last 2 are 2 of the 5 daughters.

So ten portions fell to Manasseh

Hepher, one of the 6 sons, was deceased

So the ten portions mentioned here were for the 5 sons and 5 daughters

Verses 7 – 13

The border of Manasseh ran from Asher to Michmethath which was east of Shechem; then the border went southward to the inhabitants of En-tappuah. ⁸ The land of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh *belonged* to the sons of Ephraim. ⁹ And the border went down to the brook of Kanah, southward of the brook (these cities *belonged* to Ephraim among the cities of Manasseh), and the border of Manasseh *was* on the north side of the brook, and it ended at the sea. ¹⁰ The south side *belonged* to Ephraim and the north side to Manasseh, and the sea was their border; and they reached to Asher on the north and to Issachar on the east. ¹¹ In Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth-shean and its towns and Ibleam and its towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and its towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns; the third is Napheth. ¹² But the sons of Manasseh could not take possession of these cities, because the Canaanites persisted in living in this land. ¹³ And it came about when the sons of Israel became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.

The border of Manasseh

See map 1720



But the sons of Manasseh could not take possession of these cities, because the Canaanites persisted in living in this land. ¹³ And it came about when the sons of Israel became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.

Initially, Manasseh was not strong enough to drive out the Canaanites.

But when they grew strong enough to overtake the Canaanites they decided to use them as slave labor rather than evict them.

Verses 14 – 18

Then the sons of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, “Why have you given me *only* one lot and one portion as an inheritance, though I am a numerous people whom the Lord has blessed up to this point?”¹⁵ And Joshua said to them, “If you are a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear *a place* for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you.”¹⁶ The sons of Joseph then said, “The hill country is not enough for us, but all the Canaanites who live in the valley land have iron chariots, both those who are in Beth-shean and its towns and those who are in the Valley of Jezreel.”¹⁷ But Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, saying, “You are a numerous people and have great power; you shall not have one lot *only*,¹⁸ but the hill country shall be yours. For though it is a forest, you shall clear it, and to its farthest borders it shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, even though they have iron chariots *and* though they are strong.”

Then the sons of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, “Why have you given me only one lot and one portion as an inheritance, though I am a numerous people whom the Lord has blessed up to this point?”

Manasseh and Ephraim complained to Joshua saying they only received one lot.

See Map 1725



It was true that Manasseh only had one lot in the Promised Land but the tribe Manasseh had a lot on both sides of the Jordan. And those two lots equaled about 1/3 of the total land on both sides of the Jordan.

Plus the Jezreel Valley was the richest farm land in Palestine.

See map 1730 & 1731



This area was 16 miles long and 12 miles wide.

You are a numerous people and have great power; you shall not have one lot *only*,¹⁸ but the hill country shall be yours. For though it is a forest, you shall clear it, and to its farthest borders it shall be yours;

Joshua answered them according to their egos.

You are numerous and have great power.

Were they greater than the other tribes?

See pics 1735

	Numbers 1 2-1-02	Numbers 26 year 39	Plus	Minus
Tribe	1ST Census	2ND Census		
Reuben	46,500	43,730		2,770
Simeon	59,300	22,200		37,100
Gad	45,650	40,500		5,150
Judah	74,600	76,500	1900	
Issachar	54,400	64,300	9,900	
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100	
Ephraim	40,500	32,500		8,000
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	20,500	
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	10,200	
Dan	62,700	64,400	1,700	
Asher	41,500	53,400	11,900	
Naphtali	53,400	45,400		8,000
All tribes			59,200	61,020
Total	603,550	601,730		1,820

1. 5 other tribes had a greater population than Manasseh.

2. 11 tribes had a greater population than Ephraim.

See pic 1736

1st and 2nd Census

	Numbers 1 2-1-02	Numbers 26 year 39	Plus	Minus
Tribe	1ST Census	2ND Census		
Reuben	46,500	43,730		2,770
Simeon	59,300	22,200		37,100
Gad	45,650	40,500		5,150
Judah	74,600	76,500	1900	
Issachar	54,400	64,300	9,900	
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100	
Ephraim	40,500	32,500		8,000
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All tribes			59,200	61,020
Total	603,550	601,730		1,820

Even though Ephraim was a small tribe they did become the leading tribe of the north.

Nevertheless, Joshua corrected them, saying they had plenty of land

1. They can clear the forest in the hill country
2. They can drive out the Canaanites in the Jezreel valley even though they have iron chariots.