

Courageous

Claiming Canaan, Lessons from the Book of Joshua

Lesson 15: Chosen (13:1-19:51)

The land rested from war (Joshua 11:23)—it was time to claim "*the large and beautiful cities which [they] did not build, houses full of good things, which [they] did not fill, hewn-out wells which [they] did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which [they] did not plant*" (Deuteronomy 6:10-11)—but it wasn't time to stop fighting.

The Lord had promised that His blessings would *come upon* Israel and *overtake* them (Deuteronomy 28:2). He also assured them that if they relaxed their guard and sheathed their swords, the smallest enemy would turn into the greatest foe. "*Beware that you do not forget the Lord*" (8:11), and "*go after... the gods of the peoples who are all around you*" (v.14).

Israel was not intended to close their eyes to or seek to control the remaining Canaanites; like sin, they were to destroy them.

Read Joshua 13:1-33.

1. What promise was given regarding the land that remained unconquered? (v.6)
2. Who was included in the nine and a half tribes mentioned in verse 7? List the two and a half tribes mentioned in verse 8.
3. Who did Israel fail to drive out on the east side of the Jordan? (v.13)
4. Who wasn't given an inheritance? How was their inheritance described? (vv.14, 33)

What did they receive instead? (Read Deuteronomy 18:1-8, Numbers 18:20-21,24-32; 35:1-8.)

5. Compare and contrast the Levites' inheritance to their kinsmen's inheritance. What are the pros and cons of this arrangement? How would you feel? (Consider their profession.)

6. How did Moses distribute the land east of the Jordan? (v.15, 24, 29)

7. Note these tribes and color their allotments on the map.

8. In verse 22 of Joshua 13, who was noted among the conquered?

According to Numbers 22:1-6 and 24:10, why do you think the author believed it was important to note his death? What had he done?

In Micah 6:5 and Revelation 2:14, it states that "though Balaam could not curse Israel, yet he suggested a mode by which the divine displeasure might be caused to descend upon them (Numbers 25)." ⁱ He counseled Israel's enemy to entice them into sin with the Moabite women, committing harlotry and idolatry. Twenty-four thousand people died as a result (Numbers 25:9). Second Peter 2:15 reveals that he forsook the right way because he loved the wages of unrighteousness.

Now read Joshua 14:1-5.

9. Per these verses, how was the land distributed? (Also see Numbers 26:52-56.)

10. Casting lots was a form of decision-making and of discerning the will of God. What must one believe about God to trust this method of allocation?

What insight do Proverbs 16:33, 18:18 provide regarding the casting of lots? (For further consideration, see Jonah 1:7 and Matthew 27:35.)

11. Record Acts 17:26b.

Turn to Joshua 15 and read verses 1-12 then 20-63.

12. Which tribe was chosen by lot to receive their inheritance in the Promised Land first (v.1)? Color their allotment on the map.

13. What major city was within their borders? What occurred between its inhabitants and the Israelites? (vv.8, 63)

14. Why might the children of Judah have been unable to drive out the Jebusites? (v.63)

How does this contradict God's many promises? (Joshua 10:25, etc.)

15. Read Joshua 18:28, then turn to Judges 1 and read verse 21. Who eventually inherited Jerusalem?

Keep reading: Joshua 16:1- 17:2.

16. To which tribe did the lot fall this time? (vv.5, 17:1-2) Color their allotments on the map.

17. Who remained among the Ephraimites? To what were they subjected?

Read Joshua 17:3-18.

18. What problem did the family of Zelophehad face?

19. Read Numbers 27:1-11. What was the solution?

20. Read Numbers 36:1-12. Why were the other tribes concerned about the decision that was made?

21. Return to Joshua 17. What was the attitude of the Canaanites that remained in western Manasseh? (v.12) How had their view of the Israelites changed? (2:9, 5:1, 10:21) Why might this have occurred?

22. Manasseh's enemies "*were determined to dwell in that land*" (v.12). What became of them? (v.13)

If Israel was strong enough to control them, were they not strong enough to destroy them?

Like sin, the cost may not be seen at present, but it always demands payment in the future. What had they been repeatedly warned against? Review Deuteronomy 20:16-18.

If we treated our sin the way Israel treated their enemies, what would occur? Why?

23. Return to Joshua 17. For what reason did the children of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) approach Joshua? (v.14)

24. What did they think of themselves?

25. Had they conquered what had already been provided? (vv.12-13) What then, was the issue?

26. What was Joshua's solution? (vv.15, 17-18)
27. When met with the challenge, what excuses were offered?
(v.16)
28. Why were their concerns trivial in light of the battles that had already been fought? (11:6, 21; 12:4)

The children of Joseph did not heed Joshua's advice. In short, they did not want what God had provided because of the cost.

Keep reading: Joshua 18:1-10.

29. To what location was the tabernacle moved? Circle the city on the map.
30. What charge was given to three men from each of the remaining tribes?
31. Per Numbers 34:16-29, who appointed and equipped these men?
32. After the survey was completed, how was the land divided?
(vv.8-10)

Read Joshua 18. Verses 11-28.

33. After arriving at Shiloh, which tribe was the first to be selected by lot?

34. What major cities were among their inheritance?

Finally. read Joshua 19:1-51.

35. Note, in order, which tribes received their inheritance. Record any noteworthy information, then distinguish (color) their territories on the map.

Second lot:

According to verse 9, why was this tribes' share of land located where it was? Who decided this? (18:9)

Third lot:

What was prophesized regarding this tribe in Genesis 49:7, 13?

Fourth lot:

Fifth lot:

Sixth lot:

Seventh lot:

What major victory was experienced by this tribe? (v.47)

36. Who was the last to receive his share among his people, the Ephraimites? What does this say about his character?

37. For what are you waiting for God to provide?

ⁱ Easton, M. G. (1893). In *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.