

The Book Of **JOSHUA**

JOSHUA ASSIGNS THE LAND WEST OF JORDAN *Joshua 16:1-10; 17:1-18; 18:1-28; 19:1-51*

Introduction

The book of Joshua is

- A book of new beginnings - New leader, new generation, new country, new direction
- A book of old promises fulfilled - Long held promises are being fulfilled before their eyes

The Lord God had spoken to Abraham

Genesis 12:7

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."

Now, over 600 years later, that promise is coming to pass

- Joshua has led the children of Israel into the promised land
- Through a series of three military campaigns, the land is taken (pockets of resistance)

After seven years of conflict

- The land is being divided
- The tribes of Israel are receiving the inheritance promised to them in Abraham

2091BC	Abraham Promised the Land
1399BC	Joshua Invades the Land
1406BC	Joshua Divides the Land

This is a time of great excitement for Israel

- They are seeing the word of God being fulfilled before their eyes
- This should be a time of inspiration, a time when faith rises, a time of wholehearted devotion

Instead, what we begin to see is

- Compromise
- Faith diminishing
- Devotion being replaced by selfishness
- Men operating in their own strength instead of relying on God

By the time we reach the book of Judges

- Apathy turns into apostasy
- Then in Samuel we see the arrival of the king

Biblically and prophetically today is a time of great excitement

- It would be presumptuous to say we are seeing the word of God being fulfilled before our eyes
- There are many signs indicating the long-held promise of Jesus Christ's return is not far away
- Like Israel, this should be a time of inspiration, a time when faith rises, a time of wholehearted devotion

Like Israel, what are we seeing in the church?

- Compromise (with the world)
- Faith diminishing (church attendance in decline)
- Devotion being replaced by selfishness
- Men operating in their own strength instead of relying on God

Like Israel

- Apathy turns into apostasy (Judges)
- Followed by the arrival of the king (Samuel)
- The Bible foretells of a Great Apostasy at the end of the church age

- Followed by the return of the King, namely Jesus Christ

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Joseph

Joshua 16-17

The Regional Boundaries

Joshua 16:1-4

The Order Of Division

The land east of the Jordan had been taken by

- The tribe of Gad
- The tribe of Reuben
- The half-tribe of Manasseh (percentage)

The remaining tribes would now receive their allotment west of the Jordan

The rights of the firstborn had been taken from Reuben

- And passed to Judah, Joseph and Levi
- Judah, having pre-eminence (the nation leader, the king), was given the first allotment
- Joseph, having the double portion, was given the second allotment
- Levi, having the priesthood, would not receive an allotment (although cities would be granted)

The regional boundaries are defined **Joshua 16:1-4**

The Lot Is Cast

The lot fell to the children of Joseph...

The lot put the decision into the hand of God

- So, no man could complain against another man
- Civil dispute and war would be avoided

The lot put the decision into the hand of God

- The dice was loaded
- The Lord had a plan for which tribe received which land

The Lord has a plan for our lives

- You might be dissatisfied with your allotment in life
- I don't like my body, my life, my gifts, the hand I've been dealt
- God doesn't want to hear it

Parable of the Talents

- Will you be faithful in serving God with what you have?
- Will you bury your talents and live for yourself?

Adopted & Heirs

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

Jacob, at the end of his life, adopted Joseph's sons **Genesis 48**

- So, Jacob's two grandsons, became his sons
- Thus, they came into a physical and spiritual inheritance

Like Joseph's grandsons, we are not natural heirs of God:

- But have been adopted
- And have a physical and spiritual inheritance
- Physical - A place in the millennial kingdom
- Spiritual - A be restored to the image of God (image of Jesus)

The Regional Division of Ephraim (By Clan)

Joshua 16:5-10

Ephraim's Pre-eminence

Manasseh was Joseph's first born

- The firstborn traditionally should be pre-eminent (i.e. Manasseh should have first allotment)
- Yet, Ephraim is given the first allotment (i.e. he is treated as pre-eminent)

The reason for this:

- This dates back to the time of Jacob's blessing of his sons
- **Genesis 48-49**

When Jacob pronounced a blessing on Joseph's two sons

- He should have put his right hand on the firstborn, Manasseh
- The left hand of Ephraim, the second born

Genesis 48:17-20

Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father, "not so, my father, for this one I the first born; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall be come a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations....And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh."

Two censuses were made of Israel

1. Start of wilderness wanderings After the Exodus
2. End of wilderness wanderings Before entering the promised land

At the second count, Manasseh was more numerous than Ephraim

- Ephraim would grow to become the greater tribe
- In number and prominence

When the kingdom divided under Rehoboam

- Southern Kingdom - Judah
- Northern Kingdom - Ephraim

The Second Birth

Repeatedly in scripture, we see the act of

- Dismissing the first-born
- Blessing the second-born

- Abel was favoured over Cain
- Isaac was favoured over Ishmael
- Jacob was favoured over Esau
- Ephraim was favoured over Manasseh

This is because God blesses the second birth

If you want the blessing of God in your life

- You must be born again
- You must have a second birth

The Canaanites In Gezer

And they did not drive out the Canaanites...

The Canaanites were not driven out or killed

- They were allowed to remain
- They become forced labourers

If you can subdue a people well enough to become your forced labourers

You can subdue a people well enough to drive them out or kill them

The Ephraimite Compromise

What we see in Ephraim is compromise

- Instead of full obedience
- Instead of pressing into the full inheritance

They think,

- “We can manage our enemies.”
- “We can use for financial gain”
- “We can use them to help us live at ease”

Ephraim fell foul to this sin of covetousness

- Instead of slaying the enemy
- The idols of money and pleasure crept in

The Ephraimite Christian

The Christian needs to guard against compromise

- Thinking they can manage the sinful habits in their lives
- Allowing the love of money and ease to take a foothold

The enemy may be subdued now

- But he will rise up, deceive you and contaminate you

Ephraim grew to be the dominant tribe of the north

- But the influence of the Canaanite grew with them
- Until the northern kingdom of Israel was awash with idolatry
- God’s judgement eventually fell

Don’t compromise with sin in your life

The Regional Division of Manasseh (By Clan)

Joshua 17:1-13

Eastern Allotment

Joshua 17:1

A repeat of the allotment given east of the Jordan

- Machir had distinguished himself in war (so was awarded a territory)
- Machir did not distinguish himself in his choice

for he was the first-born of Joseph

- Matthew Henry (quoting Bishop Patrick)
- Thinks this would be better rendered
- *though he was the first-born of Joseph*

Western Allotment

Joshua 17:2-13

The Daughters of Zelophehad

Joshua 17:3-4

Although the allotment is given to the children of Manasseh

- Land was awarded to the male descendants only (the sons of Israel)
- The daughters of Israel would not inherit land

In an agricultural economy, land was the means of gaining an income

- The men would own the land / work the land
- And support their wives through the produce of the land

Zelophehad had five daughters (and no sons)

- Thus, ran the risk of losing an inheritance in the land
- But, the daughters made sure they did not miss out
- And, their father’s name was perpetuated

Numbers 27:1-4

Then came the daughters of Zelophehad...they stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, and before the leaders and all the congregation, by the doorway of the tabernacle of meeting, saying, "Our father died in the wilderness; but he was not in the company of those who gathered together against the Lord, in company with Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he has no son. Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Therefore give us a possession among the brothers of our father."

Moses brought the matter before the Lord

- The Lord spoke and said the daughters were right
- So land was promised
- Here land is granted in fulfilment of that promise

These daughters did not compromise (like their brothers)

- They stood on the word of God
- They got their full inheritance

These are single women

- They did not compromise
- They did not settle for second best
- They waited for God's best in their lives

Single women

- Don't compromise
- Wait for God's best
- It's hard but it's worth it

The Canaanites In The Cities

Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities...

Again we see the same compromise and weakness in Manasseh that we saw in Ephraim

- The text says, they "could not"
- This is self-delusion – a denial of the promise and power of God
- It's amazing how easy it is to persuade ourselves our sin problem, our Canaanite
- Is too big: "I can't stop/do it!"

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

If you are struggling with an area in your life

- It is easy to dismiss that verse as 'trite'
- But so often we struggle because, we are trying to do all things though me / self

Manasseh wanted to live at ease

- They'd done fighting
- Let's get some forced labour
- Let's leave those cities occupied

but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land

Sin is determined to dwell in your life

- If you allow it to have a place in your life
- You will never become who you are intended to be in Christ

At this stage Israel has asserted itself over the Canaanites

- But in the book of Judges we will see the roles would be reversed
- Israel would be raided and oppressed by the enemies they left undealt with

Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Question: What about the person in Christ?

2 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakes of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We are not inheriting a new land

- We are inheriting a new nature
- The image of Christ in our lives

This is achieved by dying to the old nature

- So that the new nature can come forth
- That old nature is the Canaanite

The means is at our disposal

Is the will in our hearts?

The Regional Dispute

Joshua 17:14-18

Joseph's 1st Complaint

Nevertheless, we move on

- The two half-tribes of Joseph aren't happy with their lot
- They wanted more land, more territory than they had been given

Why have you given us but one lot and one portion to inherit?

- It's as if they are taking this as a personal slight from Joshua
- They're forgetting it was the Lord that allotted the land, not Joshua

If they had an issue, why not bring it to the Lord?

- This shows us they're operating in the flesh

Why bring the matter to Joshua only, why not Eleazer the High Priest also?

- Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim
- So perhaps they thought they could get special treatment

What we are seeing is

- A hint of manipulation
- An air of entitlement
- A dose of pride (*since we are a great people*)

Ephraim are notorious for being a problematic tribe

The create problems for

- Joshua **Joshua 17:14-18**
- Gideon **Judges 8:1-3**
- Jephthah **Judges 12:1-7**
- David **2 Samuel 20:1-5**

Joshua Confronts

Joshua's not having any of it – he speaks to them in a direct way

- If you are such a great people do something about it!
- Use your manpower to clear the forests on the mountain
- Get rid of the Perizzites and the giants

Giants always seem to live on mountains

- Caleb killed three giants in Hebron – located in the mountains
- Joshua says be like Caleb!
- Caleb toward the fight – Joseph is backing away

Joseph's 2nd Complaint

They come back to him with a further objection

- The mountain territory is not enough
- But the valley has Canaanites – and they have chariots of iron

It's a wonder Joshua could stomach their bellyaching!

Benjamin Franklin (Founding father of the USA)

He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

How different is their attitude to that of Caleb?

- They wanted easy land – no work, no effort
- Instead of taking God's promises and going out to take what God had given them

You see this type of Christian in churches

- They want the status and the position
- But they don't want the crucified life
- They want the recognition and the role
- But they don't want the trials and afflictions that God appoints to train them, for such a role

Joshua Confronts Again

Joshua must be sick of the lack of fight he sees in his tribesman

- He says, "*You are a great people and you have great power;*"
- He says, "*you shall drive out the Canaanites.*"

Take what God has given you and use it, and God will make room for you.

That is true for the Christian

- Don't complain about how much less you have than your neighbour
- Take what God has given you and use it
- God will make room for you

- James took his gift and used it – God made room for it
- Isaac took his gift and used it – God made room for it

What has God given you?

The Allotment For The Seven Remaining Tribes

Joshua 18-19

The National Capital & Survey

Joshua 18:1-10

Shiloh

At this point

- Five tribes have received their allotment
- Seven tribes remain without allotments

The allotments to date have been given from Gilgal

- Gilgal has been the headquarters for the Israelites
- It is where the seven year military campaign launched
- It is where the tabernacle of the Lord has resided

Joshua now moves the tabernacle to Shiloh

- Shiloh, sited in the territory of Ephraim
- In effect becomes the national capital
- Until King David captures Jerusalem and moves the tabernacle there

Shiloh is a more central location

- Making it easier for all of Israel to travel to worship the Lord

- Making the three pilgrimage feasts easier to observe

The Seven

These seven tribes have less faith and zeal to claim their inheritance

- Caleb was swift to claim what was his
- The daughters of Zelophehad were not slow in coming forward
- These tribes are happy to loiter around Gilgal and now Shiloh
- They were like those at the tower of Babel – reluctant to disperse

Proverbs 12:27

The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.

Joshua challenges these seven tribes

How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?

- These are slackers
- They lack the, 'get up and go'
- They are reactive instead of proactive
- They are slow to appropriate what God has given them

Illustration

Matt (Being called as a Pastor)

Raymond (outreach)

The Survey

Three men from each of the seven tribes are chosen

- The 21 men are despatched to make a survey of the land
- Looking for natural boundaries
- A fair distribution of land and resources
- The seven parts which are determined will be put into one pile/pot
- The names of the seven remaining tribes will be put into another pile/pot
- A selection will be taken from each pile and the lot will be cast

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Benjamin

Joshua 18:11-28

Benjamin was the full brother of Joseph

- He was assigned territory next to him

His territory was in the region of the first fruits of the land taken by Israel

- It included, Gilgal, Jericho and Ai
- It included, Jerusalem (which was previously in Judah)

When Moses blessed the children of Israel, he said of Benjamin:

Deuteronomy 33:12

The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all day long and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

How wonderful to

- Be called, "beloved of the Lord"
- "Dwell in safety by Him"

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Simeon

Joshua 19:1-9

Simeon's allotment was within the boundaries of Judah

- Judah had more territory than it could occupy

Jacob pronounced a blessing over Simeon and Levi jointly

Genesis 49:7

I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

- Levi we know will be scattered throughout the land in cities that will be assigned them
- Simeon will slowly be absorbed into Judah and Israel and lose its identity

Contrast Judah with Joseph

- Joseph complains about wanting more
- Judah is silent about having to give away

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Zebulun

Joshua 19:10-16

There appears to have been two places with the name Bethlehem

- The one in Judah, near Jerusalem
- The one in Zebulun, near the Galilee

Zebulun is mentioned in **Isaiah 9**

- The prophecy of the Messiah
- *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; **Isaiah 9:6***
- It indicates the Messiah will herald from this location
- **Matthew 4** points to this prophecy being fulfilled by Jesus

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Issachar

Joshua 19:17-23

Issachar's allotment included Jezreel

- This is an important farming region
- When Jacob and blessed Issachar, he said he would inherit an agricultural land **Genesis 49:14-15**

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Asher

Joshua 19:24-31

Anna, the prophetess came from Asher

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Naphtali

Joshua 19:32-39

Much of Jesus ministry was in the region of Naphtali

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Dan

Joshua 19:40-48

Dan is the last tribe to receive its allotment

- Neighbouring the Mediterranean
- Including the port of Joppa

We read they later went north to a place called Lashem (Laish)

- They struck the people of that area
- Established a second territory
- **Judges 18**

This is not the tribe of Dan acting in faith and pressing into the land

- This is a people who are not satisfied with God's provision
- So they move out in their own strength to get what they want

They went outside the parameters of what God had given them

- This illustrates a stubborn heart
- This reveals an idolatrous heart

The first act after taking their second territory

Judges 18:28-31

The Danites rebuilt the city and settled there. They named it Dan after their ancestor Dan, who was born to Israel—though the city used to be called Laish. There the Danites set up for themselves the idol, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land. They continued to use the idol Micah had made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh.

When the nation of Israel split

- Jeroboam established a golden calf in the territory of Dan
- So there sin, idolatry increased
- Other tribes gathered to them to partake in their sin

We can be an influence for God

- Or we can be an influence for evil
- But don't deny you are an influence

Submit your heart to God

- Trust in his provision
- Don't deceive yourself that you deserve more or need more than what God has given you

The person who says, I know God says, but

- Is the person who is walking in the ways of Dan

The person who says, I know the Bible says, but

- Is the person who is walking in the ways of Dan

Don't be that person.

The Inheritance of Joshua

Joshua 19:49-51

Caleb and Joshua were the two faithful spies

- Caleb received his inheritance first
- Joshua received his inheritance last

Joshua chose to live in the mountains

- The mountains of Ephraim is where his countrymen were afraid to go
- They didn't want to fight the giants

Like his friend, his spiritual equal and fellow spy Caleb

- Joshua led by example
- He fought the giants in his life
- And gained a full inheritance