

Jos217 – Is THIS My Lot, Lord? – Joshua 14:1-4

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Open your Bibles. Title of the message, “Is *THIS* My Lot, Lord?” We’re going to Joshua 14:1-4.

Have you ever hear someone say, “*I guess this is just my LOT in life*”? Well, from the Bible that “saying” kinda comes from this section of scripture. This saying is generally a reference to a *divine allotment* – some “place in life” that’s been given to us by God.

Unfortunately, we hear it most often with a negative connotation or a somewhat “defeated acceptance” of some difficulty in life.

Let’s pray that we would learn to “look differently” at our “*lot*” in life. We need a new perspective about the place where we’re at in life, right now.

*Lord Jesus, we need a new perspective. We need your perspective. We need a heavenly perspective, an eternal perspective; one that is higher than ours, Lord. Give us your perspective. Take us off the throne of how we view things, the throne of opinion, and give us the faith to see with your eyes and trust you for the lot that we’re in, in life right now. Please Lord reveal it to us today, in your name Jesus, amen.*

This is a difficult message because it deals with *both* God’s **sovereignty** and our **responsibility**. And there are some who have a difficult time acknowledging that *both* these words work perfectly *together* and *equally* belong in the Christian life.

God’s SOVEREIGNTY means: God is in absolute charge and he is free and able to do what he knows is best in *all of creation* and *in our lives*.

God has that right to place us where he wants us and to put us in a situation that he knows is best for us, that HE KNOWS is best for us.

Our RESPONSIBILITY means: We have a role in appropriating (possessing) the Promised Life that God has sovereignly given us as an inheritance.

God, not why am I here (as in change my circumstances) but God, why am I here – what are you doing in me, here? What’s the purpose of my lot in life, Lord? How in the world can I grow closer to you and know you better and experience your presence and your power and your victory more right here in this lot in life?

God has the sovereign mandate (if you will) by his character to do what he knows is best for us. We have a responsibility to possess what he is doing and why he is doing it.

We've just started the second half of the Book of Joshua and God is sovereignly "allocating" (giving) specific areas of the Promised Land to the Tribes of Israel. And it is this problem – somewhere between God's sovereignty and our responsibility – that causes us to (at times) end up saying, "*Is THIS my lot, Lord?*"

The command to the Tribes is "Go possess what I have given you." "Go possess the land I've given you and go run the enemies out of the land that I've given you." Joshua conquered the enemies just as Jesus Christ has conquered the enemies in our lives. That is God's sovereign victory, it's all him. But then we have a responsibility to enter that place in our lives and run those enemies out, though they've been conquered, they still must be run out of our lives.

That enemy that you are struggling with, that you have a tendency to say, "Well I can't beat it, I can't get over it." That enemy has already been conquered; the victory has already been won. You have to possess that victory, you have to appropriate it, you have to make it your own and drive that enemy out of your life – because that enemy is already conquered.

We began looking at the "allotment" of the Promised Land last week in Chapter 13. Today we see three major "divisions" of the allotment of the Promised Land to the people of God and in these three major divisions there are three major lessons to be learned. And so we will look at each major division and its major lesson individually.

Let's start in Joshua 14:1-2 today. Reading from the NKJV for one key word.

**Joshua 14:1–2(a) (NKJV)**

*1 These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them.*

*2 Their inheritance was by lot, as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses . . .*

The NKJV does a great job here – tying this all together with the word ***INHERITENCE***. Each "lot" in the Promised Land was an inheritance – given to God's people – sovereignly.

When we talk about inheritance in New Testament terms, in Christ terms, our inheritance is in the heavenlies. Our inheritance is in Christ. Ephesians 1 spells out the significance, the eternality, the massiveness of our inheritance positionally being raised up and seated with Christ in the heavenlies. We know that our true inheritance is not here, it's not in this land, it's eternal. Our true inheritance is the Kingdom of God – but that inheritance

starts here. Our eternal life starts here. We start our relationship with the Lord, here, but we know that our inheritance truly is beyond the horizon of this life.

We know that inheritance means that we are given something by someone because of our relationship with them. Typically in our culture when someone passes away, obviously that's not true with God, but God has given us an inheritance – again, a spiritual heavenly inheritance – but in Joshua the word inheritance is used as an irrevocable gift from God. This is your lot in life; this is your inheritance from God.

One thing I need to make perfectly clear – God is not the author or the “gifter” of anything evil. He cannot gift evil. He is not the author of evil. The evil one is the author of evil. And so God does not gift us, we do not inherit things of the evil one.

And so we need to do this preface so that we understand that God puts you in a place in life that in that place the world comes in and the evil one comes in and you maybe make your own choices that bring evil into your life. Or someone else makes choices that bring evil into your life. The evil is not the gift from God. You have not inherited evil things from God. You have been given a place in life and then the enemy is working actively, daily, to destroy you – especially because you are God's.

So don't think that God gives us things that are evil. That's not true. God gives us an allocation, a place in life and sometimes the evil one reaches us in that place. If that is the case, your inheritance is not the evil; your inheritance is *victory over* the evil. Your inheritance is *not* the evil, your inheritance is not the consequences of your sin, the inheritance is the *victory over* this sin. This is what God gives you – the victory and the power to overcome any evil that you've experienced or have to run out of that allocation in the Promised Life.

But... we all know stories about battles of inheritance, don't we? Sons and daughters fighting over who gets what as an inheritance. And really what is happening most often is, one sibling wants what another sibling has been given and they don't want the “lot” in the inheritance they have been given. ***WHY did HE get the BMW - and I got the KIA???***

That's because we want to determine our own inheritance, don't we? Because we want what *we want* – don't we? But just like the gather with the BMW and the KIA, God made it clear that he was going to choose who got what as their inheritance in the Promised Land.

And you know what makes that all perfectly fair and right? God's SOVEREIGNTY. And remember, God's sovereignty means God is in absolute charge and he is free and able to do what he knows is best.

So God chose *what lot in the Promised Life* each Tribe got – by lots (that's confusing, I know.) In this original use of the word “lot” (as in casting lots) casting lots was not a thing of chance; instead it was the clear direction of God's sovereignty. God had made it perfectly clear through Moses in Numbers Chapters 26, 33, and 34, that God would sovereignly give (as an inheritance) “a certain lot” in the Promised Life to each Tribe. And then, that Tribe was responsible for going and taking possession of the lot in the Promised Life that they were given.

And guys, please hear me on this. On each Tribe's part (just like for us) the taking possession of their lot in the Promised Life was directly tied to their ability – BY FAITH – to embrace God's sovereignty in their allotted inheritance.

It is the same with us. We must first (by faith) embrace God's sovereignty before we can ever embrace our “lot” in life. And those who went and took possession of their inheritance were blessed beyond measure and those who rebelled against their inheritance never experienced the blessings of the Promised Life.

So, let's look at a summary of the three major divisions of the inheritance and the lessons that go with each one. And as we continue through Joshua we'll see more specifically how each Tribe did – or did not- “take possession” of their sovereign inheritance from God.

The **First Major Division** is for the 9 ½ Tribes. We see this in Joshua 14:2 – again in the NKJV.

**Joshua 14:2 (NKJV)**

**2 Their inheritance was by lot, as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.**

The summary of the enemies to be conquered and the land to be possessed for these 9 ½ Tribes was actually back in Chapter 13. So, look back up a Joshua Chapter 13 and just glance at it with me.

**Joshua 13:2** says – *This is the territory that remains*  
and then - three enemies are listed in verses 2-3  
and then – a Land area in verse 3  
then – five more enemies in verse 3

then – at the end of verse 3 and verse 4 – two more enemies  
and more Land area  
and then – in verses 5-6 - two more enemies and more Land area.

That list represents  
A LOT of Different TYPES of Enemies – and  
A LOT of Different TYPES of Land

And then comes the promise we looked at last week.

**Joshua 13:6(b)–7 (NLT)**

**6** (the Lord says to Joshua). . . ***“I myself will drive these people out of the land ahead of the Israelites. So be sure to give this land to Israel as a special possession, just as I have commanded you.***

**7** ***Include all this territory as Israel’s possession when you divide this land among the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh.”***

All these different types of enemies and all these different types of land... with the promise that the Lord will *bring victory* in each one.

But now, these 9 ½ tribes are there waiting to see which “lot” in the Promised Life they will inherit. They’re waiting to find out which land and which enemy they have been sovereignly given by God.

Some of the Tribes are going to get enemies that will be conquered quickly and easily and some of the Tribes are going to get giants in their land – huge and extremely difficult enemies – they must conquer. And it was all done by casting lots, directed entirely by God’s perfect sovereignty.

Isn’t it the same in *our* lives?

Doesn’t each of us inherit a different “lot” in life?

Some *seemingly easier* than others

Some *seemingly extremely difficult*.

Maybe you feel like the person sitting next to you has been given the lush green pasture lands and you’ve been given the rocky, craggy mountains. Maybe you see their battles as minor compared to the giants you’re trying to run out of your life.

First of all, you may be very wrong in your assumptions. *But even if you are right...*

Should we be complaining and whining like we’ll see some of the Tribes of Israel do about the “lot in life” that God has sovereignly given us as an inheritance? Or should we

maybe be forever grateful that we've been made joint heirs with Jesus Christ and that we have an incredible, eternal inheritance in him?

And what if Romans 8:28 is *really true*? What if God is at work for your ultimate good right in the middle of the lot that you feel “stuck in”? And what if us “kicking against” our “lot in life” is actually keeping us from taking possession of all the promises that God has for us right in the middle of the “lot” we are in today.

Listen to this (somewhat long) quote from **Alan Redpath** (whose books you should read – any that you can get.)

**Alan Redpath**: *God gave to each tribe that piece of territory, that difficult mountain, that heartbreaking experience, that sore trial that He knew in His wisdom would be eternally the best for [them]. I believe that if we accept that truth we shall possess Christ in a new way. If we do not believe it and kick against our experience, if we refuse to accept God's portion, God's lot for our lives, then we will never possess the [promised life].*

### **LESSON #1 – When we say “Is THIS My Lot, Lord”**

We MUST trust (and embrace) God's sovereignty

KNOWING fully and completely

that God is “at work” for what is eternally BEST for us.

### **Psalm 37:3–4 (NKJV)**

*3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*

*4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

Moving on to the **Second Major Division** of the Promised Land and the **second major lesson**.

Back in Joshua Chapter 14, again from the NKJV to keep the word “inheritance” in focus.

### **Joshua 14:3(a) (NKJV)**

*3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan . . .*

A number of times we have looked at these two and a half tribes who demanded their inheritance on the wrong side of the Jordan River. We addressed them in Joshua Chapter 1 and Joshua Chapter 4 and we see the details of their “wrong-sided” inheritance in Joshua 13.

Back in Numbers Chapter 32 these tribes came to Moses and begged him to give them this land *as their inheritance* – this land that was perfect for their livestock and farming.

It was *just outside* the Promised Land.

It was *just a “stone’s throw”* from the Promised Land.

It was *right on the border* of the Promised Land.

Have you made those kinds of choices to live on the borderland instead of in the Promised Land? These tribes begged Moses to let them live “just outside” the Promised Land.

**And Moses argued with them – saying**

Don’t do what your ancestors did

Don’t chose the wilderness over the Promised Land

Don’t accept “close enough” AS ENOUGH.

But they persisted and (here is the scariest part of all) *God allowed it*. And then Moses required them to send their fighting men into the Promised Land to help the other Tribes in their battles.

And so these two and a half Tribes had

One foot in the Promised Land and

One foot in the Wilderness – and God allowed it!

That’s the scariest part for me. This was not God’s best for these two and a half Tribes. This was NOT God’s Promised Life for them. God, in his sovereignty, allowed these Tribes to live one foot in and one foot out of the Promised Life and they never experienced the true life God had for them.

They were the first to be attacked by the enemies. They were the first to disappear into the world. Certainly they experienced some of God’s blessing but they never walked fully in the Promised Life.

**LESSON #2 – When we say “Is THIS My Lot, Lord”**

Our choices impact

how much of the Promised Life we possess.

We must accept responsibility for the lot in life we find ourselves in. We can’t always blame God. This illustration is so simple. It’s like the guy that gets plastered drunk and runs into a tree and then blames God for the car accident. God didn’t do that – vodka did that.

Don't blame God for something you brought into your own allotment in life. If you are bringing in sin, if you are fighting God, if you are demanding your own way, then God may very well just give it to you. And you should be deathly afraid of that. Our choices impact how much of the Promised Land we possess or not at all.

This is not about salvation. If you are saved today then you are saved. But your choices will determine to WHAT EXTENT you EXPERIENCE the Promised Life God has given you.

But here is the best news of Lesson #2. God welcomes u-turns.

### **Like the voice of that Nice Lady on your GPS**

***Make a U-Turn***

***At the next street – Make a U-Turn***

***You BETTER make a U-Turn***

***If you Don't Make a U-Turn – your never gonna get there***

It's like that. God might be speaking that critical voice into your life. Make a u-turn. You've made a decision to live outside the Promised Life – repent. Turn from that and come back into the center of God's will.

On any day, at any moment you can turn from living outside the Promised Life and begin walking back to the center of the Promised Life that God has for you.

### **Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT)**

***5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.***

***6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*** (Back inside the Promised Life)

Okay, **one more division** and **one more lesson** and this is the biggest lesson of all.

Back in Joshua 14 and staying with the NKJV to keep our focus on that word *inheritance*.

### **Joshua 14:3(b) & 4(b) (NKJV)**

***3 . . . but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them.***

***4 . . . And they gave no part to the Levites in the land . . .***

And back in Chapter 13, twice we read the same thing.

### **Joshua 13:14(a) (NKJV)**

***14 Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance . . .***

**Joshua 13:33(a) (NKJV)**

***33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance . . .***

WHAAATTT? I thought this was the Tribe that was the servants of the Lord. They were the Priests. They were the intercessors. They served the Lord on behalf of the people and they got no inheritance?

No, they did NOT get “no inheritance.” They got the *greatest inheritance* of all.

**Joshua 13:33(b) (NKJV)**

***33 . . . the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.***

***The LORD God Himself – WAS their Inheritance***

The Lord God is your inheritance... and you want a *car*? There’s a problem, right? What if God has put you in a place where your greatest inheritance is *him*? The presence and the Person of Jesus Christ himself?

Can I ask you a question, please? If you had to choose between an easy life here on this earth OR the Lord Jesus Christ himself... which would you choose? If you say Jesus, that is easy to say in church, isn’t it? What if Jesus only came in the rocky, craggy field mountains? What if he only came in the dry, dusty, near impossible desert? (Like Blythe) What if that’s where Jesus came? Now what?

Please listen. Your inheritance is Christ alone. You are called. You are a kingdom of Priests 1 Peter says. You have been called to be part of the body. You have been called to be worshippers and servants and conduits of God. You have been called for your life to be replaced by the life of Christ. Jesus Christ himself is your highest possession and your ultimate and highest inheritance. And in him comes everything else.

Please, please remember -

*THE Absolute Prerequisite Possession - from last week*

*The Absolute Highest Priority Possession*

*Is the Lord Jesus Christ – himself.*

It is a real, experiential, ever-increasing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. All of the Promised Life comes (positionally) “IN CHRIST” and all of the possessing of the Promised Life comes through our relationship “WITH CHRIST.” The Lord God of Israel *IS* our highest possession in the Promised Life.

All that we need practically comes through Christ as our provision. If we refuse to receive Christ as our inheritance and demand something behind him, like looking past the giver to the gift, looking past the “blessor” to the blessing, we’ll never truly inherit the highest possession in the Promised Life, because Christ *himself* is the highest possession.

An ever increasing, intimate relationship with Christ, and ever present walking with God. And every moment by moment provision from the Lord. That is your highest possession. That is your highest inheritance. And there is a day coming when no other inheritance will matter except your heavenly inheritance, and trust me – it feels like it’s coming sooner than later.

It’s a vapor! And then you’re going to say, “Lord, all you gave me was stuff on that crummy earth? I needed you. I needed you. I needed you to be my possession. I needed you to be my inheritance.”

And no matter what your experience was on earth, as soon as you step out of this earth it’s not going to matter. It’s not going to matter. Paul says in Romans 8 – for I consider the sufferings of this present age not to be worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us.

It’s no comparison. We have got to get it right. Our highest possession is Christ. And we can gain that possession and that inheritance in any lot in life. And the truth is the harder lots are sometimes easier to gain Christ in. That’s the truth – because there are fewer distractions and more need to cling to him.

And so, no matter where you are today, no matter what “lot in life” you find yourself in today – whether you are abounding or abasing, having plenty or suffering need – in your lot in life you need Jesus. You need an ever increasing, experiential, power filled, victorious relationship with him and he can give that to you in whatever lot you are in right now.

Whatever your situation is, you have to look for that. You have to seek that. You have to be determined to get that. Stop asking God to make this puny, worthless life – better. Use this time to make eternity better. That is your true inheritance; it’s the kingdom of God.

And that goes for everybody. Whether you have the best pasture lands and the best life possible, or the hardest life possible. Now everyone is on equal ground, because we all need Christ as our ultimate inheritance. We all have the opportunity to do that today. I pray that we would.

Let's pray. *Lord Jesus we need you. We need you, Lord. May we accept your sovereignty and our lot in life that we have been given. May we recognize our responsibility of our choices and how that affects the lot that we're in right now. But Lord, regardless, may we seek you. May we seek to be Levites, Lord, worshippers and servants and conduits of your Spirit to the world. May we rise above the things of this world, Lord. And may we live in that eternal inheritance with you.*

If you just need to say, "Lord, I'm sorry." If you need to say, "Jesus forgive me." If you need to say, "Save me." Maybe you've never even asked Christ to come into your life. Maybe you have never realized the difference between religion and a vibrant, transforming relationship. Right now, ask Christ just to come into your life – right where you sit. Ask him to fill you with his Spirit, to light you on fire. To consume your life for his glory. Make a commitment right now to go all in, to seek God's best in the situation, the lot that you're in, in life.

And above all, *"Lord Jesus, may we seek to know you. May we seek to know you Lord. May we seek to walk closer with you. May we seek to walk more in your power. Be glorified in our lives, in your name, Jesus, amen."*