

Courageous

Claiming Canaan, Lessons from the Book of Joshua

Lesson 18: Cities for the Levites (21:1-45)

No sooner had the land been divided and distributed, were the tribes of Israel challenged to give it back. What was placed in their hands for only a moment had been entrusted to them for a purpose greater than their own— the benefit and prospering of *all* God's people.

Israel's offering would directly determine the benefit they would receive in return. If God's children chose to be closefisted, their community would suffer along with those they deprived.

Luke 6:38 says, *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you"* (NKJV).

Read Joshua 21:1-3.

1. Who did the Levites approach? For what did they ask?
2. Describe their demeanor as they made their request.
3. Read Matthew 7:7-8. Do you approach God in this way? Why or why not?
4. Return to Joshua. Who was to provide for the Levites? How did this test the generosity of the tribal leaders and the people?
5. Today, how is the church to care for those who minister to the Lord and care for its people? See 1 Corinthians 9:14 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18. Why can this be a challenge?

6. How did God describe the Levites per Numbers 18:6-7?
7. The people were commanded by God to provide for the Levites (Numbers 35:2); the cities they offered were the best of the land. What did the people believe about God that enabled them to give generously?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:24-25, 19:17, and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

8. What does God promise those who give their best to the things of God? Read Malachi 3:10 and Mark 10:29-30.
9. Contrast this belief with that of the individuals mentioned in Proverbs 13:7 and Luke 12:13-21.
10. What attitude did the Lord warn Israel against in Deuteronomy 8:17?
11. How would others be negatively affected if they chose to keep what they had been given for themselves?
12. Return to Joshua and read verses 11-13. What was Caleb willing to offer?

13. Ultimately, to Whom did the land belong? To Whom do our possessions belong? (Psalm 24:1, Deuteronomy 8:18, etc.)
14. It has been estimated that no Levitical city was more than 10 miles from the next. How would this benefit the community? (Consider Deuteronomy 33:10.)

Read Joshua 21:4-19.

15. Name the three divisions of Levites according to Numbers 26:57.
16. Fill out the chart per verses 4-8 of Joshua 21:

Levite Family	Number of Cities Given	Given by which Tribe
1.		
2.		
3.		

Keep reading: Joshua 21:20-42.

17. The Levitical cities were assigned to family groups who performed specialized tasks. First read of the Levites' overall role in Numbers 3:1-10. Then list the tasks specific to each family as noted in the passages below.

What function did the children of Kohath serve? (Numbers 3:28-31, 4:1-20)

What was the role of the children of Gershon? (Numbers 3:25-26, 4:21-28)

What duties were the children of Merari to perform? (Numbers 3:36-37, 4:29-33)

What additional duties did the Levites have according to Numbers 7:1-9?

18. What tasks were assigned to Eleazar and Ithamar (Aaron's remaining sons)? (See Numbers 3:32, 4:16, 27-28, 32-33.)

19. Who was the high priest in Joshua 21:1 (also Numbers 20:25-29), serving beside Joshua?

20. Why couldn't every Levite perform every task? According to Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, why is diversity of function necessary in the body of Christ?

21. Where was the tabernacle located? (Joshua 18:1) Considering the varying roles and responsibilities of the Levites, why was this important?

Finally, read Joshua 21:43-45.

22. According to Deuteronomy 8:7-13, what good things did the Lord provide for all?

23. Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." In what ways has God generously provided for you? How has His provision exceeded your expectations?

