

## **THIS LAND IS OUR LAND!**

### **Land Assignments Made at Gilgal**

Two and a half tribes east of the Jordan River

**Joshua 13:1** When Joshua was very old, the Lord said to him, “Joshua, you have grown old, but there is still much land for you to take. <sup>2</sup> This is what is left: the regions of Geshur and of the Philistines; <sup>3</sup> the area from the Shihor River at the border of Egypt to Ekron in the north, which belongs to the Canaanites; the five Philistine leaders at Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron; the Avvites, <sup>4</sup> who live south of the Canaanite land; <sup>5</sup> the Gebalites, and the area of Lebanon east of Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath. <sup>6</sup> “The Sidonians are living in the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, but I will force all of them out ahead of the Israelites. Be sure to remember this land when you divide the land among the Israelites, as I told you. <sup>7</sup> “Now divide the land among the nine tribes and West Manasseh.” <sup>8</sup> East Manasseh and the tribes of Reuben and Gad had received their land. The Lord’s servant Moses had given them the land east of the Jordan River. <sup>9</sup> Their land started at Aroer at the Arnon Ravine and continued to the town in the middle of the ravine, and it included the whole plain from Medeba to Dibon. <sup>10</sup> All the towns ruled by Sihon king of the Amorites, who ruled in the city of Heshbon, were in that land. The land continued to the area where the Ammonites lived. <sup>11</sup> Gilead was also there, as well as the area where the people of Geshur and Maacah lived, and all of Mount Hermon and Bashan as far as Salecah. <sup>12</sup> All the kingdom of Og king of Bashan was in the land. Og was one of the last of the Rephaites, and in the past he ruled in Ashtaroth and Edrei. Moses had defeated them and had taken their land. <sup>13</sup> Because the Israelites did not force out the people of Geshur and Maacah, they still live among the Israelites today. <sup>14</sup> The tribe of Levi was the only one that did not get any land. Instead, they were given all the burned sacrifices made to the Lord, the God of Israel, as he had promised them. <sup>15</sup> Moses had given each family group from the tribe of Reuben some land: <sup>16</sup> Theirs was the land from Aroer near the Arnon Ravine to the town of Medeba, including the whole plain and the town in the middle of the ravine; <sup>17</sup> Heshbon and all the towns on the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, and Beth Baal Meon, <sup>18</sup> Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath, <sup>19</sup> Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on the hill in the valley, <sup>20</sup> Beth Peor, the hills of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth. <sup>21</sup> So that land included all the towns on the plain and all the area that Sihon king of the Amorites had ruled from the town of Heshbon. Moses had defeated him along with the leaders of the Midianites, including Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba. All these leaders fought together with Sihon and lived in that country. <sup>22</sup> The Israelites killed many people during the fighting, including Balaam of Beor, who tried to use magic to tell the future. <sup>23</sup> The land given to Reuben stopped at the shore of the Jordan River. So the land given to the family groups of Reuben included all these towns and their villages that were listed. <sup>24</sup> This is the land Moses gave to the tribe of Gad, to all its family groups: <sup>25</sup> the land of Jazer and all the towns of Gilead; half the land of the Ammonites that went as far as Aroer near Rabbah; <sup>26</sup> the area from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim; the area from Mahanaim to the land of Debir; <sup>27</sup> in the valley, Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the other land Sihon king of Heshbon had ruled east of the Jordan River and continuing to the end of Lake Galilee. <sup>28</sup> All this land went to the family groups of Gad, including all these towns and their villages. <sup>29</sup> This is the land Moses had given to East Manasseh. Half of all the family groups in the tribe of Manasseh were given this land: <sup>30</sup> The land started at Mahanaim and included all of Bashan and the land ruled by Og king of Bashan; all the towns of Jair in Bashan, sixty cities in all; <sup>31</sup> half of Gilead, Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities where Og king of Bashan had ruled. All this went to the family of Makir son of Manasseh, and half of all his sons were given this land.

<sup>32</sup> Moses had given this land to these tribes on the plains of Moab across the Jordan River east of Jericho. <sup>33</sup> But Moses had given no land to the tribe of Levi because the Lord, the God of Israel, promised that he himself would be the gift for the Levites.

**Lesson #1:** Don't become a "borderline believer." Take possession of everything God has given to you. Rejoice in it all.

Psalm 47:4 He chose the land we would inherit. We are the children of Jacob, whom he loved.

The two and a half tribes west of the Jordan River (Joshua 14, 15, 16, 17)

**Joshua 14:1** Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of all the tribes of Israel decided what land to give to the people in the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> The Lord had commanded Moses long ago how he wanted the people to choose their land. The people of the nine-and-a-half tribes threw lots to decide which land they would receive. <sup>3</sup> Moses had already given the two-and-a-half tribes their land east of the Jordan River. But the tribe of Levi was not given any land like the others. <sup>4</sup> The sons of Joseph had divided into two tribes—Manasseh and Ephraim. The tribe of Levi was not given any land. It was given only some towns in which to live and pastures for its animals. <sup>5</sup> The Lord had told Moses how to give the land to the tribes of Israel, and the Israelites divided the land. <sup>6</sup> One day some men from the tribe of Judah went to Joshua at Gilgal. Among them was Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite. He said to Joshua, "You remember what the Lord said at Kadesh Barnea when he was speaking to the prophet Moses about you and me. <sup>7</sup> Moses, the Lord's servant, sent me to look at the land where we were going. I was forty years old then. When I came back, I told Moses what I thought about the land. <sup>8</sup> The other men who went with me frightened the people, but I fully believed the Lord would allow us to take the land. <sup>9</sup> So that day Moses promised me, 'The land where you went will become your land, and your children will own it forever. I will give you that land because you fully believed in the Lord, my God.' <sup>10</sup> "Now then, the Lord has kept his promise. He has kept me alive for forty-five years from the time he said this to Moses during the time we all wandered in the desert. Now here I am, eighty-five years old. <sup>11</sup> I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out, and I am just as ready to fight now as I was then. <sup>12</sup> So give me the mountain country the Lord promised me that day long ago. Back then you heard that the Anakite people lived there and the cities were large and well protected. But now with the Lord helping me, I will force them out, just as the Lord said." <sup>13</sup> Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him the city of Hebron as his own. <sup>14</sup> Hebron still belongs to the family of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite because he had faith and obeyed the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>15</sup> (In the past it was called Kiriath Arba, named for Arba, the greatest man among the Anakites.) After this there was peace in the land.

**Joshua 15:1** The land that was given to the tribe of Judah was divided among all the family groups. It went all the way to the Desert of Zin in the far south, at the border of Edom. <sup>2</sup> The southern border of Judah's land started at the south end of the Dead Sea <sup>3</sup> and went south of Scorpion Pass to Zin. From there it passed to the south of Kadesh Barnea and continued past Hebron to Addar. From Addar it turned and went to Karka. <sup>4</sup> It continued to Azmon, the brook of Egypt, and then to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the southern border. <sup>5</sup> The eastern border was the shore of the Dead Sea, as far as the mouth of the Jordan River. The northern border started at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> Then it went to Beth Hoglah and continued north of Beth Arabah to the stone of Bohan son of Reuben. <sup>7</sup> Then the northern border went through the Valley of Achor to Debir where it turned toward the north and went to Gilgal. Gilgal is across from the road that goes through Adummim Pass, on the south side of

the ravine. The border continued to the waters of En Shemesh and stopped at En Rogel. <sup>8</sup> Then it went through the Valley of Ben Hinnom, next to the southern side of the Jebusite city (which is called Jerusalem). There the border went to the top of the hill on the west side of Hinnom Valley, at the northern end of the Valley of Giants. <sup>9</sup> From there it went to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah and then it went to the cities near Mount Ephron. There it turned and went toward Baalah, which is called Kiriath Jearim. <sup>10</sup> At Baalah the border turned west and went toward Mount Seir. It continued along the north side of Mount Jearim (also called Kesalon) and came to Beth Shemesh. From there it went past Timnah <sup>11</sup> to the hill north of Ekron. Then it turned toward Shikkeron and went past Mount Baalah and continued on to Jabneel, ending at the sea. <sup>12</sup> The Mediterranean Sea was the western border. Inside these borders lived the family groups of Judah. <sup>13</sup> The Lord had commanded Joshua to give Caleb son of Jephunneh part of the land in Judah, so he gave Caleb the town of Kiriath Arba, also called Hebron. (Arba was the father of Anak.) <sup>14</sup> Caleb forced out the three Anakite families living in Hebron: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak. <sup>15</sup> Then he left there and went to fight against the people living in Debir. (In the past Debir had been called Kiriath Sepher.) <sup>16</sup> Caleb said, "I will give Acsah, my daughter, as a wife to the man who attacks and captures the city of Kiriath Sepher." <sup>17</sup> Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, captured the city, so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to Othniel to be his wife. <sup>18</sup> When Acsah came to Othniel, she told him to ask her father for a field. So Acsah went to her father. When she got down from her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?" <sup>19</sup> Acsah answered, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in southern Canaan, also give me springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. <sup>20</sup> The tribe of Judah got the land God had promised them. Each family group got part of the land. <sup>21</sup> The tribe of Judah got all these towns in the southern part of Canaan near the border of Edom: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, <sup>22</sup> Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, <sup>23</sup> Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, <sup>24</sup> Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, <sup>25</sup> Hazor Hadattah, Keriath Hezron (also called Hazor), <sup>26</sup> Amam, Shema, Moladah, <sup>27</sup> Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, <sup>28</sup> Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, <sup>29</sup> Baalah, Iim, Ezem, <sup>30</sup> Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, <sup>31</sup> Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, <sup>32</sup> Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon. There were twenty-nine towns and their villages. <sup>33</sup> The tribe of Judah got these towns in the western hills: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, <sup>34</sup> Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, <sup>35</sup> Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, <sup>36</sup> Shaaraim, Adithaim, and Gederah (also called Gederothaim). There were fourteen towns and their villages. <sup>37</sup> Judah was also given these towns in the western hills: Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, <sup>38</sup> Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, <sup>39</sup> Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, <sup>40</sup> Cabbon, Lahmas, Kitlish, <sup>41</sup> Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah. There were sixteen towns and their villages. <sup>42</sup> Judah was also given these towns in the western hills: Libnah, Ether, Ashan, <sup>43</sup> Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, <sup>44</sup> Keilah, Aczib, and Mareshah. There were nine towns and their villages. <sup>45</sup> The tribe of Judah was also given these towns: Ekron and all the small towns and villages near it; <sup>46</sup> the area west of Ekron and all the villages and small towns near Ashdod; <sup>47</sup> Ashdod and the small towns and villages around it; the villages and small towns around Gaza as far as the brook of Egypt and along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. <sup>48</sup> The tribe of Judah was also given these towns in the mountains: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, <sup>49</sup> Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (also called Debir), <sup>50</sup> Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, <sup>51</sup> Goshen, Holon, and Giloh. There were eleven towns and their villages. <sup>52</sup> They were also given these towns in the mountains: Arab, Dumah, Eshan, <sup>53</sup> Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, <sup>54</sup> Humtah, Kiriath Arba (also called Hebron), and Zior. There were nine towns and their villages. <sup>55</sup> Judah was also given these towns in the mountains: Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, <sup>56</sup> Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, <sup>57</sup> Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah. There were ten towns and their villages. <sup>58</sup> They were also given these towns in the mountains: Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, <sup>59</sup> Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon. There were six towns and their villages. <sup>60</sup> The people of Judah were also given the two towns of Rabbah and Kiriath Baal (also called Kiriath Jearim) and their villages. <sup>61</sup> Judah

was given these towns in the desert: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, <sup>62</sup> Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi. There were six towns and all their villages. <sup>63</sup> The army of Judah was not able to force out the Jebusites living in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites still live among the people of Judah to this day.

Joshua 16:1 This is the land the tribe of Joseph received. It started at the Jordan River near Jericho and continued to the waters of Jericho, just east of the city. The border went up from Jericho to the mountains of Bethel. <sup>2</sup> Then it continued from Bethel (also called Luz) to the Arkite border at Ataroth. <sup>3</sup> From there it went west to the border of the Japhletites and continued to the area of the Lower Beth Horon. Then it went to Gezer and ended at the sea. <sup>4</sup> So Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, received their land. <sup>5</sup> This is the land that was given to the family groups of Ephraim: Their border started at Ataroth Addar in the east, went to Upper Beth Horon, <sup>6</sup> and then to the sea. From Micmethath it turned eastward toward Taanath Shiloh and continued eastward to Janoah. <sup>7</sup> Then it went down from Janoah to Ataroth and to Naarah. It continued until it touched Jericho and stopped at the Jordan River. <sup>8</sup> The border went from Tappuah west to Kanah Ravine and ended at the sea. This is all the land that was given to each family group in the tribe of the Ephraimites. <sup>9</sup> Many of the towns were actually within Manasseh's borders, but the people of Ephraim got those towns and their villages. <sup>10</sup> The Ephraimites could not force the Canaanites to leave Gezer, so the Canaanites still live among the Ephraimites today, but they became slaves of the Ephraimites.

Joshua 17:1 Then land was given to the tribe of Manasseh, Joseph's first son. Manasseh's first son was Makir, the father of Gilead. Makir was a great soldier, so the lands of Gilead and Bashan were given to his family. <sup>2</sup> Land was also given to the other family groups of Manasseh—Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida. These were all the other sons of Manasseh son of Joseph. <sup>3</sup> Zelophehad was the son of Hephher, who was the son of Gilead, who was the son of Makir, who was the son of Manasseh. Zelophehad had no sons, but he had five daughters, named Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. <sup>4</sup> They went to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua son of Nun and all the leaders. They said, "The Lord told Moses to give us land like the men received." So Eleazar obeyed the Lord and gave the daughters some land, just like the brothers of their father. <sup>5</sup> So the tribe of Manasseh had ten sections of land west of the Jordan River and two more sections, Gilead and Bashan, on the east side of the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> The daughters of Manasseh received land just as the sons did. Gilead was given to the rest of the families of Manasseh. <sup>7</sup> The lands of Manasseh were in the area between Asher and Micmethath, near Shechem. The border went south to the En Tappuah area, <sup>8</sup> which belonged to Manasseh, except for the town of Tappuah. It was along the border of Manasseh's land and belonged to the sons of Ephraim. <sup>9</sup> The border of Manasseh continued south to Kanah Ravine. The cities in this area of Manasseh belonged to Ephraim. Manasseh's border was on the north side of the ravine and went to the sea. <sup>10</sup> The land to the south belonged to Ephraim, and the land to the north belonged to Manasseh. The Mediterranean Sea was the western border. The border touched Asher's land on the north and Issachar's land on the east. <sup>11</sup> In the areas of Issachar and Asher, the people of Manasseh owned these towns: Beth Shan and its small towns; Ibleam and its small towns; the people who lived in Dor and its small towns; the people in Naphoth Dor and its small towns; the people who lived in Taanach and its small towns; the people in Megiddo and its small towns. <sup>12</sup> Manasseh was not able to defeat those cities, so the Canaanites continued to live there. <sup>13</sup> When the Israelites grew strong, they forced the Canaanites to work for them, although they did not force them to leave the land. <sup>14</sup> The people from the tribes of Joseph said to Joshua, "You gave us only one area of land, but we are many people. Why did you give us only one part of all the land the Lord gave his people?" <sup>15</sup> And Joshua answered them, "If you have too many people, go up to the forest

and make a place for yourselves to live there in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaites. The mountain country of Ephraim is too small for you.” <sup>16</sup> The people of Joseph said, “It is true. The mountain country of Ephraim is not enough for us, but the land where the Canaanites live is dangerous. They are skilled fighters. They have powerful weapons in Beth Shan and all the small towns in that area, and they are also in the Valley of Jezreel.” <sup>17</sup> Then Joshua said to the people of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh, “There are many of you, and you have great power. You should be given more than one share of land. <sup>18</sup> You also will have the mountain country. It is a forest, but you can cut down the trees and make it a good place to live. You will own all of it because you will force the Canaanites to leave the land even though they have powerful weapons and are strong.”

**Lesson #2:** Be encouraged in your journey! God has already given you your inheritance in Christ. Every spiritual blessing is yours.

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.

**Lesson #3:** We are never too old to conquer something new. We can capture mountains and conquer giants – like Caleb did. Never “retire” from trusting and serving the Lord. Caleb’s faith influenced his son-in-law Othniel. Othniel became a judge (Judges 3:7-11). Caleb’s faith was more valuable to his family than the property he was given.

**Lesson #4:** The older generation must provide for the next generation. Older Christians must be an example for the younger generation. The older ones must teach them to trust the Lord and follow Him completely.

**Lesson #5:** God wants to give all His people their inheritance. All believers are one in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:26-29 You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This means that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>28</sup> In Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> You belong to Christ, so you are Abraham’s descendants. You will inherit all of God’s blessings because of the promise God made to Abraham.

**Lesson #6:** Don’t brag. It is your faith that gives you the victory and gains new territory for you. Sometimes the people who talk the most finish the least.

James 3:16 Where jealousy and selfishness are, there will be confusion and every kind of evil.

### **The Land Assigned at Shiloh (Joshua 18, 19)**

**Joshua 18:1** All of the Israelites gathered together at Shiloh where they set up the Meeting Tent. The land was now under their control. <sup>2</sup> But there were still seven tribes of Israel that had not yet received their land. <sup>3</sup> So Joshua said to the Israelites: “Why do you wait so long to take your land? The Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given this land to you. <sup>4</sup> Choose three men from each tribe, and I will send them out to study the land. They will describe in writing the land their tribe wants as its share, and then they will come back to me. <sup>5</sup> They will divide the land into seven parts. The people of Judah will keep their land in the south, and the people of Joseph will keep their land in the north. <sup>6</sup> You should describe the seven parts of land in

writing and bring what you have written to me. Then I will throw lots in the presence of the Lord our God. <sup>7</sup> But the Levites do not get any part of these lands, because they are priests, and their work is to serve the Lord. Gad, Reuben, and East Manasseh have received the land promised to them, which is east of the Jordan River. Moses, the servant of the Lord, gave it to them.” <sup>8</sup> So the men who were chosen to map the land started out. Joshua told them, “Go and study the land and describe it in writing. Then come back to me, and I will throw lots in the presence of the Lord here in Shiloh.” <sup>9</sup> So the men left and went into the land. They described in a scroll each town in the seven parts of the land. Then they came back to Joshua, who was still at the camp at Shiloh. <sup>10</sup> There Joshua threw lots in the presence of the Lord to choose the lands that should be given to each tribe. <sup>11</sup> The first part of the land was given to the tribe of Benjamin. Each family group received some land between the land of Judah and the land of Joseph. This is the land chosen for Benjamin: <sup>12</sup> The northern border started at the Jordan River and went along the northern edge of Jericho, and then it went west into the mountains. That boundary continued until it was just east of Beth Aven. <sup>13</sup> From there it went south to Luz (also called Bethel) and then down to Ataroth Addar, which is on the hill south of Lower Beth Horon. <sup>14</sup> At the hill to the south of Beth Horon, the border turned and went south near the western side of the hill. It went to Kiriath Baal (also called Kiriath Jearim), a town where people of Judah lived. This was the western border. <sup>15</sup> The southern border started near Kiriath Jearim and went west to the waters of Nephtoah. <sup>16</sup> Then it went down to the bottom of the hill, which was near the Valley of Ben Hinnom, on the north side of the Valley of Rephaim. The border continued down the Hinnom Valley just south of the Jebusite city to En Rogel. <sup>17</sup> There it turned north and went to En Shemesh. It continued to Geliloth near the Adummim Pass. Then it went down to the great Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. <sup>18</sup> The border continued to the northern part of Beth Arabah and went down into the Jordan Valley. <sup>19</sup> From there it went to the northern part of Beth Hoglah and ended at the north shore of the Dead Sea, where the Jordan River flows into the sea. This was the southern border. <sup>20</sup> The Jordan River was the border on the eastern side. So this was the land given to the family groups of Benjamin with the borders on all sides. <sup>21</sup> The family groups of Benjamin received these cities: Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, <sup>22</sup> Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, <sup>23</sup> Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, <sup>24</sup> Kephrah Ammoni, Ophni, and Geba. There were twelve towns and all their villages. <sup>25</sup> The tribe of Benjamin also received Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, <sup>26</sup> Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, <sup>27</sup> Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, <sup>28</sup> Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite city (Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath. There were fourteen towns and their villages. All these areas are the lands the family groups of Benjamin were given.

Joshua 19:1 The second part of the land was given to the tribe of Simeon. Each family group received some of the land inside the area of Judah. <sup>2</sup> They received Beersheba (also called Sheba), Moladah, <sup>3</sup> Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, <sup>4</sup> Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, <sup>5</sup> Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, <sup>6</sup> Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhem. There were thirteen towns and their villages. <sup>7</sup> They received the towns of Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan, four towns and their villages. <sup>8</sup> They also received all the very small areas with people living in them as far as Baalath Beer (this is the same as Ramah in southern Canaan). So these were the lands given to the family groups in the tribe of Simeon. <sup>9</sup> The land of the Simeonites was taken from part of the land of Judah. Since Judah had much more land than they needed, the Simeonites received part of their land. <sup>10</sup> The third part of the land was given to the tribe of Zebulun. Each family group of Zebulun received some of the land. The border of Zebulun went as far as Sarid. <sup>11</sup> Then it went west to Maralah and came near Dabbesheth and then near Jokneam. <sup>12</sup> Then it turned to the east. It went from Sarid to the area of Kisloth Tabor and on to Daberath and to Japhia. <sup>13</sup> It continued eastward to Gath Hopher and Eth Kazin, ending at Rimmon. There the border turned and went toward Neah. <sup>14</sup> At Neah it turned again and went

to the north to Hannathon and continued to the Valley of Iphtah El. <sup>15</sup> Inside this border were the cities of Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem. There were twelve towns and their villages. <sup>16</sup> So these are the towns and the villages that were given to the family groups of Zebulun. <sup>17</sup> The fourth part of the land was given to the tribe of Issachar. Each family group of Issachar received some of the land. <sup>18</sup> Their land included Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, <sup>19</sup> Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, <sup>20</sup> Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, <sup>21</sup> Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pazzez. <sup>22</sup> The border of their land touched the area called Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth Shemesh and stopped at the Jordan River. There were sixteen towns and their villages. <sup>23</sup> These cities and towns were part of the land that was given to the family groups of Issachar. <sup>24</sup> The fifth part of the land was given to the tribe of Asher. Each family group of Asher received some of the land. <sup>25</sup> Their land included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Acshaph, <sup>26</sup> Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. The western border touched Mount Carmel and Shihor Libnath. <sup>27</sup> Then it turned east and went to Beth Dagon, touching Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah El. Then it went north of Beth Emek and Neiel and passed north to Cabul. <sup>28</sup> From there it went to Abdon, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah and continued to Greater Sidon. <sup>29</sup> Then the border went back south toward Ramah and continued to the strong, walled city of Tyre. There it turned and went toward Hosah, ending at the sea. This was in the area of Aczib, <sup>30</sup> Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob. There were twenty-two towns and their villages. <sup>31</sup> These cities and their villages were part of the land that was given to the family groups of Asher. <sup>32</sup> The sixth part of the land was given to the tribe of Naphtali. Each family group of Naphtali received some of the land. <sup>33</sup> The border of their land started at the large tree in Zaanannim, which is near Heleph. Then it went through Adami Nekeb and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum, and ended at the Jordan River. <sup>34</sup> Then it went to the west through Aznoth Tabor and stopped at Hukkok. It went to the area of Zebulun on the south, Asher on the west, and Judah, at the Jordan River, on the east. <sup>35</sup> The strong, walled cities inside these borders were called Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Kinnereth, <sup>36</sup> Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, <sup>37</sup> Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor, <sup>38</sup> Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh. There were nineteen towns and all their villages. <sup>39</sup> The towns and the villages around them were in the land that was given to the family groups of Naphtali. <sup>40</sup> The seventh part of the land was given to the tribe of Dan. Each family group of Dan received some of the land. <sup>41</sup> Their land included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh, <sup>42</sup> Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah, <sup>43</sup> Elon, Timnah, Ekron, <sup>44</sup> Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, <sup>45</sup> Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon, <sup>46</sup> Me Jarkon, Rakkon, and the area near Joppa. <sup>47</sup> (But the Danites had trouble taking their land. They went and fought against Leshem, defeated it, and killed the people who lived there. So the Danites moved into the town of Leshem and changed its name to Dan, because he was the father of their tribe.) <sup>48</sup> All of these towns and villages were given to the family groups of Dan. <sup>49</sup> After the leaders finished dividing the land and giving it to the different tribes, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun his land also. <sup>50</sup> They gave Joshua the town he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim, just as the Lord commanded. He built up the town and lived there. <sup>51</sup> So these lands were given to the different tribes of Israel. Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of each tribe divided up the land by lots at Shiloh. They met in the presence of the Lord at the entrance to the Meeting Tent. Now they were finished dividing the land.

### The Assignments of the Cities of Refuge

Joshua 20:1 Then the Lord said to Joshua: <sup>2</sup> "Tell the Israelites to choose the special cities of safety, as I had Moses command you to do. <sup>3</sup> If a person kills someone accidentally and without meaning to kill him, that person may go to a city of safety to hide. There the killer will be safe from the relative who has the duty of punishing a murderer. <sup>4</sup> "When the killer runs to one of those cities, he must stop at the entrance gate, stand there, and tell the leaders of the

people what happened. Then that person will be allowed to enter the city and will be given a place to live among them. <sup>5</sup> But if the one who is chasing him follows him to that city, the leaders of the city must not hand over the killer. It was an accident. He did not hate him beforehand or kill him on purpose. <sup>6</sup> The killer must stay in the city until a court comes to a decision and until the high priest dies. Then he may go back home to the town from which he ran away.” <sup>7</sup> So the Israelites chose these cities to be cities of safety: Kedesh in Galilee in the mountains of Naphtali; Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim; Kiriath Arba (also called Hebron) in the mountains of Judah; <sup>8</sup> Bezer on the east side of the Jordan River near Jericho in the desert in the land of Reuben; Ramoth in Gilead in the land of Gad; and Golan in Bashan in the land of Manasseh. <sup>9</sup> Any Israelite or anyone living among them who killed someone accidentally was to be allowed to run to one of these cities of safety. There he would not be killed, before he was judged, by the relative who had the duty of punishing a murderer.

**Lesson #7:** You must run to Jesus Christ by faith to be saved. Jesus took all our sins onto the cross with Him. He is the only Savior. There is no salvation except through faith in Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.”

Acts 4:12 Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us.

### **The Assignment of the Cities for the Levite Priests**

Joshua 21:1 The heads of the Levite families went to talk to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua son of Nun, and to the heads of the families of all the tribes of Israel. <sup>2</sup> At Shiloh in the land of Canaan, the heads of the Levite families said to them, “The Lord commanded Moses that you give us towns where we may live and pastures for our animals.” <sup>3</sup> So the Israelites obeyed this command of the Lord and gave the Levite people these towns and pastures for their own land: <sup>4</sup> The Kohath family groups were part of the tribe of Levi. Some of the Levites in the Kohath family groups were from the family of Aaron the priest. To these Levites were given thirteen towns in the areas of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. <sup>5</sup> The other family groups of Kohath were given ten towns in the areas of Ephraim, Dan, and West Manasseh. <sup>6</sup> The people from the Gershon family groups were given thirteen towns in the land of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the East Manasseh in Bashan. <sup>7</sup> The family groups of Merari were given twelve towns in the areas of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. <sup>8</sup> So the Israelites gave the Levites these towns and the pastures around them, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>9</sup> These are the names of the towns that came from the lands of Judah and Simeon. <sup>10</sup> The first choice of towns was given to the Kohath family groups of the Levites. <sup>11</sup> They gave them Kiriath Arba, also called Hebron, and all its pastures in the mountains of Judah. (Arba was the father of Anak.) <sup>12</sup> But the fields and the villages around Kiriath Arba had been given to Caleb son of Jephunneh. <sup>13</sup> So they gave the city of Hebron to the descendants of Aaron (Hebron was a city of safety). They also gave them the towns of Libnah, <sup>14</sup> Jattir, Eshtemoa, <sup>15</sup> Holon, Debir, <sup>16</sup> Ain, Juttah, and Beth Shemesh, and all the pastures around them. Nine towns were given from these two tribes. <sup>17</sup> They also gave the people of Aaron these cities that belonged to the tribe of Benjamin: Gibeon, Geba, <sup>18</sup> Anathoth, and Almon. They gave them these four towns and the pastures around them. <sup>19</sup> So these thirteen towns with their pastures were given to the priests, who were from the family of Aaron. <sup>20</sup> The other Kohathite family groups of the Levites were given these towns from the tribe of Ephraim: <sup>21</sup> Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim (which was a city of safety), Gezer, <sup>22</sup> Kibzaim, and Beth Horon. There were four towns and their

pastures. <sup>23</sup> The tribe of Dan gave them Eltekeh, Gibbethon, <sup>24</sup> Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon. There were four towns and their pastures. <sup>25</sup> West Manasseh gave them Taanach and Gath Rimmon and the pastures around these two towns. <sup>26</sup> So these ten towns and the pastures around them were given to the rest of the Kohathite family groups. <sup>27</sup> The Gershonite family groups of the Levite tribe were given these towns: East Manasseh gave them Golan in Bashan, which was a city of safety, and Be Eshtarrah, and the pastures around these two towns. <sup>28</sup> The tribe of Issachar gave them Kishion, Daberath, <sup>29</sup> Jarmuth, and En Gannim, and the pastures around these four towns. <sup>30</sup> The tribe of Asher gave them Mishal, Abdon, <sup>31</sup> Helkath, and Rehob, and the pastures around these four towns. <sup>32</sup> The tribe of Naphtali gave them Kedesh in Galilee (a city of safety), Hammoth Dor, and Kartan, and the pastures around these three towns. <sup>33</sup> So the Gershonite family groups received thirteen towns and the pastures around them. <sup>34</sup> The Merarite family groups (the rest of the Levites) were given these towns: The tribe of Zebulun gave them Jokneam, Kartah, <sup>35</sup> Dimnah, and Nahalal, and the pastures around these four towns. <sup>36</sup> The tribe of Reuben gave them Bezer, Jahaz, <sup>37</sup> Kedemoth, and Mephaath, along with the pastures around these four towns. <sup>38</sup> The tribe of Gad gave them Ramoth in Gilead (a city of safety), Mahanaim, <sup>39</sup> Heshbon, and Jazer, and the pastures around these four towns. <sup>40</sup> So the total number of towns given to the Merarite family groups was twelve. <sup>41</sup> A total of forty-eight towns with their pastures in the land of Israel were given to the Levites. <sup>42</sup> Each town had pastures around it. <sup>43</sup> So the Lord gave the people all the land he had promised their ancestors. The people took the land and lived there. <sup>44</sup> The Lord gave them peace on all sides, as he had promised their ancestors. None of their enemies defeated them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. <sup>45</sup> He kept every promise he had made to the Israelites; each one came true.

God was faithful. He gave Israel the land. He kept the covenant He made with Abraham.

God gave Israel victory over all their enemies. Then He gave them rest. The 10 spies had said they would never have victory, but Joshua led the people to believe that with God, we can!

God kept all His promises (Joshua 21:45).

## **AND WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER**

Joshua congratulated the people

**Joshua 22:1** Then Joshua called a meeting of all the people from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "You have done everything Moses, the Lord's servant, told you to do. You have also obeyed all my commands. <sup>3</sup> For a long time you have supported the other Israelites. You have been careful to obey the commands the Lord your God gave you.

Joshua sent the people back to their homes

**Joshua 22:4** The Lord your God promised to give the Israelites peace, and he has kept his promise. Now you may go back to your homes, to the land that Moses, the Lord's servant, gave you, on the east side of the Jordan River.

Joshua challenged to people

**Joshua 22:5** But be careful to obey the teachings and laws Moses, the Lord's servant, gave you: to love the Lord your God and obey his commands, to continue to follow him and serve him the very best you can."

Joshua blessed the people

**Joshua 22:6** Then Joshua said good-bye to them, and they left and went away to their homes. <sup>7</sup> Moses had given the land of Bashan to East Manasseh. Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan River to West Manasseh. And he sent them to their homes and he blessed them. <sup>8</sup> He said, "Go back to your homes and your riches. You have many animals, silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and many beautiful clothes. Also, you have taken many things from your enemies that you should divide among yourselves."

The tribe of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh separated themselves from God's promises

**Joshua 22:9** So the people from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh left the other Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan and went back to Gilead. It was their own land, given to them by Moses as the Lord had commanded. <sup>10</sup> The people of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh went to Geliloth, near the Jordan River in the land of Canaan. There they built a beautiful altar.

The tribes east of the Jordan were warned

**Joshua 22:11** The other Israelites still at Shiloh heard about the altar these three tribes built at the border of Canaan at Geliloth, near the Jordan River on Israel's side. <sup>12</sup> All the Israelites became very angry at these three tribes, so they met together and decided to fight them. <sup>13</sup> The Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest to Gilead to talk to the people of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh. <sup>14</sup> They also sent one leader from each of the ten tribes at Shiloh. Each of them was a leader of his family group of Israelites.

The tribes of Israel west of the Jordan pleaded with the tribes on the east

**Joshua 22:15** These leaders went to Gilead to talk to the people of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh. They said: <sup>16</sup> "All the Israelites ask you: 'Why did you turn against the God of Israel by building an altar for yourselves? You know that this is against God's law. <sup>17</sup> Remember what happened at Peor? We still suffer today because of that sin, for which God made many Israelites very sick. <sup>18</sup> And now are you turning against the Lord and refusing to follow him? "If you don't stop what you're doing today, the Lord will be angry with everyone in Israel tomorrow. <sup>19</sup> If your land is unclean, come over into our land where the Lord's Tent is. Share it with us. But don't turn against the Lord and us by building another altar for the Lord our God. <sup>20</sup> Remember how Achan son of Zerah refused to obey the command about what must be completely destroyed. That one man broke God's law, but all the Israelites were punished. Achan died because of his sin, but others also died."

The eastern tribes answered

**Joshua 22:21** The people from Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh answered, <sup>22</sup> "The Lord is God of gods! The Lord is God of gods! God knows, and we want you to know also. If we have

done something wrong, you may kill us. <sup>23</sup> If we broke God's law, we ask the Lord himself to punish us. We did not build this altar to offer burnt offerings or grain and fellowship offerings. <sup>24</sup> "We did not build it for that reason. We feared that someday your people would not accept us as part of your nation. Then they might say, 'You cannot worship the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>25</sup> The Lord made the Jordan River a border between us and you people of Reuben and Gad. You cannot worship the Lord.' So we feared that your children might make our children stop worshiping the Lord. <sup>26</sup> "That is why we decided to build this altar. But it is not for burnt offerings and sacrifices. <sup>27</sup> This altar is proof to you and us and to all our children who will come after us that we worship the Lord with our whole burnt offerings, grain, and fellowship offerings. This was so your children would not say to our children, 'You are not the Lord's.' <sup>28</sup> "In the future if your children say that, our children can say, 'See the altar made by our ancestors. It is exactly like the Lord's altar, but we do not use it for sacrifices. It shows that we are part of Israel.' <sup>29</sup> "Truly, we don't want to be against the Lord or to stop following him by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings, or sacrifices. We know the only true altar to the Lord our God is in front of the Holy Tent."

The 12 tribes agreed

**Joshua 22:30** When Phinehas the priest and the ten leaders heard the people of Reuben, Gad, and East Manasseh, they were pleased. <sup>31</sup> So Phinehas, son of Eleazar the priest, said, "Now we know the Lord is with us and that you didn't turn against him. Now the Israelites will not be punished by the Lord." <sup>32</sup> Then Phinehas and the leaders left the people of Reuben and Gad in Gilead and went back to Canaan where they told the Israelites what had happened. <sup>33</sup> They were pleased and thanked God. So they decided not to fight the people of Reuben and Gad and destroy those lands. <sup>34</sup> And the people of Reuben and Gad named the altar Proof That We Believe the Lord Is God.

## THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH

Israel's future dangers

**Joshua 23:1** The Lord gave Israel peace from their enemies around them. Many years passed, and Joshua grew very old. <sup>2</sup> He called a meeting of all the elders, heads of families, judges, and officers of Israel. He said, "I am now very old.

What the Lord did for Israel

**Joshua 23:3** You have seen what the Lord has done to our enemies to help us. The Lord your God fought for you. <sup>4</sup> Remember that your people have been given their land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea in the west, the land I promised to give you.

What the Lord said to Israel

**Joshua 23:5** The Lord your God will force out the people living there. The Lord will push them out ahead of you. And you will own the land, as he has promised you. <sup>6</sup> "Be strong. You must be careful to obey everything commanded in the Book of the Teachings of Moses. Do not stray from it either from the left or the right. <sup>7</sup> Don't become friends with the people living among us who are not Israelites. Don't say the names of their gods or make anyone swear by them. Don't serve or worship them. <sup>8</sup> You must continue to follow the Lord your God, as you have done in the past. <sup>9</sup> "The Lord has forced many great and powerful nations to leave ahead of

**you. No nation has been able to defeat you. <sup>10</sup> With his help, one Israelite could defeat a thousand, because the Lord your God fights for you, as he promised to do.**

What the Lord would do for Israel

**Joshua 23:11 So you must be careful to love the Lord your God. <sup>12</sup> “If you turn away from the way of the Lord and become friends with these people who are not part of Israel and marry them, <sup>13</sup> the Lord your God will not help you defeat your enemies. They will be like traps for you, like whips on your back and thorns in your eyes, and none of you will be left in this good land the Lord your God has given you. <sup>14</sup> “It’s almost time for me to die. You know and fully believe that the Lord has done great things for you. You know that he has not failed to keep any of his promises. <sup>15</sup> Every good promise that the Lord your God made has come true, and in the same way, his other promises will come true. He promised that evil will come to you and that he will destroy you from this good land that he gave you. <sup>16</sup> This will happen if you don’t keep your agreement with the Lord your God. If you go and serve other gods and worship them, the Lord will become very angry with you. Then none of you will be left in this good land he has given you.”**

### **Israel’s Past Blessings**

God chose Israel

**Joshua 24:1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem. He called the elders, heads of families, judges, and officers of Israel to stand before God. <sup>2</sup> Then Joshua said to all the people, “Here’s what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to you: ‘A long time ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates River. Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, worshiped other gods. <sup>3</sup> But I, the Lord, took your ancestor Abraham from the other side of the river and led him through the land of Canaan. And I gave him many children, including his son Isaac. <sup>4</sup> I gave Isaac two sons named Jacob and Esau. I gave the land around the mountains of Edom to Esau, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.**

God delivered Israel

**Joshua 24:5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron to Egypt, where I brought many disasters on the Egyptians. Afterwards I brought you out. <sup>6</sup> When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, they came to the Red Sea, and the Egyptians chased them with chariots and men on horses. <sup>7</sup> So the people called out to the Lord. And I brought darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea to cover them. You yourselves saw what I did to the army of Egypt. After that, you lived in the desert for a long time.**

God guided Israel

**Joshua 24:8 “Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, east of the Jordan River. They fought against you, but I handed them over to you. I destroyed them before you, and you took control of that land. <sup>9</sup> But the king of Moab, Balak son of Zippor, prepared to fight against the Israelites. The king sent for Balaam son of Beor to curse you, <sup>10</sup> but I refused to listen to Balaam. So he asked for good things to happen to you! I saved you and brought you out of his power.**

God gave Israel their land

**Joshua 24:11** “Then you crossed the Jordan River and came to Jericho, where the people of Jericho fought against you. Also, the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites fought against you. But I handed them over to you. <sup>12</sup> I sent terror ahead of you to force out two Amorite kings. You took the land without using swords and bows. <sup>13</sup> I gave you that land where you did not have to work. I gave you cities that you did not have to build. And now you live in that land and in those cities, and you eat from vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant.”

## **Israel’s Responsibilities**

### Decisions

**Joshua 24:14** Then Joshua said to the people, “Now respect the Lord and serve him fully and sincerely. Throw away the gods that your ancestors worshiped on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if you don’t want to serve the Lord, you must choose for yourselves today whom you will serve. You may serve the gods that your ancestors worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River, or you may serve the gods of the Amorites who lived in this land. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “We will never stop following the Lord to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the Lord our God who brought our ancestors out of Egypt. We were slaves in that land, but the Lord did great things for us there. He brought us out and protected us while we traveled through other lands. <sup>18</sup> Then he forced out all the people living in these lands, even the Amorites. So we will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

### Devotion

**Joshua 24:19** Then Joshua said, “You are not able to serve the Lord, because he is a holy God and a jealous God. If you turn against him and sin, he will not forgive you. <sup>20</sup> If you leave the Lord and serve other gods, he will send you great trouble. The Lord may have been good to you, but if you turn against him, he will destroy you.” <sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “You are your own witnesses that you have chosen to serve the Lord.” The people said, “Yes, we are.” <sup>23</sup> Then Joshua said, “Now throw away the gods that you have. Love the Lord, the God of Israel, with all your heart.” <sup>24</sup> Then the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God, and we will obey him.” <sup>25</sup> On that day at Shechem Joshua made an agreement for the people. He made rules and laws for them to follow. <sup>26</sup> Joshua wrote these things in the Book of the Teachings of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up under the oak tree near the Lord’s Holy Tent. <sup>27</sup> Joshua said to all the people, “See this stone! It will remind you of what we did today. It was here the Lord spoke to us today. It will remind you of what happened so you will not turn against your God.” <sup>28</sup> Then Joshua sent the people back to their land.

## **A GREAT LIFE IN REVIEW**

**Joshua 24:29** After that, Joshua son of Nun died at the age of one hundred ten. <sup>30</sup> They buried him in his own land at Timnath Serah, in the mountains of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. <sup>31</sup> The Israelites served the Lord during the lifetime of Joshua and during the lifetimes of the elders who lived after Joshua who had seen what the Lord had done for Israel. <sup>32</sup> When the Israelites left Egypt, they carried the bones of Joseph with them. They buried them at

**Shechem, in the land Jacob had bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor (Hamor was the father of Shechem). This land now belonged to Joseph's children. <sup>33</sup> And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah in the mountains of Ephraim, which had been given to Eleazar's son Phinehas.**

Joshua's Preparation

Joshua suffered. When suffering is mixed with faith and God's grace it becomes a wonderful tool to build godly character.

Joshua submitted to authority. He was an obedient servant.

Joshua's leadership was delayed. He had to wait to get what God promised.

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become lazy. Be like those who through faith and patience will receive what God has promised.

Joshua was a good leader because he walked with God.

Joshua had courage.

Joshua had a plan and followed it.

Joshua didn't quit.

Joshua chose others to lead with him.

Joshua was concerned about the future.

Joshua glorified God.