

“Dividing the Land”

Joshua chapter 12 - 19

Scripture Ref: Josh 13:1-7; 2 Cor 9:8; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Col 2:9-10; 2 Pet 1:3Josh
14:6 – 15:19; Num 13:30; Josh 13:13; Judg 1:27-35; Judg 2:11-12

1. So far in Joshua... (SLIDE #1)

1446-1406 B.C.	Forty years of wilderness wandering
1405 B.C.	Joshua succeeds Moses
1405 B.C.	The Israelites cross the Jordan into Canaan
1405-1400 B.C.	Jericho and other cities are taken
1398 B.C.	Canaan is apportioned to the tribes
1380 B.C.	Joshua dies
1375-1075 B.C.	Judges rule in Israel
1050 B.C.	Saul becomes king of Israel

Joshua 12 The Kings Conquered by Moses
Tribal Allotments Map

Stay Tuned

Josh 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.**"

2. Five years – from Caleb’s statement

3. More land to be conquered, it was time to pass the torch.

- a. Not to another great leader, but each tribe was to now assume responsibility for the task in their allotted territory.
- b. This tells us something – It’s a great blessing when God appoints a great leader, but a lack of a great leader does not mean that we sit idle.

- c. We often say “everything rises and falls on leadership”, and there is truth in that statement...
 - d. **BUT – we cannot use that as an excuse to not move forward where God has called us.**
4. **it’s said there are three types of people –**
- a. ...those who make things happen
 - b. ...those who watch other people make things happen
 - c. ...and those who wonder what just happened!
5. **The thing we need to be careful to remember – When God gives me a task, He has given it to ME. He expects ME to take action, to step out.**
- a. **When I stand before God one day and give an account of the things He has tasked me with...**
 - b. **It’s not going to fly to say “well, I didn’t really have anyone leading me...”**
6. **God has given me ALL I NEED!**
- a. **God gave me His Holy Spirit to empower me, His Word to guide me, His Power to work in and through me...**

2 Cor 9:7-9

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Col 2:8-10

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness

7. **Tonight we are going to look at two groups of people...**
- a. **One group will step out in belief, and will receive what God has for them**
 - b. **Another group will shy away from belief – and will not experience all that God has for them.**

Caleb's Life

Josh 14:6-14

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.

8. **What do we see here? This is Caleb, who we first met some forty-five years ago, as one of the 10 spies first sent into the land by Moses.**
 - a. **After going into the land they saw some men that freaked them out – the Anakim, who were big guys.**
 - b. **I think of the front line of a NFL football team. If you have ever stood beside some of these guys, they are GIANTS. Freakishly large. Like automobiles.... It would take 304 of us to just slow them down.**
 - c. **The spies saw these men, and said "I don't think so"...**
 - d. **Caleb saw these men and said:**

Num 13:30

... "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

9. **What kind of insane person says this? Only a man who has something up his sleeve, some secret weapon, - a man who has God on his side!**
 - a. **And so we find Caleb now 85 years old, saying "lemme at em, I'll go take those Anikim out!"**
 - b. **This is not bragging, no this is believing God...**

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.

10. Hebron - This is the land that was given to Caleb when the Israelites entered the land.

- a. **This city still exists today about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem. When Abraham and Lot split up, Hebron was part of the land Abraham took.**
- b. **Hebron is a holy city both to Islam and Judaism, as it is believed that Abraham is buried there together with his wife Sarah, their sons Isaac and Jacob, Isaac's wife Rebecca, and Jacob's wife Leah, in the Machpelah cave.**
- c. **Over this cave, the Ibrahimi Mosque now lies.**

Josh 15:13-19

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.**

11. Here is a man who...

- a. **Understood what the task was**
- b. **Understood the danger**
- c. **Understood that God was with him!**

12. Caleb didn't go in his own power, or that of his military strength...

- a. **But in the strength of the Lord!**
- b. **He BELIEVED GOD, and he stepped out in the belief.**

Sin Creeps Back in...

15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

13. Debir was a city that had already been taken by Joshua (chapter 10 v38), but apparently after they left the Canaanites had crept back in.

- a. **But notice that there was no passivity on Caleb's part – “gosh, I'm just not up for driving them out again, I suppose they can stay”**
- b. **QUEST: If you had defeated cancer, and one day they find another little spot – would you tell the doc “you know, it's not really bothering me now, lets let it hang out for a while”**
- c. **I don't think so! But sometimes we do that with sin...**
- d. **God gives us victory – and then we let it creep back in... and we give it a home...**

- e. **Remember the Canaanites are representative of sin – something that needs to be radically cut from us – not later – NOW!**

14. and I notice that Caleb gets others involved...

(Caleb's Son-in-law)

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.

15. Why did he do this? Just to marry off his daughter?

- a. **Perhaps he wanted to find a man worthy of his daughter – and a man that would go forward like this would qualify.**
- b. **This man would not be a passive husband, but would be willing to follow God anywhere.**
- c. **FACT – Daughters will often marry men like their fathers – BE AWARE of the man you are grooming your daughters to be attracted to.**

16. Caleb was a man who believed God, and stepped out in his belief – but not all the tribes were so inclined...

Other Tribes Shied Away

Josh 13:13 (East of the Jordan)

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.

Judg 1:27-35

However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages,

29 Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

30 Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol;

31 Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob.

33 Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath;

34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim;

17. RESULT? (Now I don't want to steal too much from Judges – where we'll be next...)

- a. **But some verses in Judges 2 are really important....**

Judg 2:11-12

Then the children of Israel **did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and served the Baals; 12 and they **forsook the LORD God** of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they **followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them**, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

- b. ...they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them...
- c. So my question is – “What were those people doing all around them?”
- d. There were there because they didn’t fully obey God...
- e. Close Proximity to evil - God knew that the presence of these wicked people would be temptation to the Israelites – they would be drawn into their idolatry

Three Important Lessons

#1 – Who you associate with can either draw you closer to the Lord, or farther away.

- f. I tell me kids this all the time – and they don’t always understand.
- g. That’s OK – they don’t have to – that’s why I am the parent
- h. Who do you hang with? Who are your close associates?

#2 – What you allow into your life can either draw you closer to the Lord, or farther away.

- i. Allowing the Canaanites into close proximity caused the Israelites to stumble
- j. Same with sin – keep it in close proximity and you will stumble.

#3 - Partial obedience is not obedience at all. When God tells us to remove something, we need to remove it – immediately, and completely!

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