

## **Joshua 13-19**

Good evening, church.

Tonight we are going to continue our survey through the Old Testament.

I am hoping to get through 7 chapters tonight.

Now if you have ever read through the Book of Joshua, you will know that this portion of the book is very laborious.

It is like reading a surveyors record.

Now if you got the handout from last time, on the backside of that map you will find another map of Canaan that shows the inheritance of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Now, that picture will be very helpful to understand all that is taking place here.

Now these chapters are not a go to portion for many preachers.

And if we were not committed to teaching through the whole council of God, than we would easily skip through these seven chapters, as exciting as the Book of Joshua is, this portion can be a little dry.

We will not read the lengthy sections of allotted land, your maps really sum that up for you.

But hopefully as we will see tonight, in the midst of these seven chapters, there really is important nuggets of truth found within them.

**Well, let's pray before we get into it tonight.**

So Joshua has successfully completed the first part of his mission from God.

He blitzed through the land of Canaan and subdued the armies of the Land.

He destroyed mighty kings, and brought their cities under dominion of his army.

Now Joshua here in the second half of the book will fulfill the second part of his commission, and he will divide the land, and give each of the twelve tribes their inheritance.

But it would be up to each tribe to go in and completely wipe out the people of the land.

Joshua crippled the main fighting force, but there was still much work to be done by each tribe.

And this will prove to be a challenge for the children of Israel.

We will see that contentment, and complacency will be a huge hindrance for the people of God.

In this life, there will be conflict and battles, and once we as believers make comfort and ease our

main objective, we have lost our way and our purpose.

We will even see that age is not even an excuse to disengage from the battle tonight.

Look at the first few verse of chapter 13 with me...

### **Remaining Land to Be Conquered**

13:1 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed. 2 This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites, 3 from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines — the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites; 4 from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites; 5 the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath; 6 all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians — them I will drive out from before

the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you. 7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

So we see here some time has passed since the great battles of the conquest that occurred in rapid succession.

Joshua had defeated the combined armies of the Canaanites in two distinct battles, one at Gibeon, and the other by the Waters of Merom.

But remember it took time for Joshua to overpower the cities and strongholds of the vast land.

Many of the commentators agree that it took approximately 7 years for Joshua to do this.

We will be told in the next chapter the age of Caleb, who was 40 years old when Moses sent the twelve spies into Canaan.

He will be 85 when he is about to take his own inheritance, a difference of 45 years, and if you take away the 38 years of wondering in the wilderness, you will have seven years for the wars of the Conquest of Canaan.

Now we read here in verse 1 that Joshua himself was well advanced in his years.

The Lord, graces Joshua with a Word.

We do not know how long it has been since Joshua has heard from God, but it has been a while.

And you know, I just love this about our God, that He is a God of Truth.

When we here His Word, it is direct, and He is more concerned with Truth than He is feelings.

And God tells Joshua, "Well, you are old Joshua."

Our culture is funny about age.

When our babies are new, we gauge age by the months, instead of saying 1 year old, we say twelve months, or 18 months, or 24 months.

About 3 or 4 years old, the mother will stop holding on to the months, and start gauging by years.

And through the child's life, they go by half years right? "I am 8 and half!"

And that half is important.

10-30 we are okay with stating our age, but after 30 it now becomes offensive to ask a person's age.

And we try so desperately to cover up the fact that we are getting old.

And heaven forbid if you call an old person old today, you will be shamed and ostracized.

We just need to accept it we are old, and our glory days are behind us.

I admit this is difficult, my mind still thinks I have my 25 year-old body and it still challenges my old flesh to do the things I used to do at 25.

This Monday, I was cutting big rounds of firewood, and in my pride I did not call pastor Joe to help me lift them on the splitter, but I was too proud, as I thought “I got this...” and my old body has been screaming at me all week.

God plainly tells Joshua you are old, but He also informs Joshua of an important fact, “There remains very much land yet to be possessed.”

God is reminding Joshua, that his life is about to end, his career is soon coming to a completion, and Joshua needs to ready the people to take the baton.

Understand this; no man of God is ever the center piece for God's work.

Understand today, our ministries are not about us, God does not need us, and God's Work will continue on long after we are gone.

Our job, like that of Joshua's is to ready the next generation to take the baton, to keep taking land, to keep engaging in the battles here on earth.

Now, Joshua is about 90-100 years old at this point.

Notice, here in this life, we Christians are not to be taking the mindset of the world, where the end game and goal is to retire and take it easy in our Mexican beach home.

There is no retirement age in our service to God.

Maybe you have heard the excuses of why people stop serving the Lord.

"I served in Children's ministry when my kids were there, I did my time."

Or people tell you of the good ol' days, when they were serving God everywhere, they were street witnessing, leading Bible Studies, and heading up outreaches and missions, and all their accomplishments stayed in the Good ol' days.

Understand in this life, until the very end we are to engage in the battle.

We don't have a biblical retirement age, or an example of when a child of God is to start taking it easy.

Satan would love nothing more for you to take it easy.

Remember the apostle Paul, when imprisoned in Rome, and he was at the end of his life.

He wrote **Phil 3:12-14** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

And in his very last letter, when he knew death was imminent, he declared... **2 Tim 4:6-8**

**6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Paul fought to the very end, and he sought no retirement in this age, but he was looking forward to a crown of righteousness from the Lord Jesus.

And Joshua here well passed the retirement age, still had work to do, and surely he is bearing the marks and scars of his war torn life full of battles.

God tells him after listing all the land that remained, in verse 7, that Joshua still needed to give the nine and half tribes their inheritance.

But first a record of the 2 and half tribes on the west side of the Jordan will be included in the record of inheritance here.

### **The Land Divided East of the Jordan**

8 With the other half-tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the Lord had given them: 9 from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon; 10 all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the children of Ammon; 11 Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah; 12 all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the

remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these.

13 Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

14 Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the Lord God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.

Now we will see this statement throughout the distribution of the land.

The Levites will not be given an inheritance and will in fact be distributed throughout the land to be God's representatives and ministers of His Law. They were to have no other duties or distractions from this ministry.

Their livelihood came from the tithes of the land, and the offerings brought to the tabernacle.

So after the mention of two and half tribe's inheritance on the east side, the record gives their specific land allotments for which verse 15 states the first tribe to get theirs.

### The Land of Reuben

15 And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families. 16 Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain by Medeba; 17 Heshbon and all its cities that are in the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaza, Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kirjathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on the mountain of the valley, 20 Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth — 21 all the cities of the plain and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses had struck with the princes of Midian: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, who were princes of Sihon dwelling in the country. 22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them. 23 And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages.

## The Land of Gad

24 Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad according to their families. 25 Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which is before Rabbah, 26 and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir, 27 and in the valley Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border, as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward. 28 This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and their villages.

### **Half the Tribe of Manasseh (East)**

29 Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh; it was for half the tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families: 30 Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities; 31 half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, for half of the children of Machir according to their families.

32 These are the areas which Moses had distributed as an inheritance in the plains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward. 33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.

Remember these tribes settled because the land was good for them and their cattle.

And their decision was made through selfishness and they came up short of the promises of God.

They may have had great grazing land, but they had no natural border from their enemies.

They would completely exposed to the Ammonites and the Moabites, and would be vulnerable to their armies and their pagan influence.

Both of which ended up bringing their ultimate doom about.

1 Chron. 5:25-26 And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. 26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity.

This stands as a lesson for us today, not to be a settling believer.

Earnestly desire to enter into all that God has willed for your life.

Serve Him faithfully, sacrificially, and uncompromised to this world.

When we make decisions on the basis of how they benefit us we lose sight of what matters in this life.

Yes, our comfort will be challenged, and giants lay up ahead, and much land lays before us to take, it will be difficult, but we will experience God in enormous ways, we will see Him work, and watch Him use our lives in His work.

Learn from these settling tribes, and learn to keep pressing into the promises of God, to keep serving God's purposes and not your own.

And then you will fully come into the promise land, and for the Christian the promise land is fruitful Christian living a blessed life.

So next the Promise Land, the Land on the West side of the Jordan will be Divided.

We will have Judah receive their inheritance first, and then the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and the other half tribe of Manasseh.

## The Land Divided West of the Jordan

14:1 These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them. 2 Their inheritance was by lot, as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe. 3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them. 4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property. 5 As the Lord had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

So we see here the method of how the land was divided by Joshua, the priests and the leaders.

It was by lot, possibly the Urim and the Thummim.

And we see that they left the division of the Land up to the Landlord, Yahweh.

There was no science behind their methodology; they let God distribute the Land accordingly.

First would be Judah, and if you remember when Moses sent the 12 spies into the land, the representative of the tribe Judah was Caleb.

That is interesting because as we will see in the next verse Caleb was a foreigner.

It is unknown how he came about into the nation of Israel, some think perhaps in Egypt, Caleb was lumped into the nation as slave, and there in Egypt he came to faith in Yahweh, and assimilated into the tribe of Judah.

And remember because of Caleb's sincere and unwavering faith in Yahweh, when he wanted to go and take the Promise Land 38 years earlier than they did, that God said of His servant Caleb.

**Numbers 14:24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.**

Caleb was more Israel than those with Abraham's blood in them.

Caleb was governed by God.

We see he is actually a Kenizzite, which was supposed to be a people that Abraham's decedents would overthrow.

Gen 15:18-21 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates — 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Caleb, an outsider, withstood all the rebellions and complaining of the wilderness journey, and remained steadfast in the will of God.

And because of his faith in his God, he will be rewarded richly here at the outset of the distribution.

### **Caleb Inherits Hebron**

6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I

brought back word to him as it was in my heart. 8 Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. 9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.' 10 And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. 11 As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. 12 Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. 14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim).

Then the land had rest from war.

Caleb now 85 years old has lived to see the covenant fulfilled, and apparently, when he was in the land on his spying mission, Hebron stood out to him, and that was the land he desired.

Now Caleb's faith is being rewarded here, and he could have asked for any land.

He is 85 years old, spent the best years of his life in the heat of battle for others.

He has served God faithfully, he could have said "give me that ocean front property by the Mediterranean, and let me alone!"

But Caleb sees Hebron, and land that had the greatest number of giants, and not just any giants, the decedents of the greatest giant, Arba.

Caleb's faith in his God stands above the rest of Israel.

At 85, he is as strong as ever, and his will is as ambitious as it was when Moses sent him out to spy out the land.

And Caleb claims the Lord's promises and knows without a doubt that God will help him take the mountain, not the easy plain, but a mountainous climb, and God would allow him to defeat the giants.

What an example we have here in Caleb, we see when we fully embrace the promises of God and trust His will for our lives that nothing will be impossible to accomplish.

Notice Caleb knew God's promises, and understand this man waited to receive them patiently, never wavering in his commitment.

His age did not detour his faith one bit, God had assured him that he would have an inheritance, and it did not come immediately.

But God will keep His promises, and this is something for us to hold onto today.

Many in their prayer life forsake God, because there is no immediate response or action by God, they grow weary in their waiting for God.

And in the hills and valleys of our existence here in this life, many fall away in their impatience.

Church learn from Caleb here, stay faithful, remain steadfast, and serve God patiently.

Perhaps some of you are waiting on a promise from God to come through, perhaps you are growing weary in the battle, remain faithful.

God will keep His end of the covenant and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Caleb, like Joshua, did not waste his life to serve himself, he looked to the greatest battle, and trusted God to come through.

You see when we focus on the giants instead of our God, our God becomes small.

But when we look past the giants in our life, and focus on our God, the giants become small.

Focus on your God tonight, and not the crisis in front of you, the trials you are in the midst of are small compared to our God.

Serve Him with a whole heart.

Again we have here a great example for the seasoned saint here tonight, there is no time for rest.

Stay in the fight, your seasoned years can be the best years of service for you, don't stop, until you are face to face with Jesus, when you can hear those wonderful words, "Well done, good and

faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.” That is where our true retirement and rest will be. This life is one of striving and, the Bible clearly lays out for us that our faith in this life will put us into constant conflict, we are too battle, as Christian soldiers.

And speaking to the aged person tonight, when you engage into the service of our King, you like Caleb will inspire others.

We will see here after Judah receives their inheritance, that Caleb’s faith will inspire the next generation.

But before we move on, we see there at the end of chapter 15 a verse that really appeals to our flesh.

The land had rest, after Caleb’s great display.

Please understand that verse in the negative, not the positive.

It is because Israel grew complacent, they will come up way short of all that God wanted them to accomplish.

### **The Land of Judah**

15:1 So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families:

The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward was the extreme southern boundary. 2 And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward. 3 Then it went out to the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed along to Zin, ascended on the south side of Kadesh Barnea, passed along to Hezron, went up to Adar, and went around to Karkaa. 4 From there it passed toward Azmon and went out to the Brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border.

5 The east border was the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan.

And the border on the northern quarter began at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan. 6 The border went up to Beth Hoglah and passed north of Beth Arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. 7 Then the border went up toward Debir from the Valley of Achor, and it turned northward toward Gilgal, which is before the Ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the valley. The border continued toward the waters of En Shemesh and ended at En Rogel. 8 And the border went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern

slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem). The border went up to the top of the mountain that lies before the Valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the Valley of Rephaim northward. 9 Then the border went around from the top of the hill to the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and extended to the cities of Mount Ephron. And the border went around to Baalah (which is Kirjath Jearim). 10 Then the border turned westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, passed along to the side of Mount Jearim on the north (which is Chesalon), went down to Beth Shemesh, and passed on to Timnah. 11 And the border went out to the side of Ekron northward. Then the border went around to Shicron, passed along to Mount Baalah, and extended to Jabneel; and the border ended at the sea.

12 The west border was the coastline of the Great Sea. This is the boundary of the children of Judah all around according to their families.

### **Caleb Occupies Hebron and Debir(Judg 1:11-15)**

13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father

of Anak). 14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak. 15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

16 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife." 17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. 18 Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" 19 She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

So we see here something really neat about Caleb's character, as God has blessed him, he is a distributor of blessing as well.

He was not selfish in his inheritance, and he gives an opportunity to any person courageous enough to take Kirjath Sepher, the chance to receive a portion for themselves, and also they will get his daughter in marriage.

And Caleb, really wanting the best for his daughter, wanting a man of faith and courage to be with her, he puts this test forward.

And Othniel, his nephew is found with the same faith as his uncle.

And Othniel will become a leader in Israel in the book of Judges.

But his courage has landed him a portion of land in the Negeb Desert, it is dry and they would need water to sustain life in their land.

So she humbly approaches her father and asks for a blessing, and springs of water.

And in the same loving way God blessed Caleb, he in turn blesses his daughter and son-in-law with springs so that their land could flourish.

May we too show the same love and grace that God has shown us to others.

Luke 6:37-38.... Forgive, and you will be forgiven.  
38 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."

The Christian life is to be selfless and not selfish.

Phil 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

This is what we are called to do as believers, to live for others and be generous to others.

Now before we move on here, one last thing I would like to mention.

God assured the victory, but Caleb and Othniel understood they had to put in the work of battle.

And we will come back to this concept later on.

But we must join the Lord in His work and we will face opposition and trials, there will be conflict and battles ahead.

But through it all, we are assured victory.

So next, we read...

### **The Cities of Judah**

20 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families:

21 The cities at the limits of the tribe of the children of Judah, toward the border of Edom in the South, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, 22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, 23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, 24

Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, 25 Hazor, Hadattah, Kerieth, Hezron (which is Hazor), 26 Amam, Shema, Moladah, 27 Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, 28 Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Bizjothjah, 29 Baalah, Ijim, Ezem, 30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah, 31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, 32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty-nine, with their villages.

33 In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, 34 Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, 35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, 36 Sharaim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages; 37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, 38 Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, 39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, 40 Cabbon, Lahmas, Kithlish, 41 Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages; 42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan, 43 Jiphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, 44 Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their villages; 45 Ekron, with its towns and villages; 46 from Ekron to the sea, all that lay near Ashdod, with their villages; 47 Ashdod with its towns and villages, Gaza with its towns and villages — as far as the Brook of Egypt and the Great Sea with its coastline.

48 And in the mountain country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, 49 Dannah, Kirjath Sannah (which is

Debir), 50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, 51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven cities with their villages; 52 Arab, Dumah, Eshean, 53 Janum, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, 54 Humtah, Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron), and Zior: nine cities with their villages; 55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, 56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, 57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities with their villages; 58 Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, 59 Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon: six cities with their villages; 60 Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim) and Rabbah: two cities with their villages.

61 In the wilderness: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, 62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi: six cities with their villages.

And in verse 63, we read Judah grew weary in the battle, and came up short...

63 As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

It will not be until many years later that King David will finish the job in Judah's territory.

But they stopped well short, and this will be the tail of Israel from here on out.

They will get lazy, and this will ultimately be their great blunder, as these pockets of heathens will be a constant snare to the children of Israel.

And too many today come up so short of all that God has for them, simply because of laziness and growing weary in the battle.

They seek comfort and ease, and really a majority of the church today, the extent of their Christian walk goes no further than the pew that they sit in each week at church.

And they never come into the fullness of all that God has for their lives.

So, next chapter, we will see inheritance of the sons of Joseph.

### **Ephraim and West Manasseh**

16:1 The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel, 2 then went out from Bethel to Luz, passed along to the border of the Archites at Ataroth, 3 and went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer; and it ended at the sea.

4 So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance.

### The Land of Ephraim

5 The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, was thus: The border of their inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon.

Then you skip down to verse 10, and read the unfortunate words...

6 And the border went out toward the sea on the north side of Michmethath; then the border went around eastward to Taanath Shiloh, and passed by it on the east of Janohah. 7 Then it went down from Janohah to Ataroth and Naarah, reached to Jericho, and came out at the Jordan.

8 The border went out from Tappuah westward to the Brook Kanah, and it ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families. 9 The separate cities for the children of Ephraim were among the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages.

10 And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among

the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.

Once again they come up short...

Next we will see the lot for the rest of the tribe of Manasseh, and for the most part when we read the half tribe, it is speaking to those on the east side, and when it is written the tribe of Manasseh, we are speaking to those on the west side.

### **The Other Half-Tribe of Manasseh (West)**

17:1 There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph: namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan. 2 And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hopher, and the children of Shemida; these were the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families.

3 But Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters. And these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah,

Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 And they came near before Eleazar the priest, before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the rulers, saying, "The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore, according to the commandment of the Lord, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers. 5 Ten shares fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side of the Jordan, 6 because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons; and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.

And here in the midst of these records we have a section that is really revolutionary considering the time it was written.

There was one man, who had five daughters and no sons.

These woman, like Caleb's daughter, boldly approach Eleazar and Joshua and reminded them of what the Lord commanded to Moses about their inheritance.

And Joshua gave them their inheritance.

God was establishing a society far different from the misogynist cultures that dominated Canaan's landscape.

Women were looked at as property, and here God is lifting them to a place of respect and equality among men.

God's Word continually lifts woman up.

The last thing we should notice here, is these woman come on the Authority of God's Word.

The Pentateuch or the first five books of Moses were considered God's Word, and what was written was binding for the nation.

And God's Word should still carry this Authority over the people of God today.

So moving on now we will skip the listing of the borders of Manasseh, you can refer to the map to see all that it entails.

It is a pretty big portion....

Than we pick up the unfortunate narrative once again in verse 12...

7 And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that lies east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah. 8 Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim. 9 And the border descended to the Brook Kanah, southward to the

brook. These cities of Ephraim are among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook; and it ended at the sea.

10 Southward it was Ephraim's, northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea was its border.

Manasseh's territory was adjoining Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. 11 And in Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth Shean and its towns, Ibleam and its towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of En Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns — three hilly regions. 12 Yet the children of

Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. 13 And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

Now we will have an incident recorded here in verses 14-18...

### **More Land for Ephraim and Manasseh**

14 Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us only one lot and

one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the Lord has blessed us until now?"

15 So Joshua answered them, "If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you."

16 But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel."

17 And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph — to Ephraim and Manasseh — saying, "You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot, 18 but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong."

Now the children of Joseph will show an interesting quality here that really was evident in Joseph.

Remember the chosen boy of Jacob, he was given the special colorful coat, and really was spoiled and entitled.

He happily shared his dream with his brothers that they were bowing down to him.

And Jacob would send his golden child to get a report about his brothers.

And you can imagine the other brothers despised their daddy's favorite.

Now Joseph went through a great humbling indeed, and after this humbling he became the second most powerful man in Egypt.

Now, of course, he was a hero to his family, and his two half-Egyptian boys Ephraim and Manasseh were claimed by Jacob.

Jacob gave them their own inheritance.

And throughout scripture we see an entitlement in these two tribes, as though they were owed more for Joseph's greatness.

We will see them in Judges with Gideon acting in arrogance.

And again with Jephthah in Judges chapter 12, they will show their indifference and pride toward Israel's hero.

And also with King David, they will often assert their claim and authority in Israel without any justification.

These tribes were entitled.

So they come to Joshua and demand more land, for which Joshua replies in verse 15, “If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourselves in the land of the giants.

And Joshua turns their argument toward themselves.

There was plenty of room, if they were so mighty, they only need courage and God will bless their endeavors.

And of course they complained to Joshua, and instead of seeing things the way Caleb did, with great faith in a great God, they saw only the obstacles, the chariots of iron.

And Joshua replies, and tells them to stop making excuses, they are more than capable to go, and Joshua explains the work will be worth it.

“Yeah it’s full of trees and giants and chariots but the land will sustain you.”

It is obvious that the decedents of Joseph wanted special treatment here.

After all even, Joshua belonged to the tribe of Ephraim.

But Joshua the great leader refused to show partiality to his brethren.

They were capable of working, and they did not deserve special privileges.

You see as children of God we cannot bypass the work and labor we are called to.

None is privileged or put in enough time to skip out on the work, and to relax from the battle.

We all know these types who come among us wanting privilege, wanting esteem, wanting position, but when asked to join in the menial work, they complain or make excuses.

Church understand the work that we are engaged in is not a 5-year work, it is not a 10-year work, the vision goes beyond us.

And when we can accept this, and embrace that ministry is not about us, it is not about our comfort or convince.

We are challenged to take up our cross, and follow Jesus.

That is laying down your name and honor, for the sake of a greater cause.

We are engaged in an eternal work, one that goes beyond our lifespan.

And our days would be best used in this war torn world, preparing the next generation to take their place in this fight.

There are so many excuse why people do not engage into the work, but the blessings are found in victories of battle.

Too many people coming in and out of churches today are looking for immediate glory and recognition, and when they find it will take labor to get there, all the sudden, the fickle voice of their god is calling them somewhere else.

Be challenged tonight to keep pressing on, don't seek greener pastures, like Caleb find where the battle is hot, and engage your enemy, and watch God use your life greatly.

But understand, there will be seasons of cutting down trees, and laborious work, we cannot bypass the labor.

Ephraim was above the labor part of it all, may we learn from their failure... and humble ourselves to the longsuffering work of the Lord.

We need more work boots in church and far less loafers.

So moving on now...

### The Remainder of the Land Divided

18:1 Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them. 2 But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

3 Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?"

4 Pick out from among you three men for each tribe, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, survey it according to their inheritance, and come back to me. 5 And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north. 6 You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring the survey here to me, that I may

cast lots for you here before the Lord our God. 7 But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the Lord is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave them."

8 Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the Lord in Shiloh." 9 So the men went, passed through the land, and wrote the survey in a book in seven parts by cities; and they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh. 10 Then Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the Lord, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions.

We have now the base of operations move from Gilgal more inland to Shiloh.

This would protect headquarters from military attack, and here at Shiloh the second phase of distribution will take place for the remaining 7 tribes.

And we can see Israel's leader a little bothered here that the people are growing complacent.

He asks them "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which God had already given you."

Joshua's ministry was almost complete, his death was not far off, and remember God called him to distribute the land between the tribes.

So in order for him to finish his ministry, he sends out land surveyors.

Joshua used their information to divide the remaining land into seven portions and he will now give the title deed to each tribe.

But it was only theirs if they had faith enough to collect it.

And once again lots were cast to give the ultimate say in who went where.

Remember God was the sole Owner of the land, and it was His to distribute to whom He wish.

God entrusts them with His land.

This is important to remember in your particular ministries.

Your children's ministry classroom is on loan to you, entrusted to you to bring glory to God.

This church building is on loan to us to be used in the ministry of Jesus.

Our own homes, our vehicles, even these bodies, are all on loan from the Lord to bring glory to Him.

God is the distributor, and some get more than others, and we have to trust God's sovereignty in His decision making.

No matter how little or how much we have, we should use it to honor our God.

So we will finish up with the final tribes allotment now...

### The Land of Benjamin

18:11 Now the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot came out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph. 12

Their border on the north side began at the Jordan, and the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the mountains westward; it ended at the Wilderness of Beth Aven. 13 The border went over from there toward Luz, to the side of Luz (which is Bethel) southward; and the border descended to Ataroth Addar, near the hill that lies on the south side of Lower Beth Horon.

14 Then the border extended around the west side to the south, from the hill that lies before Beth Horon southward; and it ended at Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim), a city of the children of Judah. This was the west side.

15 The south side began at the end of Kirjath Jearim, and the border extended on the west and went out to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

16 Then the border came down to the end of the mountain that lies before the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is in the Valley of the Rephaim on the north, descended to the Valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite city on the south, and descended to En Rogel. 17 And it went around from the north, went out to En Shemesh, and extended toward Geliloth, which is before the Ascent of Adummim, and descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. 18 Then it passed along toward the north side of Arabah, and went down to Arabah. 19 And the border passed along to the north side of Beth Hoglah; then the border ended at the north bay at the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the southern boundary.

20 The Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin,

according to its boundaries all around, according to their families.

21 Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, according to their families, were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, 22 Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, 23 Avim, Parah, Ophrah, 24 Chephar Haammoni, Ophni, and Gaba: twelve cities with their villages; 25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, 26 Mizpah, Chephirah, Mozah, 27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, 28 Zelah, Eleph, Jebus (which is Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kirjath: fourteen cities with their villages. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

### Simeon's Inheritance with Judah

19:1 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah. 2 They had in their inheritance Beersheba (Sheba), Moladah, 3 Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, 5 Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, 6 Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhem: thirteen cities and their villages; 7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan: four cities and their villages; 8 and all the villages that were all around these cities as far as Baalath

Beer, Ramah of the South. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families.

9 The inheritance of the children of Simeon was included in the share of the children of Judah, for the share of the children of Judah was too much for them. Therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of that people.

And Judah gladly shared with Simeon, and eventually they assimilated into the tribe of Judah.

### The Land of Zebulun

10 The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families, and the border of their inheritance was as far as Sarid. 11 Their border went toward the west and to Maralah, went to Dabbasheth, and extended along the brook that is east of Jokneam. 12 Then from Sarid it went eastward toward the sunrise along the border of Chisloth Tabor, and went out toward Daberath, bypassing Japhia. 13 And from there it passed along on the east of Gath Hopher, toward Eth Kazin, and extended to Rimmon, which borders on Neah. 14 Then the border went around it on the north side of Hannathon, and it ended in

the Valley of Jiphthah El. 15 Included were Kattath, Nahallal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities with their villages. 16 This was the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

### The Land of Issachar

17 The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families. 18 And their territory went to Jezreel, and included Chesulloth, Shunem, 19 Haphraim, Shion, Anaharath, 20 Rabbith, Kishion, Abez, 21 Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pазzez. 22 And the border reached to Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh; their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages. 23 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities and their villages.

### The Land of Asher

24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families. 25 And their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph, 26 Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal; it reached to Mount Carmel westward, along the Brook Shihor Libnath. 27 It turned toward the

sunrise to Beth Dagon; and it reached to Zebulun and to the Valley of Jiphthah El, then northward beyond Beth Emek and Neiel, bypassing Cabul which was on the left, 28 including Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon. 29 And the border turned to Ramah and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and ended at the sea by the region of Achzib. 30 Also Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob were included: twenty-two cities with their villages. 31 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.

### **The Land of Naphtali**

32 The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali, for the children of Naphtali according to their families. 33 And their border began at Heleph, enclosing the territory from the terebinth tree in Zaananim, Adami Nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum; it ended at the Jordan. 34 From Heleph the border extended westward to Aznoth Tabor, and went out from there toward Hukkok; it adjoined Zebulun on the south side and Asher on the west side, and ended at Judah by the Jordan toward the sunrise. 35 And the fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth, 36

Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor, 38 Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh: nineteen cities with their villages. 39 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities and their villages.

### The Land of Dan

40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families. 41 And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh, 42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jethlah, 43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron, 44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, 45 Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon, 46 Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the region near Joppa. 47 And the border of the children of Dan went beyond these, because the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem and took it; and they struck it with the edge of the sword, took possession of it, and dwelt in it. They called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father. 48 This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.

We see the tribe of Dan were men of faith as well, and they were able to secure more land because they were willing to fight for it.

Now lastly, we read in 49...

### **Joshua's Inheritance**

49 When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun. 50 According to the word of the Lord they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim; and he built the city and dwelt in it.

51 These were the inheritances which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the Lord, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.

And at the very last, we are told Joshua was given his allotment.

Being the leader that he was, he was last in receiving his portion.

Like Caleb, he desired a mountainous region.

And the work of dividing the land came to a close.

Now, something important to take away from this laborious section of scripture is the need for the people of God to remain faithful in what they are called to do.

Israel's and the church's greatest failure is compromise and complacency.

Each tribe had to join God in the work of taking their portion.

It was theirs they just had to go engage in the battle and take it.

But they were already eating fruit from the land, eating from the crops of the land, they were already doing pretty good, why trouble themselves in more war.

Church, understand each of you here tonight, or listening to this teaching some other way, each of you have a purpose in God's plan of redemption.

There is a special work for each of, you have land before you that God has allotted to you, but you must go up and take it.

Now, in the church, much of the work is done by only a few people.

In every ministry I have ever been around, it is 15%-20% of the people giving and serving in the work of the Lord.

The majority like to eat from the fields, they like to enjoy the fellowship, they like the padding in the pews.

But when they see the work, the battle that needs to take place, they rather watch someone else do it.

I have even heard this in regards to our fellowship here at Victorville.

“I would go to your church, but I know it will be work, and I am comfortable where I am at.”

Understand, we are engaged in the heat of battle, this ministry here is in the heart of giant country.

And Satan hates our efforts and his anger is hot at what is taking place.

Just today, **Convalescent ministry**, demonic activity that was so evident that the whole staff was waiting lined up against the walls cheering as pastor Ron and Pastor Joe came in to pray over the place.

We have youth coming in off the streets curious about what is taking place here.

Our children's ministry is a mission field in itself, and the workers are few.

Our street witnessing team is a faithful remnant that goes out twice a month, and people are getting saved.

They need those of you who are called to be evangelists to join them.

We have a Spanish service starting up in January, and we need workers to assist Jimmy and Veronica in this endeavor as we step out in faith to take more land.

**Luke 10:2 "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**

There is a place for each of you.

We are in the heat of the battle, and if you hear anything out of these seven chapters tonight, is we need to engage, and never let up in the fight.

Once you put up your hands, or call for a time out, our enemy will strike and it will be fierce.

Like we discussed last time, our Christian armor is made to protect our front, facing the battle, once you turn around and let up, you are vulnerable.

Keep fighting, if you are not engaged in the fight, pray tonight and ask God where He wants you, where is your portion, where is your inheritance to take by faith.

Grab a ministry application, and get busy.

Remember the vision is to equip the next generation to continue the fight, and what an opportunity you have in the Children's Ministry to do that.

Some of the most joyful saints I have ever met, have been those serving in Children's Ministry for decades, and I believe that is where the greatest rewards will be issued in heaven for.

The selfless servant who battles and labored over Jesus' most cherished ministry, with the children will be some of the most rewarded in glory.

But remember there is not much glory here, there is not much notoriety in this life, so serve for your reward in the next.

Get some work boots, and get busy for the Lord, Amen?

Next week is Halloween, the elders thought it might be good for me to teach on the pagan origins of the holiday.

Many Christians today are unaware, and kind of blindly participate with the festivities.

I encourage you to come out next Wednesday, to church, and be informed about that day, and pray about how your family should approach it.

**Let's pray...**

These men are up here to pray for you tonight, please come up and be ministered too.