

Joshua 17-19

Good evening and welcome to Calvary Chapel. Would you please turn in your bibles to Joshua 17? Last week we saw the incredible faith and boldness of Caleb as the tribes of Judah and Ephraim were given their boundaries in the promised land of Israel.

Tonight, we see the continued disbursement of land to the remaining tribes as we study chapters 17, 18 and 19.

The title of tonight's message is A Picture of Humility

Let's pray

Chapter 17 marks out the territory of the remaining half tribe of Manasseh.

1-4

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 Abiezer,[fn] the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hopher, 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 Hopher, 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. We already studied this back in Numbers 27 1 Then came the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, from the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph; and these were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 2 And they stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, and before the leaders and all the congregation, by the doorway of the tabernacle of meeting, saying: 3 "Our father died in the wilderness; but he was not in the company of those who gathered together against the LORD, in company with Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he had no sons. 4 Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."

5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

6 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 7 "The daughters of Zelophehad speak what is right; you shall surely give them a possession of inheritance among their father's brothers, and cause the inheritance of their father to pass to them."

Here Joshua carries out his Moses' command

5-12

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.

7 And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that lies east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah. 8 Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim. 9 And the border descended to the Brook Kanah,

southward to the brook. These cities of Ephraim are among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook; and it ended at the sea. **SHOW MAP AND KEEP OPEN**

10 Southward it was Ephraim's, northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea was its border. Manasseh's territory was adjoining Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. 11 And in Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth Shean and its towns, Ibleam and its towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of En Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns—three hilly regions. So the land is once again divvied up, but we're about to see another crack in one of the tribes, look at verse 12-13

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. Both of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh failed to drive out the Canaanites. Rather than rise up and make an all-out effort to rid themselves of the enemy, they're content to co-exist.

Sadly, these tribes settled for a partial victory. Clearly these guys didn't have the same faith or attitude of Caleb like we saw last week in chapter 14!

14 Then the children of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh—the 2 tribes) 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?" So not only do these 2 tribes not have the courage or the fortitude to march out in faith and claim total victory over the Canaanites, in verse 14 they have the nerve to complain about their allocation of land!

They declare that they're both the sons of Joseph, and they deserve a larger territory because of their honorable status. They're griping and complaining!

This is almost always the case for those who refuse to step out in faith. When the opportunity to march forward by faith passes a person by, discontentment swallows them up like a blanket. Then they express their frustrations with themselves onto other people and the Lord!

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 responds to the grumbling- 'hey if you want more land take it from the Perizzites and the giants.'

And there's a caution here for you and I. Sometimes we can be just like Ephraim and Manasseh... We want more opportunity to serve the Lord – we want a larger ministry – while at the same time we're not taking advantage of the opportunities He's given us.

I've lost count of how many wonderful Christians who've been frustrated because they don't believe they're getting the platform to minister that their talent deserves. Folks believe they should be leading worship, or they should be teaching the one teaching on Sunday mornings instead of me.

See but they've refused to teach in Calvary Kids, they have an opportunity to lead worship for the kids during children's ministry. If someone truly desires to serve the Lord more, they could come up on the weekends and help clean the church... or wash the windows.

To be clear I understand that God gives certain people certain gifts and desires to serve in specific areas. But far too often people only want to serve God in the way they desire!

Folks before you ever get a microphone, you'll get a mop...

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."

Faithfulness to God begins right where we're at!

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." Notice they don't like the solution to march out in faith...

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 encourages these 2 tribes of the son of Joseph. He explains to them their land will expand as their faith stretches.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Chapter 18 begins to describe how the remainder of the promised land is divided

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. The entire congregation set up the tabernacle at Shiloh, a central location, where it would

remain for hundreds of years until King David would move it to Jerusalem.

2 But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

Now verse 3 is a verse that didn't really mean much to me or Kim until 4 years ago.

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? TELL STORY

4-10

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."

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. Three men from each of the seven tribes who hadn't claimed their inheritance were sent to survey the land. Lots are then cast to determine the remainder of each tribes' land.

In verses 11-28, Benjamin receives the tract of land between Ephraim and Judah. Benjamin stretched from the northern suburbs of Jerusalem to Bethel.

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^[fn] 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,[fn] 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.

Chapter 19 discusses Simeon's Inheritance with Judah.

1-8

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 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.

Verse 9 is an interesting verse...

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.

Apparently, the original allotment was larger than Judah could fully occupy, so an adjustment was made.

And to me this is interesting – it sheds light on discerning God's will...

Too often we think God's will is always revealed in a supernatural way. And while it certainly can be, but sometimes God's will is discovered through logic and practical common sense. Here the land was too much for Judah, so adjustments were made.

Verse 10 describes the allotment to the tribe of Zebulun.

Zebulun receives the heart of Galilee. Jesus' hometown of Nazareth was inside the territory of the tribe of Zebulun.

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. Zebulun was given an area north between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean. This was also a fulfillment of prophecy because in Genesis 49, Jacob had said to Zebulun, "You will be a haven for ships." Zebulun became just that with his land stretching to the Mediterranean on one side and the fresh-water Sea of Galilee on the other.

11-16

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. Notice, verse 15 lists one of the cities of Zebulun as “Bethlehem”. This was not the birthplace of Jesus. Matthew 2:1 says, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. Notice Matthew specifies, “Bethlehem of Judea” – the southern Bethlehem – not the northern Bethlehem in the tribe of Zebulun.

In verses 17-23 it describes the Land of Issachar

17 The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families. Issachar stretched out across the lower Galilee just west of the Jordan River. It included the southwest shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. Issachar also possessed the valley of Jezreel, more commonly known as Megiddo.

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 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.

The territory allotted to the tribe Asher was along the Mediterranean coast, northward toward the cities of Tyre and Sidon. It stretched southeast to Mount Carmel.

The Land of Asher is described in verses 24-31.

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,[fn] 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.

The Land of Naphtali

The tribe of Naphtali was allotted the territory north of the Sea of Galilee - near Mt. Hermon. God forever blessed the territory of Naphtali by allowing it to host a majority of the ministry of Jesus.

32-39

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.

The tribe of Dan was given a strip of land between Ephraim and Judah – west of Benjamin toward the Mediterranean coast. Dan included the port of Joppa – where Jonah boarded a boat to Tarshish – and where a kosher Peter received a vision from God letting him know that Gentiles would now be included in God's kingdom.

The Land of Dan is described in verses 40-48

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.

In verse 49-50, God's faithful servant, Joshua, receives his inheritance last.

And it reminds us of Jesus. **Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

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. Joshua's life began in the slave pits of Egypt and ended on the mountains of Ephraim.

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. Philippians 2 tells us we're to have the same mind as Jesus, Who came in humility and gave up His rights to die on the Cross in order to provide redemption for lost sinners like you and me.

Caleb and Joshua were the two faithful spies who believed God was able to give Israel the land. The receiving of their inheritances frames the story of the dividing of the land among the nine and a half tribes, with Caleb's at the beginning of chapter 14 and Joshua's at the end. Caleb and Joshua are living examples of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises