

- I) V1-7 INTRO: Now Joshua was old advanced in years. And the Lord said to him You are old advanced
 - a) Joshua began leading the nation when he was around 80 years old and is now around 95

- II) WE HAVE SEEN: How Joshua divided the land and conquered it
 - a) He conquered the central, southern, and then northern areas
 - 1) By and large the majority of land had been conquered, but there was territory that remained

- III) TO POSSESS ALL THE LAND: Required them to continue fighting till they took it all
 - a) They still needed to go further south (Philistines), and east from Egypt (Sihor-Nile tributary)
 - 1) Ekron was west of Jerusalem
 - 2) This speaks of pockets of territory from the south to the north

- IV) V7 NOW: Therefore divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh
 - a) Some tribes settled on the west of the Jordan, while 2 and ½ tribes settled to the east
 - 1) Ch. 14 reveals that the distribution of the land was done by casting lots
 - 2) This would include land for Caleb, Himself, cities of refuge, and towns set apart for Levites

- V) CH. 13 GIVES: A breakdown of the boundaries of various tribes
 - a) It speaks of the tribe of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh
 - 1) Interestingly, it also makes something clear about the tribe of Levi

- VI) V14 LEVITES: Did not receive an allotment of land
 - a) They did not farm or work the land because they served as priests and their needs were supplied
 - 1) Nu 18:20 Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; *I am your portion* and your inheritance among the children of Israel.

- VII) 13:22 THE CHILDREN: Of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor the soothsayer
 - a) Balaam had counseled Balak, king of Moab to encourage intermarriage between them and the Jews
 - 1) This had caused the Lord to bring judgment on disobedient Israel
 - 2) Nu 25:1-3 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.
 - 3) 2 Pe 2:15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

- VIII) CH 14:6-15 THEN: The children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal And Caleb the son of Jephunneh
 - a) Here we encounter Caleb, one of the original twelve spies who entered to spy out the land
 - 1) Because of the unbelief of the other spies, Israel remained wandering for 40 years

- IX) KEY: Though he also was in the wilderness, his mind remained on one thing: the promise
 - a) Through all the unfairness of having to pay a price for something he did not do, he remained true
 - 1) V8 Gives us his secret: I wholly (completely) followed the Lord my God

- X) V9 FIRST: He remembered the promise that had been given, and it sustained him
V10 SECOND: The fact he stayed alive for all the years and battles revealed his destiny awaited
V11 THIRD: Though he was aged, yet he retained a warriors spirit and willingness to fight
V12 FOURTH: Give me a tough battle, not something easy that an ordinary person could do

- I) CH. 15:1-12 GIVE US: Boundaries of the inheritance of the tribe of Judah

- II) V13-15 NOW: To Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a portion among the children of Judah
 - a) He displaced the sons of Anak: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai

- III) V16-19 AND: Caleb said He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it to him I will give Achsah my
 - a) Kirjath Sepher: the city of books
 - 1) May have been a learning center, a place where records were kept, or a university city
 - 2) His nephew Othniel takes the city, and wins the bride: he later becomes a Judge (Jud 3:9-11)
 - 3) The daughter wisely asks for a water supply because it is so dry

- IV) CH 16-20 CONTINUE: Giving the boundaries of the land per tribe, and cities allotted to the Levites

- V) CH 18:1 Shiloh, which is around 20 miles north of Jerusalem, was chosen as a place of worship
 - a) This will come in to play later

- VI) CH. 20:1-9 GIVE US: Six cities of refuge
 - a) Briefly: These were sanctuary cities established to protect against retaliation or vengeance killings
 - 1) The OT law differentiates between murder and manslaughter
 - 2) Premeditated murder required capital punishment, but manslaughter was treated differently

- VII) INTERESTINGLY: The cities of refuge have a spiritual lesson for us
 - a) The whole world is guilty before God for the death of Jesus
 - 1) Even those who have not even considered what it means stand guilty before Him
 - 2) 1 Co 2:6-8 Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. (NLT)
 - 3) POINT: The world stands guilty of the crime of manslaughter

- VIII) TO ESCAPE VENGEANCE: We are permitted to seek a place of refuge
 - a) Heb 6:18 speaks us who have *fled for refuge* to lay hold of the hope set before us
 - 1) This speaks of those who, being aware of their own guilt before God, have fled to Jesus
 - 2) All who find refuge in Him are saved from the judgment of a Holy God

- IX) CH 21 GIVES CITIES ASSIGNED TO LEVITES: They were scattered so they could minister to the people
 - a) 21:43-45 They possessed the land of Canaan, though there were still areas to be taken
 - 1) This summed up God's fulfillment of His promise
 - 2) Gen 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

- X) AFTER SO MANY YEARS: And so many battles, God also gave them rest
 - a) Dt 12:10-11 But *when* you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety, then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD.
 - l) KEY: Their enemies that still remained did not pose an immediate threat, but were still there
 - a) They had rest, but not permanently: Ours, in Jesus is intended to be permanent, through faith

- II) V45 NOT A WORD FAILED: Of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel
 - a) God does not raise us up to let us fall, and He is always true to His word
 - 1) Nu 23:19 God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
 - 2) 1 Th 5:24 He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.
 - 3) 1 Pe 1:25 But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

- III) CH 22:1-9 THEN JOSHUA: Called the Reubenites the Gadites and half the tribe of Manasseh
 - a) In Nu 32, these tribes had requested of Moses to remain on the east of the Jordan
 - 1) The requirement was for them to fight alongside of the other tribes until the land was taken
 - 2) At that point, they were free to return to their families
 - 3) This was repeated in Josh 1:12-18: The promise is fulfilled, and they return to their land

- IV) V5 NOTICE: But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant
 - a) What was his great concern: that the people would remain faithful to God
 - 1) Love God, walk in His ways, keep His commandments, hold fast to Him, serve Him

- V) FACT: The battles are over, and they now are entering in to a time of rest and prosperity
 - a) In some ways, such times are more perilous
 - 1) Eccl 7:3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. (NLT)
 - 2) 1 Pe 5:8 Be sober, be *vigilant*, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- VI) V10-12 AND: When they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan the children
 - a) Before they returned to their land east of the Jordan, they stopped and built an altar
 - 1) They did this with a pure heart, but it didn't set well with the rest of the tribes

- VII) V13-20 THEN: The children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of
 - a) THEY THOUGHT: That they were building a competing altar on which to offer sacrifices
 - 1) This act would bring division into Israel
 - 2) If it was an altar to offer sacrifice to Baal, it would be even worse: it would bring judgment

- VIII) V13, 17 THEY REMEMBERED: What had happened when Balaam had caused Israel to sin
 - a) They had been seduced into marrying Moabite women, thus committing spiritual adultery
 - 1) Nu 25:1-2 Then Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods

- IX) IT WAS PHINEHAS: Who was used to stop the plague that was destroying Israel
 - a) Nu 25:9 And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand
 - 1) They do not want a repeat of this: they greatly feared God's wrath
 - 2) V20 They also had not forgotten Achan and his sin

- I) V21-29 THEN: The children of Reuben the children of Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh
 - a) They made it clear that they were united with Israel and did not want to be outsiders
 - 1) Their intention was to keep the unity, not destroy it

- 2) They were concerned that the Jews on the west would not welcome those on the east
- II) V30-34 AND: When Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation the heads of
 - a) They had jumped to a hasty conclusion by calling into question their motives
 - 1) On one hand, truth is to be held fast to and never compromised
 - 2) On the other, we have to be careful not to think that we are the only ones who have all of it
 - 3) Lu 9:49-50 Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid *him*, for he who is not against us is on our side."
- III) STILL: One thing has to be considered
 - a) Though they built an altar, their hearts never truly settled in the land of promise
 - 1) Their families did not cross over, and over time the Jordan became their border
 - 2) Eventually, they departed from genuinely following the ways of the Lord
- IV) REMEMBER: Jesus went to their land, called the Gadarenes
 - a) And there, He encountered a demonized man
 - 1) The demons asked permission to enter a herd of swine: what Orthodox Jew would raise pigs
 - 2) They failed to follow the commands of God: they were on the wrong side of the Jordan