

Joshua: Week 3

The Promised Land Distributed & Covenant Renewed: Joshua 13-24

Day 1

1. Read **Joshua 13-15**.
2. Chapter 13 begins by God telling Joshua that he was old (perhaps around 85, if he is about the age of his fellow spy, Caleb; cf. 14:10) and that there was still lots of land to possess. God lists the land still to be possessed and promises to do what in 13:6? What was Joshua's responsibility?
3. The rest of chapter 13 recounts Moses' giving land east of the Jordan to 2 ½ tribes—Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh. A few historical details are given, including King Sihon's defeat by Moses as well as the death of Balaam, Israel's enemy whom we find out here also practiced divination. Levi, however, is mentioned as having no inheritance. What was their inheritance? (vv 14, 33; cf. Num 18:21-32)
4. Verse 13 points out Israel's failure to do what (see also the failure in 15:63 with Jerbus/Jerusalem)? What are the implications of this failure? (cf. Deut 20:16; Judges 1-2ff)

5. Chapter 14 introduces the land distribution to the west of the Jordan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua, and the heads of the houses of the tribes gave out by lot according to the Lord's command. The text explains why 9 ½ tribes get this land: 2 ½ had already received theirs in the East, and the Levites received no land inheritance (just cities with pasturelands). The reason there were still 12 tribes receiving inheritances was that Joseph had been divided into 2—Manasseh and Ephraim.
6. Josh 14:6-15 points to Caleb as an example of claiming the land God had promised through faith. Caleb—now 85—reminded Joshua that they had been the only 2 spies of Moses in Canaan who had not feared the Canaanites. While the others made Israel's hearts melt with fear, what description is given of Caleb (three times)?
7. For his obedience, Moses had promised him land. The land he received was Hebron, the land of the Anakim. These Anakim were the sons of Anak, the very same people who caused the other 10 spies to give a bad report of the land and terrify Israel with their great strength and height (cf. Num 13:21-33). According to Josh 14:12, Caleb's faith enabled him to plan on what?
8. Chapter 15 describes the allotment of land given to Judah. The first 12 verses describe the borders of Judah's land, bordered on the east by the Dead Sea and the west by the Mediterranean Sea. Its southern border reached down toward the Wadi of Egypt and its northern border neighbored Benjamin's southern border, near Jebus (Jerusalem). Again, Caleb is inserted into the story, illustrating what faith in God's promise of land results in. According to verse 14, what did he do?
9. Although the listing of cities is somewhat boring to modern-day readers unfamiliar with the land itself, what does this detailed list of cities that Judah claimed tell us about God and his promises?

Day 2

1. Read **Joshua 16-19**.
2. Chapters 16-17 describe Joseph's allotment. The tribe of Joseph received one lot, and its land was divided between Ephraim and Manasseh. 16:5-10 describe Ephraim's allotment; what is noted about the Canaanites living in Gezer?
3. Chapter 17 describes Manasseh's allotment. Manasseh's son Machir received land, along with the descendants of Machir's son, Gilead. Machir's great-grandson Zelophehad, son of Hopher, had only 5 daughters. They approached Eleazer, Joshua, and the leaders to remind them of what? What was the result?
4. Joseph's tribe complained that they received only one portion, though they were blessed (probably referring to Jacob's giving Joseph a double portion by blessing both Ephraim and Manasseh; cf. Gen 48). Joshua told them that they—with their large numbers then—could easily clear ground in the forest to have more land. Joseph still complained that it wasn't enough and that the Canaanites have iron chariots. Again, Joshua (somewhat patronizingly it seems) reminded them of their large numbers and said they could still clear the forests and drive out the Canaanites though they were strong. How does the tribe of Joseph's lack of faith and motivation here contrast with that of Caleb's in 14:6-15?

Day 3

1. Read **Joshua 20-22**.
2. Chapter 20 records the cities that were to be set aside as cities of refuge. Now that the land had been divided, the matter of justice in that land and a place of refuge is appropriate. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? Summarize what happened when one fled to a city of refuge.
3. Several times throughout Joshua, the Levites are said to have received no inheritance, because their inheritance was to serve the Lord. Here in chapter 21, what did the Levites remind Joshua, Eleazer, and the elders concerning what Moses had promised them?
4. The Levites were given 48 cities with pastureland scattered throughout all the tribes to live in (not possess), including all 6 of the cities of refuge. Joshua 21:43-45 (one of the key passages to understanding the purpose of the book of Joshua) concludes these chapters regarding land distribution with what reflection regarding the Lord and his promises?

Day 4

1. Read **Joshua 23**.
2. The reminder of God's promises/fulfillments and exhortations in the first half of chapter one, along with the same in these last two chapters of Joshua form fitting "bookends" that highlight the purpose and theme of the book. The focus in chapter 23 is a repeated call to obedience to the covenant. When did Joshua speak this exhortation to the people, according to verses 1-2?
3. What had they seen God do for them (vv 3-4)? What would God still do for them (v 5)?
4. What should be Israel's response to God's fulfilled and future promises (vv 6-8)?
5. Again, in verses 9-10 God's miraculous fighting for Israel is recounted, and verse 11 again exhorts Israel to be very careful to love the Lord. What warning do verses 12-13 give if Israel clings to the Canaanites instead of the Lord?

5. Because God had done all this, Joshua calls on the people to respond how? What were they to choose, as exemplified by Joshua's own declaration?

6. How did the people respond to Joshua's call to covenant obedience?

7. Joshua then reminded the people of the seriousness of their commitment to serve the Lord. What characteristics of God did Joshua point out, with a reminder that God will punish them if they turn from him?

