

# Joshua 18-19-Reward and Responsibilities – Seven other Tribes

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Judah, the royal tribe from which Christ would come, was given the preeminent place and was first allotted land in Canaan. Even the location of the land aided the spread of the Gospel later. The 2 tribes that were next in line to get their land were Ephraim and Manasseh. Now the 7 remaining tribes had to get their land. (The 2 other tribes were assigned land east of the Jordan.) But along with their covenant reward of the land for each tribe came their covenant responsibility. You will see this again today-how covenant reward and covenant responsibility are tied.

Our headings are: **The Plea: A Call to Conquer your Allotted Land, The Partition: Here is your Land to Conquer. The Prize: Special Land for Joshua to build.**

Our goals are: **That you, the eternally secured children through Jesus Christ, will see the need to do battle for Christ's kingdom, knowing that you will win, knowing that Christ's kingdom will be establish on the earth, and knowing that you will be handsomely rewarded for your service.**

## **The Plea: A Call to Conquer your Allotted Land**

1 Now the whole congregation of the **children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh**, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them. 2 But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. 3 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 fathers has given you?

**1. God gave the Land of Canaan into Israel's hands.** God destroyed Jericho, Ai, Bethel, the 5 cities, and the great confederacy. **We can say the heavy lifting was done – main work was completed.** So at Shiloh – peace – a named assigned to Jesus – the tabernacle was set up. **Shiloh was in Ephraim, where the first Joshua was, in the midst of Israel.** About 400 years later, after Samuel, the tabernacle was moved to Jerusalem – after Jerusalem was finally captured by King David and established as God's throne. ("Salem" from Jeru-Salem meant "peace.") **God meets with his people when he has peace with them.** But this peace was only the down payment of what man needed. Man needed full peace – peace through Jesus.  
**Genesis 49:10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **Until Shiloh comes**; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.  
**Isaiah 33:20** Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, **A tabernacle that will not be taken down**; Not one of its stakes will ever be removed, Nor will any of its cords be broken.  
Look at the fulfillment. The time was coming when the one pictured by the tabernacle would permanently be set in Jerusalem by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joshua. You are in Jerusalem now – or better – your are Jerusalem now.  
**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and **dwelt (tabernacled) among us...**  
**Hebrews 9:11** But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and **more perfect tabernacle not made with hands**, that is, not of this creation.

**2. But God did not want to give the 7 nations everything they wanted in their laps.** Absolutely not! He loves his children too much to do that. They needed to learn to fulfil **their responsibilities** in order to be successful. He wanted them to learn from Caleb **who went after the Anakim giants**. He wanted them to learn from Manasseh and Ephraim who **were told to go and fight the Canaanites** and get the valley for their home. **But it seems that these 7 tribes were contented with what God had given them from the spoils of the city they had captured** and were reluctant to go and fight. They wanted a life of ease. They could visit their friends and enjoy life. **Even though they had bigger and better things, they settled for ease.** They would have had to get out of their comfort zones. They would have had to travel long distances. So they found many excuses not to establish Canaan as God's land from which the Savior would come. **God offered a devastating blow and the main nations were destroyed, but** the 7 tribes did not want to follow it with a knockout punch and get the full allotment of land.  
**Isn't this so much like today when many don't value the cost of freedom?** Many have little sense of the wars that brought freedom. Instead we face an entitlement generation. "I deserve this because I am special." "I deserve to be happy." So it was for Israel. They wanted everything done for them. This is the curse of Western Christians today as well. It is easy to pray for things that you think you deserve, but what about the cosmic fight – which is winnable-that you are in? You are called by your Savior not to be contented with what you have. You have to conquer the world – rather than be contented with New Horizon. The heavy lifting was done on the cross.

**Ecc 11:4** He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.  
We can "forsake our own mercies for lying vanities." Henry. But you must:  
**Psalms 37:5** Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

4 "**Pick out from among you three men for each tribe**, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, **survey it according to their inheritance**, and come back to me. 5 "And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north. 6 "You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring the survey here to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. 7 "But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

**3. But notice that Joshua did not simply tell them what to do this great task. He gave them guidance for the task.** He sent them out to survey, map, and specifically divide it into 7 parts so they could plan more effectively for the war. Josephus said these 21 men were specialist in geometry. **Three** men from each tribe were necessary to confirm truth.

8 Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh." 9 So the men went, passed through the land, and wrote the survey in a book in seven parts by cities; and they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh. 10 Then Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions.

**4. The 21 men obeyed,** surveyed the land and brought the results to Joshua. They had to be fair because they did not know who would get which of the parcels of land they divided. Then Joshua cast lots to let God show who would get each portion. He did not pick the one he liked and give them the best land. He knew his judgment was not perfect. He relied on God to do the picking.

### **The Partition: Here is your Land to Conquer**

11 Now the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot came out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph. 12 Their border on the north side began at the Jordan, and the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the mountains westward; it ended at the Wilderness of Beth Aven. 13 The border went over from there toward Luz, to the side of Luz (which is Bethel) southward; and the border descended to Ataroth Addar, near the hill that lies on the south side of Lower Beth Horon. 14 Then the border extended around the west side to the south, from the hill that lies before Beth Horon southward; and it ended at Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim), a city of the children of Judah. This was the west side. 15 The south side began at the end of Kirjath Jearim, and the border extended on the west and went out to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah. 16 Then the border came down to the end of the mountain that lies before the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is in the Valley of the Rephaim on the north, descended to the Valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite city on the south, and descended to En Rogel. 17 And it went around from the north, went out to En Shemesh, and extended toward Geliloth, which is before the Ascent of Adummim, and descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. 18 Then it passed along toward the north side of Arabah, and went down to Arabah. 19 And the border passed along to the north side of Beth Hoglah; then the border ended at the north bay at the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the southern boundary. 20 The Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin, according to its boundaries all around, according to their families. 21 Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, according to their families, were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, 22 Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, 23 Avim, Parah, Ophrah, 24 Chephar Haammoni, Ophni, and Gaba: twelve cities with their villages; 25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, 26 Mizpah, Chephirah, Mozah, 27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, 28 Zelah, Eleph, Jebus (which is Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kirjath: fourteen cities with their villages. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

**1. The first of the 7 tribes to be assigned land was Benjamin. Their forefather, Benjamin, did not join in the plan to kill Joseph.** He was a full brother of Joseph. Benjamin showed that closeness to Joseph when ½ of the tribe of Benjamin remained faithful to Judah and Rehoboam when the nation was ripped apart by Jeroboam and his idolatry. Apostle Paul was a Benjamite. Benjamin was near Mt. Moriah and Mt. Zion, close to the place of sacrifices of the Lord. Notice how the blessing of parents continues for many generations.

1 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah. 2 They had in their inheritance Beersheba (Sheba), Moladah, 3 Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eitolah, Bethul, Hormah, 5 Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, 6 Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhem: thirteen cities

and their villages; 7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan: four cities and their villages; 8 and all the villages that were all around these cities as far as Baalath Beer, Ramah of the South. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. **9 The inheritance of the children of Simeon was included in the share of the children of Judah, for the share of the children of Judah was too much for them.** Therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of that people.

**2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tribe to get land was Simeon.** Simeon was cursed by Jacob for his murder of the men of Shechem. **There is no famous person from this tribe recorded in the Bible.** While there was some dispute about land which was originally assigned to Judah, that land was later assigned to Simeon. Judah had a legal right to that land, but they did not hesitate to turn it over to Simeon, as they had enough for themselves. Simeon was located south of Judah in desert country. Maybe that was part of their curse for their father's sin. **But how kind and peaceful Judah was!** **James 3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

10 The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families, and the border of their inheritance was as far as Sarid. 11 Their border went toward the west and to Maralah, went to Dabbasheth, and extended along the brook that is east of Jokneam. 12 Then from Sarid it went eastward toward the sunrise along the border of Chisloth Tabor, and went out toward Daberath, bypassing Japhia. 13 And from there it passed along on the east of Gath Hopher, toward Eth Kazin, and extended to Rimmon, which borders on Neah. 14 Then the border went around it on the north side of Hannathon, and it ended in the Valley of Jiphthah El. 15 Included were Kattath, Nahallal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities with their villages. 16 This was the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

**3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> tribe to get land was Zebulun. Their land was in the north and close to the Mediterranean Sea.** Trade, as predicted by Jacob in Genesis 49:13, was their forte. Zebulun, on Mt. Carmel, was where Elijah did battle with the false prophets of Baal.

17 The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families. 18 And their territory went to Jezreel, and included Chesulloth, Shunem, 19 Haphraim, Shion, Anaharath, 20 Rabbith, Kishion, Abetz, 21 Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pazzez. 22 And the border reached to Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh; their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages. 23 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities and their villages.

**4. The 4<sup>th</sup> tribe to get land was Issachar. They were in the north above Manasseh.** This was the place of Ahab's palace and where he stole Naboth's vineyard. Elisha visited the Shunammite woman here.

24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families. 25 And their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph, 26 Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal; it reached to Mount Carmel westward, along the Brook Shihor Libnath. 27 It turned toward the sunrise to Beth Dagon; and it reached to Zebulun and to the Valley of Jiphthah El, then northward beyond Beth Emek and Neiel, bypassing Cabul which was on the left, 28 including Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon. 29 And the border turned to Ramah and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and ended at the sea by the region of Achzib. 30 Also Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob were included: twenty-two cities with their villages. 31 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.

**5. The 5<sup>th</sup> tribe to get land was Asher.** One famous person from Asher was the prophetess Anna, who saw Jesus in the temple. Asher was known for fine produce that graced kings' tables.

32 The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali, for the children of Naphtali according to their families. 33 And their border began at Heleph, enclosing the territory from the terebinth tree in Zaananim, Adami Nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum; it ended at the Jordan. 34 From Heleph the border extended westward to Aznoth Tabor, and went out from there toward Hukkok; it adjoined Zebulun on the south side and Asher on the west side, and ended at Judah by the Jordan toward the sunrise. 35 And the fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth, 36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor, 38 Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh: nineteen cities with their villages. 39 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities and their villages.

**6. The 6<sup>th</sup> tribe to get land was Naphtali.** Capernaum and Bethsaida were there and Jesus Christ did many miracles here. The Sea of Galilee was the northeastern border.

40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families. 41 And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh, 42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jethlah, 43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron, 44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, 45 Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon, 46 Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the region near Joppa. 47 And the border of the children of Dan went beyond these, because the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem and took it; and they struck it with the edge of the sword, took possession of it, and dwelt in it. They called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father. 48 This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.

**7. The 7<sup>th</sup> tribe to get land was Dan.** This was a small but powerful tribe in the extreme north. They bordered Syria. They were strong militarily and had one of Israel's 4 garrisons. Samson was from this area. The famous bunch of grapes that the spies brought was from here. Their responsibility was to help protect Israel from northern attacks.

### **The Prize: Special Land for Joshua to Build**

49 When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, **the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua** the son of Nun. 50 According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim; **and he built the city and dwelt in it.**

**1. Joshua, Israel's faithful general, had to get his own land.** So Israel, at God directions, gave him land in his own tribe, Ephraim. He had been the servant of Israel for 45 years. He did not waver in his faith but relied upon his Savior for strength. He talked to his Savior. He met with his Savior. He moved with his Savior. He was Israel's king without the title and honor. He never complained. He never asked to be served. He served. He waited to be given land; he did not even assign himself land. No wonder he was honored with having the Lord Jesus named after him.

**2. But even when he was given land, he was not treated as a god.** If someone won an Olympic medal in ancient Greece he never had to work again. **But that is not how God's people worked.** There is no such thing as retirement of healthy people in the Bible. Retirement of healthy people is a perversion of your Christian duty. **Work is a creation ordinance.** It means you must not stop. If you are able to work, you must. You may not have a regular job, or you may have to work less, or you may work for free, but you must work. Freedom 55 is full of folly. Working is how dominion comes. **How is God glorified if a man refuses to use the strength that God has given to him and then complains of not having enough?** That is presumptuousness. Joshua displayed how Christians ought to live. He was past "retirement" age, but he went and built a city on the land Israel gave to him. The rest of Israel dwelt in land they did not build, **but he did not take the shortcut** – like Jesus was tempted to do by the Devil. I don't expect he was carrying great logs on his back, but he kept working. He had covenant rewards. He showed covenant responsibility. **Philippians 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant...**

Jesus fulfilled your covenant responsibility (and took its punishment) as a servant and credited it to you. **Now your yoke is easy and your burden light. Now work and build as Joshua did. Joshua=Christ. Joshua=you.**

51 These were the inheritances which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.

**3. With the leaders getting their portion last, the division of the land was established.** No one had a legal right from then to question the division, as God determined that by lot in the presence of witnesses.

### **Conclusion:**

**Israel was given the land and their major enemies were destroyed (their reward).** After the tribes were allotted their land, they were **told to root out the remaining occupiers of their land and establish Christ's kingdom there (their responsibility).**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I hope you see the lesson for you. Your Lord saved you and destroyed your greatest enemy. He was a perfect covenant keeper. Now he has entrusted to you the solemn duty of weeding out sin in your body and soul, and weeding out sin in this world. He has equipped you with his Word and Spirit to work for him. How close are you to God's Holy Spirit? Do you let him speak to you when you sin, or do you fight him? Do you let him strengthen you? What about his Word? Is it regularly imparted to your soul? Do you have a daily feasting so you have energy in your soul?

Finally: If you are not a Christian, you know what happened to the Canaanites. They had 440 years to repent, but they continued in their selfish ways. So God drew the sword and destroyed them. God will do the same to you unless you repent and join his family. Yes, he is a just God who will destroy the wicked, but he is also a loving Father to the one who repents of his sins, and holds on to the substitution of Christ's death for them.