


Joshua 18–24

Day 1

Division of the Land. Read Joshua 18–19

1. What significance did Shiloh have at this point in time (18:1,10)?
 2. What attitude did the remaining seven tribes have about receiving their inheritance (18:2–3)?
(Divisions: Benjamin 18:11–28, Simeon 19:1–9, Zebulun 19:10–16, Issachar 19:17–23, Asher 19:24–31, Naphtali 19:32–39, Dan 19:40–48.)
 - What do you think was making them procrastinate?
 - How would you say their attitude compared to Caleb (14:12) and Zelophehad's daughters (17:4)?
 3. From Exodus 23:27–30, how had God said he would drive out the inhabitants of the land?
 4. What was Joshua's plan for dividing the remaining land (18:4–10)?
 - Which tribes were not included (18:7)?
 5. How many cities did each tribe receive? What picture does that give you of the extent of the land conquered.
 - Benjamin 18:28:
 - Zebulun 19:15:
 - Issachar 19:22:
 - Asher 19:30:
 - Naphtali 19:38:
 6. Where were Simeon's cities located (19:1)? Why was Simeon's lot scattered? See Genesis 49:5–7. (Genesis 34 describes the event that brought shame on this tribe, especially 34:25–29.)
- Interactive Map:** "Tribal Allotments of Israel" <https://ibiblemaps.com/tribal-allotments-of-israel-2/>
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7. Read Exodus 32:26–29. Although Levi had also been involved in the sin with Simeon, why were his descendants blessed even though their cities (Joshua 21) were scattered too?

8. What trouble did the tribe of Dan encounter (19:47)? (Read different translations.) What happened later? Judges 18:1
9. Sadly, what is said later in Judges 1:21,27–33 about their determination to inherit the land?

FYI: “**Utley...** "Dan's original allocation was in the Philistine area. They chose to move instead of trusting YHWH to help them take their land.'”

Gangel – ‘the Danites engaged in geographical apostasy, migrating northward and settling where they were not placed. The town they captured and renamed lay in the northeastern territory of Naphtali southeast of Mount Hermon.’ – Preceptaustin.org “Joshua 19 Commentary”
<https://www.preceptaustin.org/joshua-19-commentary#19:47>

10. What does the New Testament say about the trust we have been given?
- Luke 16:10 “The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much.
 - 1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful
 - 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.
11. Who received their inheritance last and how was it chosen? 19:49–50

FYI: “The one who is the leader and gives the first of the plots to Caleb and then distributes the plots to the remaining nine and a half tribes is willing to receive his own inheritance last! What a mark of a great leader.” – Robert Smith Jr. (198)

- ✂ **Applying the Word:** Is there something that you know the Lord wants you do to that you are procrastinating about? Who would benefit from you doing it? What do you think is holding you back? (fear, busyness, laziness, distractions...) What first step can you take to start moving forward?

Day 2

Cities of Refuge and Cities of Levites. Joshua 20–21

12. What purpose did the cities of refuge serve (20:1–3)? For examples of accidental or unintentional murder, see Numbers 35:22–23. Numbers 35:6–34 includes instructions about these cities.
13. How did a person receive refuge (20:4)?

14. What protection was provided for the manslayer (20:5)?

- What was the length of a person's stay (20:6)?

15. How accessible were these cities to be? See Deuteronomy 19:2–3 and Numbers 35:14.

| **Interactive Map:** "Cities of Refuge" <https://ibiblemaps.com/cities-of-refuge/>



16. From Numbers 35:26–27, what could happen if the accused person left a city of refuge?

17. What was to be done if a guilty person (one who committed murder versus manslaughter) fled to one of these cities of refuge? See Numbers 35:29–34 and Deuteronomy 19:11–13.

| **FYI:** "Israel had a sophisticated legal system, with judgments often based on intent and premeditation."
– David Guzik

18. What kind of justice do you see being provided for both the manslayer and the victim's family in these laws about cities of refuge?

- From these laws, what value do you see being put on a person's life? (Compare Gen. 9:5–6)
- How do you think our laws compare to this?

Cities of the Levites

19. What had the Levites been promised? 21:2 Compare Numbers 35:1–5 (Crossref. Joshua 13:14.)

20. The tribes gave on average four cities apiece but some gave more and some less (21:3–8). Why? Numbers 35:8

- How were the cities chosen? 21:8

21. How many cities were given to the Levites (21:41)? From Numbers 35:6, what special cities were included in the list

22. Underline the duties of the Levites given in the following verses.

- Numbers 3:5–8 The LORD said to Moses, ⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷ They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. NIV
- Deuteronomy 17:8–10 If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge—whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults—take them to the place the LORD your God will choose. ⁹ Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict. ¹⁰ You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they direct you to do. NIV
- 2 Chronicles 35:3 He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the LORD. NIV

23. Considering these duties, how would scattering the Levite cities throughout the land be beneficial?

FYI: For the difference between the duties of the Priests (who were from the tribe of Levi) and the Levites, see Numbers 18:1–7 All priests were from the tribe of Levi, but not all Levites were priests.

24. In conclusion, what was said about:

- The land: 21:43
- Enemies in the land: 21:44
- God's word: 21:45

FYI: "God was completely faithful in regard to the land, but Israel was not. Any failure to fully possess was not because God had not made adequate provision, but because Israel had failed to fully follow the LORD.
...God has been completely faithful to you and made provision for continual victory. He has given you great things, but what do you possess? 'In the light of the Cross, is it not true that the enemy has no right to dwell in the land? Is it not true that Satan's claim to your life was taken from him at Calvary? Is it not true that sin has no right to a foothold in the life of the child of God? ... Is it not true that in the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit there is strength for every temptation, grace for every trial, power to overcome every difficulty?' (Alan Redpath)"
– David Guzik

25. Read through the verses at the end of this lesson and mark meaningful things about Christ's strength and life in you.

✂ Applying the Word: What do you find most interesting about the organization of the land and/or the system of government God set up? What does it teach you about God?

Day 3

Eastern Tribes Return. Read Joshua 22

26. For what did Joshua praise the eastern tribes? 22:2–3

27. As Joshua sent the tribes to their lands, what commands did he give them (22:4–5)?
 - Which of these commands did Jesus emphasize in Matthew 22:34–38?

28. What was different about Manasseh's inheritance (22:7)?

29. With what types of spoils did the eastern tribes return? 22:8

30. What did the sons of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh do before they left? 22:10–11
 - How did the people react (22:12)?

 - How did they interpret this act by the eastern tribes (22:16)?

31. Who went as representatives? 22:13–14
 - What was commendable about the steps they took in confronting the tribes in 22:13–16?

32. What consequences were they concerned about (22:17–18,20)? See Deuteronomy 28:15.
 - What loving, but not compromising, solution was offered? 22:19

 - What instructions had Moses given in Deuteronomy 13:12–15? How well had the sons of Israel followed through on these instructions (especially Deuteronomy 13:14)?

33. In reply, how did the Reubenites, Gadites and half tribe of Manasseh respond to the accusations (22:22–23)?

34. For what purpose did they say they built the altar? 22:24–27

- What did they want the altar to represent? 22:28

FYI: “Because the two and one-half tribes did not succumb to insulted pride and sullenly refuse to speak with their accusers, the way remained open for a fair hearing of their defense, which was given in perfect clarity (verses 24,25).”
– R Kent Hughes 143

35. What did they deny (22:29)? Why was that so important? See Leviticus 17:8–9.

- To what did the sacrifices at the tent of meeting (and later the temple) point? See Hebrews 10:1,10–12 and Matthew 27:51.

36. How well was their explanation received? 22:30

- Of what were the tribes assured? 22:31

37. What did the altar become? 22:34

38. Why do you think the Lord devoted a whole chapter in scripture to this incident? Why was this incident and the attitudes of the tribes so crucial?

✂ Applying the Word: How do you usually respond when falsely accused? What principles about confrontation do you take away from this account?

Day 4

Joshua's Farewell. Joshua 23–24

39. To whom did Joshua make his farewell address (23:1)?

40. Summarize the reminders, assurances and instructions that Joshua gave in his address to the people.

- 23:3
- 23:4
- 23:5
- 23:6
- 23:7 (Crossref. 1:7)
- 23:8
- 23:9–10
- 23:11 (Compare John 14:21,24.)

FYI: “Bowing to the authority of God’s Word and obeying it will keep our heads and hearts right. A mind filled with God’s Word can critically evaluate the secular society which surrounds it and resist assimilation. A mind filled with God’s Word will be a mind of wisdom. Thus, one of the vital signs of spiritual life is a regard for God’s Word.”
– R. Kent Hughes (162)

41. What warning did Joshua give the people (23:12–13)?

42. What did the people know in their hearts about God (23:14)? How accountable did this make them?

- What long-range consequences would the people face if they turned away from the Lord (23:15–16)?

The Covenant at Shechem

43. Where did Joshua assemble the people (24:1)? What other time had the people presented themselves before God? See Exodus 19:17.

Digging Deeper

For significant events at Shechem see: Genesis 12:6–7; 33:18–20; 35:4, and Joshua 8:30–35

44. As Joshua reviewed the nation’s history, what did he say God had done for Israel? Note the events that would many of them may have personally witnessed.

- 24:3–4
- 24:5–7
- 24:8

- 24:9–10
- 24:11
- 24:12–13

45. What decisions were the people asked to make in view of everything the Lord's had done for them (24:14–15)? See also 24:23. How did having seen these things with their "own eyes" (24:7,17) make this decision even more binding?
- What did Jesus say about the choice to believe or reject Him? See Matthew 12:20 and Mark 9:40. Why is there no middle ground?
46. What unequivocal declaration of faith did Joshua make (24:15b)? How did Joshua's life testify to the sincerity of this statement? Can you think of other great men of the Bible who started strong and finished strong? Can you think of some who did not?

FYI: "Joshua...had lived a life that continuously chose to **serve the LORD**.

- Joshua *chose* to fight against the Amalekites – choosing when it might have cost everything.
- Joshua *chose* to reject the golden calf – choosing when the flesh might have been satisfied.
- Joshua *chose* to serve the Lord by serving Moses – choosing a humble place.
- Joshua *chose* to believe God's promise about the Promised Land – choosing against the majority...
- Joshua *chose* to take leadership of Israel and lead them into the land – choosing faith instead of unbelief."

– David Guzik

47. What decision did the people make and why (24:16–18)?
- How did Joshua press them about this decision (24:19–20)? What experiences from Joshua's past would make him question their sincerity?
48. How did the people react to Joshua's reminders (24:21,24)?
- What weight did their words carry (24:22)?
49. What command did Joshua give again (24:23)? What does this reveal about a weakness/temptation they were facing?

50. How was the decision by the people confirmed and memorialized (24:25–27)? What other stones of remembrance had Joshua erected? See Joshua 4:1–7 and 8:30–32.
51. How well did the people follow through on their commitment (24:31)? What was a major factor in their obedience?
52. What happened with later generations?
- 2 Chronicles 36:15–16

 - 2 Kings 21:1,8–9,14–16
53. With what interesting information does the book of Joshua end (24:32)?
- Why was that significant? See Genesis 50:24–25 and Hebrews 11:22.
54. What happened to the leadership of the nation (24:29–30,33) at the close of the book of Joshua?
- ✎ Applying the Word:** What memories of God’s goodness in your life encourage you to trust in Him?

What choice(s) are you facing today to walk with the Lord and not turn aside?

A Believer's Identity in Christ

You are helped and strengthened and protected

Romans 8:26–27 In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. NIV

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. NIV

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. NIV

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV

Hebrews 4:15–16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. NIV

Hebrews 13:5–6 ...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NIV

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. NIV

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. NIV

2 Peter 1:3–4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

1 John 4:4b ...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. NASU

1 John 5:18...the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. NIV

All your needs are met

Romans 8:31–32 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? NASU

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. NIV

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. NIV

You have God's spirit within you

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? NIV

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." NIV

Ephesians 1:13–14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. NIV

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. NIV

You have been given victory in Christ

Romans 8:37–39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

Jude 24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy- NIV

God works in you

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. NIV

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. NIV

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, NIV

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. NIV

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV

You have Christ's life in you

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me. NAS

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. NIV

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. NIV

1 John 4:15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. NIV

You are eternally safe

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. NIV

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. NIV

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

2 Timothy 1:12b ...Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. NIV