

Chapter 13:1 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

2 This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines...

[Vs 3.] • He then charts out land in the S. coastal areas of Israel – the territory of the Philistines...

If Joshua is old and there is “very much land yet to be possessed”—what does this mean? = It is time to make sure someone else is there to take over when he is gone!

Who did Moses raise up as his replacement? *Joshua!*

Who did Joshua raise up as his replacement? Not Caleb—he was Joshua’s peer and the same age! So—*apparently, no one!*

We see this in Israel’s story in Judges...

They don’t have a strong leader heading into the Judges.

Judges 2:10 says the next generation after Joshua totally forgot all the work God had done for them! Soon, everyone is doing what seems right in his own eyes!

As amazing as Joshua was as a leader, he failed in one KEY leadership responsibility—he didn’t mentor his replacement! He didn’t replicate himself.

My friends—we MUST pass the torch to the next generation!

Here’s the thing: in Track Meets, if you drop the baton in the relay race, your team is disqualified! You could have the first three legs of the relay run perfectly and outpace your competitors, but if you fumbled the baton pass, you are out of the race.

The Christian life is a RELAY. Someone passed the baton to you when they shared the gospel, mentored, or disciplined you. YOU HAVE ONE JOB—pass the faith off to the next generation!

Invest in young people. Replicate yourself in others. Don’t just think of yourself and your generation. The Gospel is to make us think of others and not just ourselves! Your salvation is not just for you!

[vs 4–6.] • Now Joshua lists land from the S. to the N. in Israel...

6b • them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.”

8 With the other half-tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them:

DIVIDING THE LAND is the theme of these chapters.

So, this is describing the mainland of Israel, between the Jordan River and the Med Sea / and then we will also have the other set of the boundaries set for the TransJordan tribes

[Vs 9–12.] • Josh lays out the Trans–Jordan territory...

THE BIG POINT IS THIS:

AND AS THE LAND IS DIVIDED, we are going to see many, many borders in these chapters, and we aren’t going to read most of these long lists of hard-to-pronounce names of villages, rivers, enemy tribes, etc.

But—is it crucial for Israel to RECOGNIZE THESE BORDERS!

Tribal warfare was common in the ancient world—so you would always be at war with your neighbors, competing for land and resources.

So—God is establishing borders so that His people would live in peace with each other. This was to keep Israel from civil war. Unfortunately, there were periods in their history where the tribes forgot they were supposed to be on the same team and started treating each other as enemies. Those were the low points in Israel’s history.

This also had a spiritual benefit...

...of teaching them to live within the boundaries that God set up for them. They had to learn to be content with the territory God gave them. They had to trust God to provide—and not start looking over the fences to see if the tribe next door had more attractive land.

They were to learn that honoring the borders honors God who established the borders. It shows that they trust God to live within the borders He set up.

The tribe of Dan, which we'll get to a little later, was not content with their territory and decided to move elsewhere. This only caused great trouble for Israel.

This was also a lesson for individuals in scripture:

Think of the humble folks in scripture that were simply faithful in the small area God gave them, but because they stayed in those borders, the door was opened to the big adventurous ministry God prepared for them...

Joseph (from Pit to Palace) / Moses (shepherd) / David (10 cheeses) / Nehemiah (cupbearer) / Amos (fig pinching herdsman) / Elisha (farmer)

Humble / Content / Faithful / Desiring God – not more territory

Are you content in your borders? Do you simply enjoy the territory God has given you? Do you try to encroach upon territory that doesn't belong to you?

13 Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

This is a common theme from this point to the end of Joshua. There was incomplete victory. There were enemy tribes not fully driven out. There were territories left unclaimed. There was land upon which Israel never stepped out in faith to take hold of as God offered.

This is why we can easily understand the Promised Land as a TYPE of the Christian life. We are not in heaven yet—so, until we are perfected and set free from the presence of sin, we must continue in the SANCTIFICATION process.

We can never rest on our past victories. We must also press forward. We must never think we are done yet. We must never think we have reached a place of perfection.

Philippians 3:12-14 • Paul said he wasn't perfect yet, ...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

14 Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.

We are going to see the inheritance of Levi mentioned throughout our study tonight. Here is the first aspect of their allotment...

They DON'T GET LAND—they get the SACRIFICES! Their livelihood will depend on the faithful worship of their fellow Israelites.

If their fellow Israelites FAIL to bring the sacrifices, tithes, first fruits, etc., it will be just like STEALING land from one of the other tribes!

RESPECTING THE BOUNDARIES included SUPPORTING the LEVITES with the sacrifices, tithes, and first fruits.

15 And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families.

[16-21] • Notice that in the territory of Reuben was Peor (vs 20)...

22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.

So, we are reminded of the end of Balaam's story, which happened back in Numbers 31, because of the incident of Peor

23 And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages.

The tribe of Reuben chose their land on the east side of the Jordan because it seemed pleasant and rich, yet historically, we see this was a terrible decision.

They had no natural boundaries to the east and so were constantly exposed to invasion by the Moabites, Midianites, Amalekites, and others.

And when the king of Assyria decided to invade Israel, Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh were the first to be carried into captivity by the Assyrian armies (1 Chron. 5:26).

This was in line with the Prophecy Jacob spoke over Reuben at the end of Genesis...

3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn; My might and the beginning of my strength, Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

4 "Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it—he went up to my couch.

24 Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad

[vs 25-28].

Gad's territory was also to the east of the Jordan, but further south—next to the Sea of Chinnereth, which means "Harp Lake" because of its shape. We know it better known as *The Sea of Galilee*.

But Gad shared the same fate as Reuben.

Choosing to live outside the territory of the Promised Land put them in a place of attack and apostasy. In the time of Jesus, this land was known as the Decapolis—a secularized, Greek society. This is where Jesus went to heal the demoniac among the tombs, sending the demons into the pigs. And where the local townsfolk told Jesus to leave, after they saw Him heal the man!

29 Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh;

[vs 29b - 32].

So—the Transjordan tribes are Reuben, Gad, and ½ Manasseh.

At the end of the book Joshua we will get to the most important story about them = when they build an altar on their side of the river

They intended to be used as a memorial, not for sacrifices, but because of the lack of communication over the Jordan river, the other tribes took offense and nearly started a civil war over it. We'll save the details for later...

33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.

This is the second part of Levi's inheritance. The SACRIFICES of Israel were their inheritance, but EVEN BETTER = God HIMSELF promised to be their inheritance!

They were in that special place of SERVING IN WORSHIP—so they would also have the amazing connection with God on a day to day basis that their fellow Israelites would not get to enjoy in the same way.

GOOD NEWS please don't think that Pastors are in a special place of intimacy with Jesus that you can't enjoy.

We are not the only Levites in the church—you see, in Jesus, ALL CHRISTIANS ARE PRIESTS.

There are no classes or cliques in the spiritual life of the Church. We all have equal access to God through Jesus! You have just as much ability to worship Jesus and fellowship with God in your place of work as the church staff has here!

Chapter 14:1 These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them.

2 Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them.

Joshua is emphasizing some of the BIG ISSUES in dividing the land.

We see that the division of land was given by the casting of lots.

It describes how there were 9 ½ territories IN the land of Canaan and 2 ½ territories OUTSIDE Canaan. BUT – there were no lands given to the tribe of Levi, since the sacrifices were their allotment.

The other amazing thing in this passage is the next part...

4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim.

Anyone doing the math will see that there is a discrepancy.

$2\frac{1}{2} + 9\frac{1}{2} = 12$. / So, there are twelve divisions of land for twelve tribes, right? But the Levites get no land, so how is this possible? There weren't 13 tribes!

So, Joshua reminds us that the Tribe of Joseph actually got TWO portions in the land = two tribes, by his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh!

This makes Joseph the FIRSTBORN son of Jacob, in God's eyes. Not the BORN-FIRST (which was Reuben), but rather, the PREEMINENT son who receives the double portion of the inheritance and the chief blessing of the father.

Ephraim and Manasseh got a huge chunk of the Promised Land pie, because of the amazing faithfulness and righteousness of their patriarch, Joseph! *This is going to come into play in our study on Sunday.*

And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property.

5 As the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

So, here is a third aspect of Levite's inheritance. Although they get no land, they do get CITIES, with some common grazing land for their personal herds and property.

Don't imagine the Levites wandering aimlessly around Israel because they get no land territory = They are spread out across Israel, but they are given special cities to dwell in. They have homes. They have herds. They are not left homeless.

God sets it up so the Levites live at the same standard of living as the rest of the tribes. They aren't looked down upon in scorn.

[VS 6-15] we are going to study on Sunday, so we'll skip down to ch. 15.

Chapter 15:1 So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah

[vs 1b-12]. • borders & geography of Judah

Just realize that Judah was given a huge portion, just as Joseph had been given. The reason why is in the back story of Joseph's sons.

Reuben lost his place as the firstborn son because of his incest with Jacob's concubine. They end up with a smallish territory and they don't do well as a tribe.

Simeon and Levi lost their chance at the firstborn position because they brought shame on Jacob when they massacred the men of Shechem, after the rape of their sister Dinah. Part of their cruel attack involved using circumcision, the sacred sign of Abraham's covenant, as a cheap and dirty bargaining chip to cripple their enemy.

Jacob pronounced a curse on these boys which had two very different results. He said that both would be dispersed in Israel. For Levi, this curse is turned into a blessing—they are dispersed in Israel as priests.

We'll see what happens to Simeon's a bit later...

Verse 13&14 go with our study on Sunday, but just notice what Caleb is doing in his old age: he is fighting and defeating Giants! This is the land of Hebron, which he specifically ASKED for as his inheritance! Caleb is so on fire for God that he doesn't want to slow down in his retirement years. He wants to go out in a blaze of glory!

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 Talmaj, 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.

Can you imagine being the guy who will try to win the hand of one of Caleb's daughters? You had to measure up to Caleb's standards!

Othniel is just the right guy—and we'll see him later in the book of Judges as the first judge God raises up to lead Israel in revival.

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.

Caleb's daughter inherited the bold genes of her dad. He has chosen a great husband for his donkey riding daughter / he gave her and Othniel land to live on / now, she asks for water—and Caleb gives her two SPRINGS of water.

BTW—isn't this a picture of the RICH LIFE we have as children of God?

God has given us to an amazing HUSBAND = we are the BRIDE OF CHRIST

He has given us the territory of our salvation – the abundant Christian life

But we can still ask for more blessing!

And Jesus promised in John 7

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

20 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah

[Vs. 21–62] • Boundaries & geography

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.

We'll just mention the last of these cities – the Jebusites, who lived in what would become the city of Jerusalem later, were in the territory of Judah. They persisted in their stronghold until the time of David.

Chapter 16:1 • The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan,.

[vs. 1-9 • borders & geography.]

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.

Here is another ominous sign that things aren't going well in the conquest of Canaan. The Ephraimites, one of the largest and most powerful tribes in Israel weren't able to finish the job. They came up short.

Even though they subdued the Canaanites in their land to the point where they are forced laborers, the fact that the Canaanites still live among them will cause huge problems very soon in their story. Intermarriage with Canaanites and the worship of Baal is right around the corner!

Chapter 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.

Joseph's tribe of Manasseh is given out specifically by name to his grandchildren, which is unique in these chapters.

It starts with Machir because, like Caleb, he was a man of war!

2 And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, 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.

This sets an important legal precedent in Israel—women were allowed to own land! If there were no sons in a family, the daughters were given the inheritance. This was very progressive!

BTW—in Jesus, men and women have equal inheritance in Christ. We are equal in terms of our salvation. Paul said that "In Jesus there is no male or female"—by which he meant, women were not spiritual second-class citizens. Jesus isn't a respecter of persons when it comes to salvation. He came to seek and save the lost—no matter what gender or race.

Peter says that all we need for life and godliness is found in the true knowledge of Jesus—and this applies to everyone! Because salvation doesn't depend on us—it is all about the fulness of Jesus! He indwells His children equally by the Holy Spirit.

Now the rest of Manasseh's borders are described:

[vs 5-11].

Vs. 12-18 are the rest of Sunday's message, so skip down to ch. 18

Chapter 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.

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?"

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.

Were you ever that kid in school who would forget to do your homework?

And all the other kids would show up and proudly turn in their assignments, but you just sat there picking at your eraser and hoping your teacher wouldn't point you out?

That's what we see here! They were supposed to have gone throughout their conquered territories and write down the various boundaries, so that the priests could cast lots and assign the various families and clans to these various regions.

But, seven tribes hadn't done this yet! Joshua had to chew them out and send them back to their land to do some surveying.

Can I make a spiritual illustration from this?

We have to take spiritual inventory and survey of our lives! We have to know what is going on in our soul!

You won't take possession of all that God has for you until you figure out where the areas of sin and brokenness are. You can't just ignore areas of temptation, immaturity, unforgiveness, bitterness, past trauma, etc. and think that satan will just leave you alone!

Nope—take a careful survey of what your thought life is like. Of what your temptations are. Of where you are wounded. Of where you fear. Of where you haven't forgiven. Of where you are lazy. And then take them back to the CROSS to find victory! Pray through these with a friend. Write them in your journal so you can be more aware of how the Devil might be attacking you in these things.

Do your spiritual homework, so you can take back what the devil has stolen from you!

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.

We'll just point out that Jerusalem is mentioned in verses 16 & 28...

[Vs 12-18]. • NOTICE: Jerusalem in vs 28

Jerusalem (the Jebusite city) was between Judah and Benjamin. Let me read a verse from Judges...

Judges 1:21 • But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

So—both Judah and Benjamin were offered a shot at conquering these guys, but neither tribe could pull it off. David finally figured out how to crack that nut—by sending in spies up their water shaft and infiltrating the city.

Chapter 19:1 The second lot came out for Simeon,

[Vs 2-8].

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.

This fulfilled Jacob's prophecy about his children Simeon & Levi –
Gen 49:7-8 • I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel. “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise;

...that Simeon would be dispersed in Israel. This comes about as we see Simeon incorporated into Judah. They aren't really given their own land—and over time they lose their identity as a distinct tribe!

10 The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun.

[Vs 10-15]. • Notice a “Bethlehem” in vs 15

Don't be confused. This is a different Bethlehem. “House of Bread” would be quite a common village name in a land where grain and bread is a staple food!

16 This was the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

The borders of Zebulun seem to be at odds with Jacob's prophecy from Genesis 49...

13 “Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

First: Sidon is used to refer to Phoenicia in general, as its major city. And Zebulun's territory was often right up against these sea faring people in the N. area of Israel.

The real key, though, is that a major trade route ran from the coast and right through the land of Zebulun, so they were rich in trade.

The key thing to remember about Zebulun was that this is where the future town of Nazareth would be located—fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy in ch. 9 that the land of Zebulun and Naphtali will see a GREAT LIGHT.

17 The fourth lot came out to Issachar.

[Vs 18-23].

24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher

[Vs 25-31].

32 The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali.

[Vs 32-39].

Though it isn't mentioned here – the Sea of Galilee primarily bordered Naphtali – as mentioned in Isaiah 9...

Isaiah 9:1-2 NASB • But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.

40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan

[Vs 45 - 46].

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.

Dan fought a battle to gain their allotted territory. Dan's story takes a radical turn in Judges 18 – as they decide to move to the North of Israel to find more room.

Their plan was to expand and grow – becoming the Northernmost tribe in Israel. Unfortunately – this had the exact opposite result. Dan was the first tribe to apostasy in Israel!

Judges 18:28 • ...And they rebuilt the city and lived in it.

29 They called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father who was born in Israel; however, the name of the city formerly was Laish.

30 The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.
31 So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh.

Later – one of Jeroboam's idols was set up in Dan, where a temple was built as well.

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.
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.

Chapter 20:1 The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,

We recently covered this in the book of Deuteronomy...

3 that the slayer who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.
4 And when he flees to one of those cities, and stands at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declares his case in the hearing of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.
5 Then if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, but did not hate him beforehand.
6 And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled.'"

[Vs 7-8] • lists the key cities

9 These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwelt among them, that whoever killed a person accidentally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

Jesus is the ultimate City of Refuge – saving us from the Avenger of Blood – God's wrath against our sin

Chapter 21:1 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came near to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel.

2 And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, "The LORD commanded through Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for our livestock."

3 So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their common-lands:

[Vs. 4 - 40] • common lands given to the Levites

41 All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty-eight cities with their common-lands.

42 Every one of these cities had its common-land surrounding it; thus were all these cities.

The last few verses are a great way for us to close tonight...

43 So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.
44 The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.
45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

The Promised Land is a picture of salvation. We have taken possession of our salvation by faith—and we are

complete in Christ. We have entered in, and we are resting in His Work. In terms of JUSTIFICATION, it is FINISHED.

But we are still in the sanctification process—and it is critical that we keep driving out the enemies! There is still work to be done until the day we die and are finally delivered from the very presence of sin.

But even on this side of eternity, we can enjoy and celebrate the GOODNESS of God, and all of His Promises He delivers on every day.