

The Book Of JOSHUA

JOSHUA'S CALL TO POSSESS THE LAND *Joshua 19:1-51*

The Call To Possess

Joshua 18:1-6

The Call To Israel

There is an inheritance for the children of Israel

The question is asked: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your father has given you?" **Joshua 18:3**

These seven tribes lack the faith and zeal to possess it

- Caleb fought to possess Hebron
- Othniel fought to possess Debir
- The daughters of Zelophehad fought to possess their part of Mannasseh
- These tribes are reluctant to possess anything
- They are slackers

Joshua makes it clear: There is an inheritance ripe for the taking, but

1. It needs to be surveyed **Joshua 18:4**
2. It needs to be divided **Joshua 18:5**
3. It needs to be possessed **Joshua 18:3**
i.e. to occupy (by driving out previous tenants, and possessing in their place) literally to seize or rob

The Call To The Church

We have an inheritance in Christ

1. It needs to be surveyed - Seen
2. It needs to be divided - Sought
3. It needs to be possessed - Seized

The possession of our inheritance

- Requires effort, we need to seize, rob and occupy (to take by force)
- There are giants and Canaanites which stopping from coming into our inheritance

Survey

This is where the inheritance is **seen**

Question: Where does the believer carry out a survey of their inheritance?

Question: Where does the believer learn about their inheritance?

Answer: The Word of God / Bible

As we read Scripture

- We become alerted to what should be ours in Christ
- Oh, I should peace that passes understanding
- Oh, I should have no unclean speech
- Oh, I should have a blessed hope

Divided

This is where the inheritance is **sought**

- Caleb wanted his inheritance - he sought it
- Judah wanted their inheritance - they sought it
- Ephraim & Manasseh wanted their inheritance - they sought it

The failing of the seven remaining tribes is they did not seek their inheritance (neglectful)

Joshua 18:2-3

But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. 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 father has given you?"

Question: How does the believer seek their inheritance?

Answer: Having seen it in the Word of God; they seek it in their heart

As we become alerted to what should be ours in Christ, we say

- I want that peace that passes understanding
- I want to have no unclean speech
- I want to have that blessed hope

If we are truly born again

- We will want what the Lord has for us
- We will want a godly life

Possessed

This is where the inheritance is **seized**

Caleb wanted the mountains of Hebron

- The only problem was it was occupied by the sons of Anak – giants
- But that did not stop him, he seized his inheritance:

Joshua 15:14

Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there

If we want to possess our inheritance in Christ

- We must seize it
- We must drive out the present occupants
- It is currently occupied by giants and Canaanites

Question: What do I mean our inheritance is occupied by giants and Canaanites

Answer: I wouldn't know a Canaanite if he came up to me and hit me over the head!

Our Enemies

Our enemies threefold:

- The flesh
- The world
- The devil

These three forces will stop us from coming into

- Our inheritance
- The fulness of Christ

The Devil

Question: What is the devil?

The forces of Satan

- They constantly seek to disrupt the purposes of God
- They constantly seek to stop us from getting our inheritance

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The World

Question: What is the world?

The system the devil uses

- To drive and distract men away from all that could be theirs in Christ
- To lead men into sin and away from God

1 John 5:4

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.

The Flesh

Question: What is the flesh?

This is the toughest enemy - ourselves

- It is our old nature – who we were before we met Jesus
- It is the part of us that is selfish
- It is the part of us that wants what we want not what God wants
- It is the part of us that is sinful, rebellious and opposed to God

Galatians 5:24

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- Calab had three giants to fight: Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi **Joshua 15:14**
- We have three giants to fight: The Flesh, The World, The Devil

- As Caleb had victory and occupied
- We have victory and can occupy

The Allotment For The Six Remaining Tribes

Joshua 19:1-51

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Simeon

Joshua 19:1-9

Simeon's Inheritance

Simeon's allotment was within the boundaries of Judah

- Judah had more territory than it could occupy

Jacob pronounced a curse 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 **Joshua 21**
- Simeon will slowly be absorbed into Judah and Israel and lose its identity

- Corruptible It was physical, it could perish
- Defiled It could be spoilt and polluted by sin and idolatry
- Faded It did not endure, it was absorbed into Judah
- Vulnerable It could be lost or stolen to Canaanites

Our Inheritance

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

The inheritance is

- Incorruptible It doesn't perish, it is not subject to entropy or decay
- Undefiled It doesn't spoil, it remains pure cannot be polluted or debased by anything
- Unfading It is eternal, enduring it does not end
- Reserved It is kept, it is put on hold, it cannot be lost or stolen or given away

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Zebulun

Joshua 19:10-16

Zebulun's Inheritance

There are two places with the name Bethlehem

- The one in Zebulun, near the Galilee
- The one in Benjamin, near Jerusalem (Bethlehem-Judah or Bethlehem-Ephrathah)

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 4:13** points to this prophecy being fulfilled by Jesus

Held the promise of future blessing

- The place where the Messiah would herald from
- Our inheritance has the promise of future blessing
- *an inheritance...reserved in heaven for you **1 Peter 1:3-4***

Guilt / Acceptance

When we first come to Christ

- We begin to enter into our inheritance
- When we obtain pardon for our sin

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Some fail to fully enjoy this aspect of our inheritance

- People fail to recognise their sin is forgiven
- They live with a perpetual sense of guilt and condemnation
- Instead of a perpetual peace and joy at being forgiven

The first giant/Canaanite we do battle with is **guilt**

- When we defeat that enemy
- We possess a city named, "**Acceptance**"

Rob Hayward

I'm accepted, I'm forgiven

I am fathered by the True and Living God

I'm accepted, no condemnation

I am fathered by the True and Living God

There's no guilt or fear as I draw near

To the Saviour and Creator of the world

There is joy and peace

As I release my worship to you, oh Lord

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**

Issachar's Inheritance

Keil & Delitzsch (German Theologians)

The Inheritance of Issachar - In this instance only towns are given, and the boundaries are not delineated, with the exception of the eastern portion of the northern boundary and the boundary line

There was a insecurity about Issachar

- It had ill-defined borders
- It's inheritance was determined by individual cities

Insecurity & Assurance

The next portion in our inheritance is **security**

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Some fail to fully enjoy this aspect of our inheritance

- People doubt the integrity and durability of their salvation
- They fear that some unspecified sin will cut the net of salvation in which they are cradled
- And they will fall from the security of God's love
- Not knowing that our God states, "no one will snatch them out of My hand." **John 10:28**

The second giant/Canaanite we do battle with is **insecurity**

- When we defeat that enemy
- We possess a city named, "**Assurance**"

Fanny Crosby

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Asher

Joshua 19:24-31

Asher's Inheritance

Anna, the prophetess came from Asher

- She spent all her time in the temple
- When Jesus arrived – she prophesied that He would bring redemption

Received its territory along the Mediterranean Sea

- From Carmel to the most northern border
- It being sited by the sea was very useful
- Potential for a lot of trade from merchants

Inactivity & Fruitfulness

An aspect of our inheritance in Christ is **usefulness**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Some fail to fully enjoy this aspect of our inheritance

- People doubt they have anything to contribute to church or the work of Christ
- They're intimidated by others or fear failure when they step out
- They fail to use the gifts they have been given
- Instead of being an asset to the body of Christ, they become a burden

The third giant/Canaanite we do battle with is **inactivity**

- When we defeat that enemy
- We possess a city named, "**Fruitful**"

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Naphtali

Joshua 19:32-39

The territory of Naphtali was west of the Galilee

- Much of Jesus ministry was in the region of Naphtali
- Nazareth was in Naphtali – Jesus grew in Naphtali
- Capernaum was Naphtali – Jesus lived in Naphtali

Matthew 4:13

And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,

Jesus committed to living in a specific area

- He went to synagogue there
- He shared fellowship there

Discord & Fellowship

Another portion of our inheritance is unity

Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Some Christians fail to fully enjoy this aspect of our inheritance

- People fail to commit to a church
- Hopping from congregation to congregation when they meet conflict or something they don't agree with
- Perhaps they perceive Christian's as hypocrites so try to go it alone
- Always critical, pointing out the faults and shortcomings of a fellow brother, sister or church
- Never following **Matthew 18** guidelines for seeking reconciliation

The fourth giant/Canaanite we do battle with is discord

- When we defeat that enemy
- We possess a city named, "Fellowship"

The Allotment For The Tribe Of Dan

Joshua 19:40-48

Dan's Inheritance

Dan is the last tribe to receive it's 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

This is tribe that wasn't truly regenerate

- This is a tribe that operated in sin and rebellion
- Not faith and obedience

Rebellion & Fellowship

Another portion of our inheritance is **new life**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.

Some fail to enjoy this aspect of our inheritance

- People continue to live in the manner and style of their old life instead of the new
- They live in the squaller of a mud hut when they have inherited a mansion
- They think as they used to think, not knowing there is the mind of Christ to possess
- They speak as they used to speak, not knowing there is new song for them to sing
- They act as they used to act, not knowing there is a walk in the spirit to enjoy

The next giant/Canaanite we do battle with is **rebellion**

- When we defeat that enemy
- We possess a city named, "**Peace**"

The Inheritance of Joshua

Joshua 19:49-51

Joshua's Inheritance

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

Our Inheritance

Question: Will we take on the giants in our life?

Question: Will we grow in faith and victory?

Closing Thought

Indwelling Word

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of God dwell in you richly...

- Dwell - Reside, remain, to become established, to be at home
Richly - Abundantly – not a little but a lot

The Bible is something that we should be fully invested in

- We should be reading it a lot not a little
- It needs to be at home in us, to reside, to dwell in us

As you read, you will encounter a verse that is

- Not at home in you
- That you don't want to remain
- You want to shut it out in the cold

It exposes a part of your life

- That is not bringing glory to God
- That is occupied by giants and Canaanites
- That your flesh still covets

What are you going to do?

- Are you going to fight like Joshua
- Or allow that part of your life to be dispossessed by the giants of the flesh, the world and the devil?
- Are you going to live in victory or defeat

Crucifying The Flesh

Galatians 5:24

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

When the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Bible

- Convicting of sin, righteousness and judgement
- We need to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires

Question: How do we do this?

- It is all well and fine me saying fight the giants in your life
- But how do you do this?

Step 1: Agree with the word of God (submit to God)

Step 2: Confess your sin – repent of what you have been doing, thinking or saying

Step 3: Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, to give you strength to live righteously

You have victory right there

- You have chosen life

Crucifixion is a slow painful death

- Sin does not die easily
- It will fight back

When it rears it's ugly head again

- What do you do, when that happens?
- You crucify it once more

To allow it to go unchallenged

- Is to allow it to gain strength
- To confess it is to weaken it

In time your desire for the inheritance in Christ

- Will outweigh your desire for sin
- In time that area sin will be driven out of your life