



OCTOBER 22ND, 2023

JOSHUA 21 WORSHIP

© ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN CHURCH

www.emcaz.org

¹ Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel. ² And they said to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, "The LORD commanded through Moses that we be given cities to dwell in, along with their pasturelands for our livestock." ³ So by command of the LORD the people of Israel gave to the Levites the following cities and pasturelands out of their inheritance.

Joshua 21:1–3 (ESV)

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, ² "Command the people of Israel to give to the Levites some of the inheritance of their possession as cities for them to dwell in. And you shall give to the Levites pasturelands around the cities. ³ The cities shall be theirs to dwell in, and their pasturelands shall be for their cattle and for their livestock and for all their beasts. ⁴ The pasturelands of the cities, which you shall give to the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around. ⁵ And you shall measure, outside the city, on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits, the city being in the middle. This shall belong to them as pastureland for their cities. ⁶ "The cities that you give to the Levites shall be the six cities of refuge, where you shall permit the manslayer to flee, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities. ⁷ All the cities that you give to the Levites shall be forty-eight, with their pasturelands. ⁸ And as for the cities that you shall give from the possession of the people of Israel, from the larger tribes you shall take many, and from the smaller tribes you shall take few; each, in proportion to the inheritance that it inherits, shall give of its cities to the Levites."

Numbers 35:1–8 (ESV)

WHO WERE THE LEVITES?

INITIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TABERNACLE DURING THE WILDERNESS.

AARONITES: PRIESTS OFFER SACRIFICES

KOHATHITES: ARK, THE TABLE, CANDLESTICK, ALTARS, VESSELS OF THE SANCTUARY, THE SCREEN

GERSHONITES: TENT OF MEETING, ANYTHING OF FABRIC, CARRY THE TABERNACLE

MERARITES: THE FRAMES, CROSSBARS, POSTS, ETC...CARRY THE TABERNACLE

BIT OF A FALSE DICHOTOMY BETWEEN THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD AND THE LEVITES. THE LEVITES AFTER THE CONQUEST ALL SERVED AS PRIEST THROUGHOUT THE LAND AND WERE INVOLVED IN TEACHING AND WORSHIP.

IN JOSHUA 21 THE LEVITICAL CITIES ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE LAND. IT IS NOT AN EQUAL DISTRIBUTION LIKE THE CITIES OF REFUGE. RATHER, THE LEVITICAL CITIES ARE ALLOCATED TO AREAS OF HEAVY CANAANITE INFLUENCE TO ENSURE ORTHODOXY AMONG THE NATION.

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰ “And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— ¹⁵ for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

[Deuteronomy 6:4–15 \(ESV\)](#)

⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

[Luke 4:5–8 \(ESV\)](#)

⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. ⁴⁴ And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. ⁴⁵ Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

[Joshua 21:43–45 \(ESV\)](#)