

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 18-20

- Joshua and the leaders of Israel are dividing the territory in the promised land to the twelve tribes of Israel, thus far 5 of the tribes have gotten their share in the Southern region of the promised land. All ready we have seen the children of Israel compromise what God told them to do, as instead of driving out all of the inhabitants in Canaan they decided to put some of them to work as tributes, now if they were strong enough to make the people of Canaan work for them as tributes then they could have driven them out completely.

V1-28

- **V1-3** last chapter we saw the children of Joseph the tribes of Ephraim and the half tribe of Manasseh complain to Joshua that because they are two tribes while the rest are one tribe, they should get more land, Joshua reply was if you want more land then go out and fight for the Land, stop waiting for handouts and others doing most of the work, if you believe that you need more territory then go out in The Name of The Lord and take it from the enemy.
- We see the same problem here in the first three verses, as Joshua asks the other tribes how long are you going to wait before you go out and take the land that God has given to you? Unlike Caleb and his family these tribes lacked the faith and spiritual zeal it took to go out and trust that no matter what the obstacle God was going to honor His Word to them.
- Think about it they had helped the others fight and claim their inheritance but were neglecting to go out and grab there's > **Prov 12:27**- Joshua rebukes them for being slow to take what God has given to them freely. You know there are believers just like this, they are exhausted from the battles, tired of the conflict, they just want to rest and hang out now.
- But with no battles comes no land, and no land meant no responsibility, allowing them to be able to float up the coast and see what this tribe is up to, go to the valley and check on that tribe, and as soon as they feel like it they pick up and leave. How many believers do this?
- They will attend bible study, fellowships, church services, but as soon as someone upsets them or their asked to commit to something its too much, as they'll be as involved as much as its comfortable to them, but if things begin to stretch them they are gone, as they are **accountable** to no one, and therefore **responsible** to none.
- **V4-8** Joshua assigns a survey party to go out and assess the land that it may be divided among the other tribes. So each of the tribes appoint three men to go out and all twenty one men went throughout the remaining territories and listed the cities and landmarks describing for Joshua and the leaders exactly what was still out there for them to possess. **V9-28** Benjamin is given territory next to Ephraim and Manasseh since they were full brothers, in the next chapter Simeon shared his inheritance with Judah based on **Gen 49:7**.

Chapter 19

V1-51

- **V9** Simeon shares his inheritance with Judah because of the prophecy given by Jacob in **Gen 49:5-7**, also in **V32** we see the tribe listed who inherited the northern territories and its here where the enemies of Israel would primarily attack, so the tribe of Naphtali and Dan were always in danger and on high alert. Also this northern territory was closer to the **2 ½** tribes on the other side of the Jordan and they and Dan and Naphtali were the first to go into idolatry and to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians centuries later.
- By the way this is also where Jesus grew and why the people said about Him “**can anything good come out of Nazareth**”, from the rotten history of Israel’s Northern Kingdom. **V49-50** in a show of remarkable humility look who receives their inheritance last “Joshua”. People think by being first they will get the best, not in God’s equation, remember Lot chose before Abraham and how did that turn out, the word for “**Timnath Serah**” means abundant portion, God’s leftovers are always better than man’s first choice Amen!

Chapter 20

V1-9

- Since there was no police or penitentiaries a crime that cost someone their life would get avenged by a family member of the victim, and they called that person “the Goel” avenger of blood, he was supposed to make sure that justice is carried out. But The Lord knew if left in man’s hands we would inevitably mess things up so He placed within Israel cities of refuge that a person who committed murder or an accidental death wouldn’t be killed on the spot.
- In looking at where these cities are located you will see that The Lord made sure that these places of sanctuary were within reach for the one who was needy. This is a picture of what Jesus does for you and I, all of us are guilty before the Lord and in need of refuge from justice, so what does the Lord do He gives us Jesus, watch the parallel between the Two.
- **1st** - both were in a place of reach for the needy person, **2nd** both was open to all not just the Israelite, **3rd** both was a permanent place to live, you didn’t have to leave, **4th** both was the only escape from the death penalty, **5th** both only provided protection if you stayed within its boundaries, if you go outside its protection it meant death.