

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 12-13

- We left off reading that Joshua had taken the whole land and now was giving out the inheritances to the tribes of Israel according to their needs, and so the land has a period of rest. Although Joshua and his army did control the whole land by destroying the key cities with their kings and armies, Israel didn't take every city or slay every citizen or ruler, but they did enough to break the power of the enemy and establish control over the land.
- An example of this happened during WWII where the United States and the allied forces convincingly defeated the Japanese Imperial Army, and yet although they lost the war there were small pockets of imperial soldiers holding up on islands that remained after the war throughout the South Seas, and in some cases were holding American hostages as POW's they've even made documentaries and movies about this over the years.

V1-24

- **V1-6** this chapter lists the names of the Kings that Israel conquered, even those in which they fought on the Eastern side of the Jordan while they still were under the leadership of Moses. Once the list is complete there will be thirty three conquered Kings in total, to us that isn't a big deal, but for a people who were not trained warriors, but were brought up by slaves and rebels who died in the wilderness because of unbelief and yet their descendants now are inheriting the promise land after all these centuries, for them this is unbelievable.
- These first two Kings was arguably the most important because it set the tone for the rest of the conquest, Sihon ruled over the vast majority of the land on the Eastern side of the Jordan, and Og was the most physically feared being a Giant, and according to **Deut 3:11** the bed he slept in would suggest that he easily stood well over 9ft tall. So for Israel to defeat these two imposing and intimidating Kings before crossing over the Jordan gave them reassurance as to what God will do once they did cross over.
- **V7-16** is going to list sixteen Kings defeated in the Southern region of the campaign, and **V17-24** lists the fifteen Kings defeated in the Northern region, and when you add them all up that's thirty three total, all within seven years of war. When you break it down we see God used two Kings being defeated on the other side of the Jordan, to spur on His people to go forth and conquer thirty one Kings in the Promise Land. God does the same thing for us as well, as He will use something prior to your battle to spur you on once you are in the battle.

Chapter 13

V1-33

- The first part of this Divine commission is to fight and conquer the enemy, the second part of the mission was to divide the land so that each tribe could divide the land so that each tribe could claim their inheritance. The word inheriting is mentioned over fifty times in these last nine chapters so it is a very important word for us to take note of. The reason being is God wanted them and us to always remember that Israel didn't win their land as spoils of battle, or purchase their land, as in a business transaction, but He alone gave it to them.
- **V1** we don't know Joshua's exact age, but when he died he was one hundred and ten at the end of the book so he probably close to one hundred years of age, especially since in the next chapter were given Joshua's running mate Caleb's age eighty five and we know Joshua is older than Caleb. Although he is up there in age he is told there is still much to do, this shows that were never too old to be used by the Lord and its up to God and not us to decide whether its time for us to stop or continue to do a particular work for God.
- **V2-7** we see portions of the land still inhabited by the Canaanites that was promised to the Israelites, and they have instructions to drive out the unbelievers. Also you read where God told Joshua to also divide the land between the nine and a half tribes leaving out the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, as these two and a half tribes had already received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan deciding that the land over there was better for their cattle business rather than come over and inherit what God promised.
- While the choice may have been good for their cattle it created serious problems for their children later on > **22:10-12**- the two and half tribes on the other side of the Jordan decide that they would build and altar on their side of the territory but they didn't discuss it with the other tribes, so word gets back to the rest of Israel and they immediately become angry.
- **22:16-20** when the other tribes here of it they are ready to go to war against them even going to them and reminding them of what happened to them before because of idolatry, wisely pointing to the fact that neither God told you to stay over here in the first place that was of your own doing, and He didn't tell you to build this altar that was of convenience.
- **22:24-34** then the two and half tribes tell the others they also did it so that their children wouldn't be forgotten as part of Israel, again this was of their own doing. So the information was true they had built an altar but what was communicated was false they didn't want to separate, hearsay is always divisive, so after discussing it they both decide they meant well and leave it calling it "**the altar of witness**" and saying it is a testimony between them that "**The Lord is God**", and they leave each other in peace.
- **V8-17** Israel didn't drive out all the people as we read in **V12**, and then **V18-33** we see again that the tribe of Levi didn't receive any inheritance for The Lord God was their inheritance **V33**. Everyone else could own land except the Tribe of Levi, they had to rely on the people trusting and worshipping The Lord, and because of that, they will support the work of God and the servants of God, because through God they have been abundantly blessed.