

Joshua 12-13 – God’s Will: Israel Gets the Land

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Some of the most intense fights in human history have been over the distribution of inheritance. Relatives have sued, fought, and killed each other to get more what their benefactors left behind. Sometimes those fights lasted for years. On the other hand, **your heavenly Father cared for his adopted children and ensured that he provided enough for Israel.** In doing this, his children had no doubts as to **what he provided for them** (so they would worship him), that they had no doubt **how he would divide what he provided** (so his children would work together, instead of fighting) and that they would have no doubts as to **what he expected them to do**, (conquer the rest of the land) having received his inheritance. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are: **The Land Conquered. The Land to be Conquered. The Land Conquered then Divided.**

Our goals are: **That you will see God’s sovereignty in the lives of man and how he worked through his sovereignty to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of his people.**

The Conquered Land

1 These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain: 2 One king was **Sihon king of the Amorites**(亚摩利人的王 西宏), who dwelt in Heshbon and ruled half of Gilead, from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, from the **middle of that river**, even **as far as the River Jabbok**, which is the border of the Ammonites, 3 and the eastern Jordan plain from the Sea of Chinneroth as far as the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), the **road to Beth Jeshimoth**, and southward below the slopes of Pisgah. 4 The other king was **Og king of Bashan** (巴珊王 噩) and his territory, who was of the remnant of the giants, who dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, 5 and reigned over Mount Hermon, over Salcah, over all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon. 6 These Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel had conquered; and Moses the servant of the LORD had given it as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

1. Moses gave the lands captured east of the Jordan (约旦河东岸) to Reuben, Gad, and ½ the tribe of Manasseh. Two notable Amorite kings who were defeated there were Sihon (Warrior), king of the Amorites in Heshbon, and Og (Long-Necked), king of Amorites in Bashan. They lived where the Golan Heights is now situated.

Psalm 135:10 He defeated many nations And slew mighty kings—11 **Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan**, And all the kingdoms of Canaan—12 And gave their land as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people.

None could doubt that God had given this land east of the Jordan – his land – to his people, along with the land on the west side. Ill: It doesn’t matter if others were occupying your land. When you want to give it to your children, wouldn’t you run off those who are occupying it?

Psalm 136:17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever; 18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever— 19 **Sihon king of the Amorites**, For His mercy endures forever; 20 And **Og king of Bashan**, For His mercy endures forever— 21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;

Not only did God give the land to Israel, but God commanded Israel to sing about it forever. Even Nehemiah, one of the last books of the Old Testament, pointed out what God did to these two kings. We sing about it today! And it wasn't that just that God destroyed Og and Sihon. We sing because it showed the unity of the church.

2. But it is what is at the background of these 2 kings that is most notable: Both these kings **refused to allow Israel to pass** through their territory – in a straight line – to get to the Promise Land – even with Israel's promise not to turn to the left or the right – not even drink their water. What cruelty! And considering the context of Middle East hospitality (热情好客), this was most shameful. The 2 kings made Israel, with their women, children, and animals suffer and made a much longer journey to get into Canaan and God made them suffer.

Numbers 21:21 Then Israel sent messengers to **Sihon king of the Amorites**, saying, 22 "Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory." 23 But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. **So Sihon gathered all his people together and went out against Israel** in the wilderness, and he came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. (西宏不容以色列人从他的境界经过, 就召集他的众民出道旷野, 要攻击以色列人, 到了雅杂, 与以色列人争战。) 24 Then Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the people of Ammon; for the border of the people of Ammon was fortified.

Not only did these kings refuse Israel's request, but **they came and attacked Israel**. Israel did not attack them. So **God assured his people of protection** and **then ascertained the destruction of these nations**. These 2 seeds of the Serpent (这两个蛇的后裔) came out against the Seeds of the Woman – Israel's general. He defeated them. **No one who rejects Jesus and his children can avoid his judgment**. Those who reject the Lord's call to accept life – life that he purchased on the cross (祂在十字架上买赎回来的生命) – will face his judgment. This is the message you must take to the world. Offer the world hope. If the world refuses to submit to the woman's Seed, it does so to its own detriment (亏损).

7 And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions, 8 in the mountain country, in the lowlands, in the Jordan plain, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the South—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: 9 the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one; 10 the king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one; 11 the king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one; 12 the king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one; 13 the king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one; 14 the king of

Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one; 15 the king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one; 16 the king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one; 17 the king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hopher, one; 18 the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one; 19 the king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one; 20 the king of Shimron Meron, one; the king of Achshaph, one; 21 the king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one; 22 the king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one; 23 the king of Dor in the heights of Dor, one; the king of the people of Gilgal, one; 24 the king of Tirzah, one—all the kings, thirty-one.

3. After Og and Sihon's defeat east of the Jordan, Verses 7-24 described the nations and the kings that Israel captured on west of the Jordan (约旦河西岸). These included Jericho, Ai, Bethel, the 5 nations that attacked Gibeon, and the great conspiracy, led by Jabin. This gave Israel possession of the north and south of Canaan. Israel was trained to sing about this!

Psalm 105:44 He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, And they inherited the labor of the nations, 45 That they might observe His statutes And keep His laws. Praise the LORD!

4. Why did God include this long list of names, places, and battles in the Scriptures? Was it unnecessary?

a. God placed these names and places in the Scriptures so you can **see the reliability and historicity (史诗性) of God's work in history.** These places were real; they were not some made up stories. Archeological excavations (考古挖掘) continue to confirm the truthfulness of God's word and work.

b. God placed these names and places in the Scriptures so **the wicked might be shamed in infamy (遗臭万年).**

c. God placed these names and places in the Scriptures so that the **righteous might be honored for trusting him.**

d. God placed these names and places in the Scriptures so that the righteous **might be moved (深受感动), seeing his faithfulness, to worship him** better. The details magnify God's work. Israel knew every piece of real estate and every king that God gave to them. This was itemizing God's goodness, one man said. **So learn to thank God only with generalities.**

e. God placed these names and places in the Scriptures – even the references to national boundaries - so that **the boundaries should not be in questioned by Israel and by Israel's neighbors.** (Some examples of these details: “as far as the River Jabbok,” “from the middle of that river,” and “the road to Beth Jeshimoth.”)

So don't ignore the details when you read the Scriptures.

The Land Yet to Be Conquered

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—they 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.

1. Joshua was getting old now. His time for war was coming to a close. He was 85-90 years now. He had fought the good fight and kept the faith. He never became as corrupt as David and other kings. He had finished the work assigned to him. He did not plead for more time even though the whole land was not yet completely captured. Was he weak in faith that he did not ask for more time? No. He knew that Israel was not large enough to occupy the whole land. If they captured it, they wouldn't have been able to keep it. The land would have become overgrown and wild animals reign. He also knew that God did not give Israel all the land at one time otherwise they might have become arrogant. God simply assigned the Canaanites to upkeep (维护保养) the land until Israel was ready for it.

2. And in expectation of God giving them the rest of the land in the future, God instructed Joshua to divide even the not-yet-conquered land (那些还没有征服的地方). What an expectant faith! This implied that they would have to continue fighting, for God did not establish a one-sided covenant with Israel. They had obligations. Sadly, much of this "yet-to-be-conquered-land was never conquered, or it was conquered and lost, like during the days of Saul (扫罗的时代).

3. Joshua divided the land by lots so there could be no dispute as to what belonged to whom. Man casts the lots, but every decision is from God.

4. Take warning and take heart 得到鼓舞 from this.

a. Take warning from the fact that Christians today have been too focused on their own needs rather than kingdom work. This is cause us to lose much more than we have gained...just as Canaan was kicked out of the land. The church is not thriving in North America and we are in danger of becoming irrelevant. We ignore missions. We are busy, but with insignificant things. We feed the hungry, but only with bread, not with truth.

b. Take heart from the fact that God promised the world to you and assured you of victory and you were called to conquer it. God promised the nations to Abraham and Abraham's Son, Jesus Christ. You are to serve to bring the world under his dominion.

Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD. 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited. (2 “要扩张你帐幕之地，张大你居所的幔子，不要限止；要放长你的绳子，坚固你的橛子。3 因为你要向左向右开展，你的后裔必得多国为业，又使荒凉的城邑有人居住。)

And may you always see that the nations of the earth will be conquered by Jesus Christ, the one whom Joshua pre-figured (预表的). It is not coincidental that Joshua is the same word as Jesus.

The Land Conquered then Divided

7 "Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh." 8 With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them: 9 from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon; 10 all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the children of Ammon; 11 Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah; 12 all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these. 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.

1. The land that Israel had conquered, more or less, was then divided among the 9 ½ tribes west of the Jordan River. Sadly they did not remove all the pagan people from all of these lands. Quickly they forgot about their work. They became concerned about their own welfare and pleasures.

Judges 2:8 -Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

14 Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.

2. Of course Levi did not receive an allotted inheritance. All tribes were required to allot land for Levi among their own land. The Levites were the priests of God (神的祭司) .

15 And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben (流便支派的宗族) an inheritance according to their families. 16 Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain by Medeba; 17 Heshbon and all its cities that are in the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaza, Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kirjathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahaar on the mountain of the valley, 20 Beth Peor, the slopes of Pishgah, and Beth Jeshimoth—21 all the cities of the plain and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses had struck with the princes of Midian: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, who were princes of Sihon dwelling in the country. 22 **The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer,** among those who were killed by them. 23 And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages. 24 Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad (迦得支派) , to the children of Gad according to their families. 25 Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which is before Rabbah, 26 and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir, 27 and in the valley Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the

kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border, as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward. 28 This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and their villages. 29 Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh (玛拿西); it was for half the tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families: 30 Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities; 31 half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, for half of the children of Machir according to their families. 32 These are the areas which Moses had distributed as an inheritance in the plains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward. 33 But to the tribe of Levi (利未支派) Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them. (耶和华以色列的神是他们的产业, 正如耶和华所应许他们的。)

3. Since there was no disputing what was assigned to each tribe, God people could live in peace.

4. It is true that Balaam (巴兰) had tried so hard to curse the people of God and cause confusion among them, but God stopped him through his talking donkey and with the presence of the Lord. Yet, the Israelites were conquered by their own indulgence in adultery (放纵淫乱), as they were lured to join in sin with pagan women.

5. For the conquering of the land and for the reward of the saints of God in heaven are 2 things for which you must work and pray today. Learn from the failures of those who suffered from lust of the flesh, eyes, and prideful things (肉体的情欲, 眼目的情欲, 并今生的骄傲). Feed the hungry!

Revelation 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Conclusion:

God gave Israel rest from their enemies after he destroyed the nations occupying Israel's land. In his goodness, God did not give Israel all the land, lest they be overwhelmed. Furthermore, God did not give them all the land other they might have become arrogant with great wealth and forget God's goodness. God then fairly divided land among Israel as he saw fit.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

God loves you in Jesus Christ. You are precious to him, even as the blood of Christ is precious.

Because God loves you, he will not give you everything you want, lest you become arrogant and forget him. When the time is right he removes your enemies.

God's love caused him to give you certain gifts (恩赐) that you can use to work to advance his kingdom. What gifts has he given to you? And how well are you using it?

Surely you can't do everything? But what, if anything, are you doing to advance his kingdom?

Finally, will God treat you like Og and Sihon, or will he treat you like Joshua and Israel? If you call on him to make you his child on account of Christ's substitutionary (代替的, 代赎的) work for sinners, then you can enjoy God's love and protection, and have hope after you die.