

Living Victorious : A Spiritual Alignment

- In Joshua 15-19 We See a Greater Narrative Taking Place
- The Parcels of the Promised Land to Abraham divided (Gen 15)
- This Division has to 2 Parts (East & West of Jordan River)

Today : The West Side Story (SHOW MAP)

15:1 So ***this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families:*** The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward ***was the extreme southern boundary.*** 2 And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward. 3 Then it went out to the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed along to Zin, ascended on the south side of Kadesh Barnea, passed along to Hezron, went up to Adar, and went around to Karkaa. 4 ***From there*** it passed toward Azmon and went out to the Brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border.

Judah (Praise) is First Ultimately is the Tribe of Jesus...

- *His tribe gets first reminding us that Jesus gets preeminence!*

5 The east border ***was the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan.*** And the border on the northern quarter ***began at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.*** 6 The border went up to Beth Hoglah and ***passed north of Beth Arabah;*** and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. 7 Then the border went up toward Debir from the Valley of Achor, and it ***turned northward toward Gilgal,*** which *is* before the Ascent of Adummim, which *is* on the south side of the valley. The border ***continued toward the waters of En Shemesh*** and ended at En Rogel. 8 And the border went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to ***the southern slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem).***

Jerusalem the Eternal Capital of Israel...

- *A Reminder King Jesus is the King of Kings & Lord of Lords who will forever reign in the New Jerusalem!*

Verses 8-12 Explains the Borders... How Joshua 15 - 19 overall reads

5 Seemingly Obscure and Insignificant people playing a significant part in the greater Story...

In God's Economy there is no such thing as an Insignificant persons or stories!!

- *Psalm 139* says, "We are All fearfully and wonderfully made"
- *John 10* says, "The very hairs of your head are numbered"

God's Greater Kingdom Narrative is made of many thousands of millions of smaller narratives working together for His Glory!

So How Can WE be sure our story is in ALIGNMENT with HIS-STORY?

5 Applications to Spiritual Alignment....

We are Spiritually Aligned:

1. By Faith (Joshua 15)

15:13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, *namely, Kirjath Arba*, which *is Hebron* (*Arba* was the father of Anak). **14** Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak. **15** Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

16 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife." **17** So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

Western Inheritance starts with Caleb's and Ends with Joshua

- **Why this Matters** : They are the ONLY 2 from their generation who had faith to enter the land (Numbers 13-14)

Caleb had the Faith to take the most Threatening Region.

- **Joshua 14:11** As yet I *am as strong this day* as on the day that **Moses sent me** (to Spy the land); just as my strength *was then*, so now *is my strength for war*, both for going out and for coming in. **12** Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were there*, and *that the cities were great and fortified*. It may be that the Lord *will be with me*, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."

Caleb had Faith & He Encouraged Faith in Others!

- I will reward the man who has faith & courage in the LORD!
- The Blessing of the Hand of My daughter... PROVE YOU ARE WORTHY!

So how does our Narrative align with God's? BY FAITH!!!

- Faith in God | Faith in His Atonement Sacrifice | Faith in the Power of His Spirit!
- **Colossians 2:6** - As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...

How Our Narrative can Align with God's Greater Narrative?

By Faith

We are Spiritually Aligned:

2. By Prayer

15:17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it (The Land) ; and he gave him **Achsah** his daughter as wife. **18** Now it was so, when she came *to him*, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from *her donkey*, and Caleb said to her, “What do you wish?” **19** She answered, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

What we see is a Child asking a Father for a blessing.

- Give me a Blessing! Give me the Springs... AND SHE GOT IT!
- **Luke 11:13** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
- **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [a]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
- **Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father
- **Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Because of Jesus we can Petition Our Father!

- Ask for the Springs!
- **John 7:38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

How Our Narrative can Align with God’s Greater Narrative?

We are Spiritually Aligned:

3. By Obedience to God's Word

V. 20-62 List Judah's Cities & reveals another small detail...

15:63 As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

Obedience to the Word

- God gave Israel Clear Instructions to clear out the land (Numbers 33)
- Because Judah failed... Jebusites were a thorn in side for Israel!
- A Problem for King David (2 Samuel 5) | A Problem for the Kings (1 Kings 9) | A Problem for Remnant Israel After the Captivity (Ezra 9 & Nehemiah 9)

When we fail to Obey we Suffer Consequence... BUT when we submit to the Word we Reap Benefits!

16:1 The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel, 2 then went out from Bethel to Luz, passed along to the border of the Archites at Ataroth, 3 and went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer; and it ended at the sea.

4 So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance.

The Tribe Joseph Represented by 2 Sons Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48)

- The Land of Ephraim Described Verses 5-9

16:5 The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, **was thus**: The border of their inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon....**10 And they did not drive out the Canaanites** who dwelt in Gezer; **but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day** and have become forced laborers.

When we fail to Obey we Suffer Consequence...

- Like Jebusites Canannites would be a thorn in the side to Israel even to time after captivity!

When we fail to Obey we Suffer Consequence... BUT when we submit to the Word we Reap Benefits!

17:1 There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he *was* the firstborn of Joseph: *namely* for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan. 2 And there was *a lot* for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families...: for the children of [m]Abiezer, the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hephher, and the children of Shemida; these *were* the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families. 3 But Zelophehad the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters. And *these are* the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 And they came near before Eleazar the priest, before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the rulers, saying, "The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore, according to the commandment of the Lord, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers.

There is a Background to this Small Narrative in Numbers 27

- Simply put : How can a man with only daughters get a portion of the land?
- God's Word : The Daughters are Just in this Request given them a portion

Submission to the Word Brings Benefit.

- Zelophehad's daughters **knew the word, believed the word** and **presented the word**.
- Joshua and the people obeyed the word, and the daughters got their blessing!

5 **Ten shares fell to Manasseh**, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which *were* on the other side of the Jordan, 6 **because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons**; and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.

Verses 7-11 Lists the Rest of the Territory Verse 12 Drives home the Point...

12 Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out *the inhabitants of* those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. 13 And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

When we fail to Obey we Suffer Consequence... BUT when we submit to the Word we Reap Benefits!

17:14 Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us *only one* lot and one share to inherit, since we *are* a great people, inasmuch as the Lord has blessed us until now?"

The Safest place to take your complaints is to God!!!

- Be aware the slippery slope of gossip, division and dimension!

15 So Joshua answered them, “If you *are* a great people, *then* go up to the forest *country* and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you.”

Joshua Gives Clarity...

- *When we take our complaints to God He has a way of giving us perspective!*

16 But the children of Joseph said, “The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel.”

But Joshua???!!!

17 And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, “You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have *only* one lot, 18 but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots *and* are strong.”

Joshua remains firm : He affirms and gives instruction...

- When you surrender you complaints... Look to God’s Word and Obey...

When we fail to Obey we Suffer Consequence... BUT when we submit to God and his word we benefit...

The Way of Spiritual Alignment is:

By Faith | By Prayer | **By Obedience...**

We are spiritually Aligned:

4. By Surrender

18:1 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.

Shiloh : New Center for Worship (No Longer Gilgal)

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?”

How Long will You Neglect to go???

- *The Question posed to Israel then is staring at us in the face!*

You have a portion to gain | A Part in the Process | A Purpose to Fulfill!

- *Get in the game | Your Story is the Part of a Greater Story!*

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.”

Joshua’s Instruction is Simple :

Survey the Land & Surrender the Blueprint to the Lord

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 [w]divisions.

A Life of Surrender is Simply This : Live with an Open Hand

- **Proverbs 16:9** A man’s heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Anything in life can become an idols quickly!!!

Survey the Land, Surrender the Plans, Let God Direct your Path!

The Way of Spiritual Alignment is:

By Faith | By Prayer | By Obedience | **By Surrender**

We are spiritually Aligned:

5. By Humility

Chapters 18 - 19 are Divisions by Lot... From first to last...

- Spoiler Alert : We will focus on who was Last!

First Lot : The Land of Benjamin

18:11 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 [x]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.

Second Lot : The Land of Simeon (Chapter 19)

19:1 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** Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, **5** Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, **6** Beth Lebaath, 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.

Third Lot : Land of Zebulun

19:10 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.**

Fourth Lot : Land of Issachar

19:17 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, Abez, **21** Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pазzez. **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.**

Fifth Lot : Land of Asher

19:24 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 [ae]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.**

Sixth Lot : Land of Naphtali

19:32 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; [af]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.**

Seventh Lot : The Land of Dan

19:40 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 [ag]near [ah]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.**

Last of All Joshua!!!

19:49 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.

Joshua Takes Last Place... A True Servant of All!

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.

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.

How to Be Spiritually Aligned...

Being sure our small Narratives are in Alignment with God's Kingdom Narrative is:
BY FAITH, BY PRAYER, BY OBEDIENCE, BY SURRENDER, BY HUMILITY!

Joshua Last is a Great Example of Putting Others First!

In his Book “The Blessedness of Self-Forgetfulness” Timothy Keller writes:

- *“Gospel-humility is not needing to think about myself. Not needing to connect things with myself. It is an end to thoughts such as, ‘I’m in this room with these people, does that make me look good? Do I want to be here?’ True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings..*

C.S. Lewis Defined Humility

- *“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.”*

Our Ego's Are Curious Things

- When our ego's are puffed up it is pride
- When our ego's are deflated it is pride deflated
- *Pride is so subtle, We can do many “Nobel” things if we hope to get something out of it!!!*

Andrew Murray : The Cure to Pride is the Humility of Christ!

- *True humility is servitude is that puts others first and essentially forgets yourself entirely!*

Consider the Words of Paul as We Close:

- *Philippians 2:3-8 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [b]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*

God Align Our Hearts | Forgive us Our Pride | Help us to Live out Our Stories within Your Greater Story... By Faith | By Prayer | By Obedience | By Surrender | By Humility!

