

# Possessing the Promises of God

## Joshua 14:1-19: 51

### Discussion Qs

1. Why are some of God's promised possessions harder to claim?
2. How can materialism be an obstacle to experiencing the promises of God?
3. How can we discern God's will?

**Intro.** Reading of a will & distribution of an inheritance – Testator's wishes.

Cf. Need to take possession of your inheritance to enjoy

**Subject:** The Distribution of the Promised Land to the tribes of Israel

**Object:** Make progress in possessing the promises of God

**Consider:** a commendation, correction, caution or fun fact

**Context:** Conquest of the PL has generally been realized now the distribution

### A. The Promised Land Inheritance [14]

#### 1. The land to be distributed in the Promised Land [1-5]

- a. The land to be divided among 9 ½ tribes west of the Jordan River [1-2]
- b. Moses had already distributed land to the 2 ½ tribes east of the Jordan R. [3]
- c. Levites don't receive a portion of land since God is their portion [3-4]
  - i. They get cities but not territories
  - ii. The two sons of Joseph – Manasseh & Ephraim each receive a share

#### 2. Caleb's inheritance of Hebron [6-15]

- a. Caleb was one of the 12 who went scout the land. Only he and Joshua urged the people to possess the land the other 10 were afraid [6-8]. Moses promised Caleb land as his reward and inheritance [9]. They were 40, waited 40 yrs to enter PL, 5 yrs later

**Commendation [10-13]** Caleb was 85 years old and feels as strong as when he was 40. Still wants to go to battle against the Anakim (giants) and trusts that God will give victory. Receives Hebron as his personal inheritance.

## **B Judah [15]**

### **1. Fun facts:**

**a. Judah and Joseph are mentioned first because they receive Reuben's forfeited birthright as firstborn [Gen.49].** Judah was to have dominion and Joseph rec'd a double portion. So these two get first distribution. Judah south, Joseph north.

b. Distribution includes **Jerusalem [8]** (shared with Benjamin)

c. **En Gedi [62]** Judean wilderness where David had from Saul [**1Sam. 23:29**]

d. Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah [**Gen.49:10**]

**2. Commendation: a. Caleb [13-14] drove out the Anakim (giants) – a man of courage, valor and faith.** of Judah, received Hebron as personal portion.

i. Offers his daughter in marriage to any man of valor who would defeat Debir [15-16]

**b. Othniel [17]** Caleb's nephew defeats Debir. Later **becomes the first judge and leads the nation after Joshua [Ju.3:9]**

**3. Caution: Judah did not drive out Jebusites from Jerusalem [63]**

a. Not until time of David did they take Jerusalem [**2Sam. 5:6**]

**i. Why are some of God's promised possessions harder to claim?**

## **C. Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh [16-17]**

### **1. Fun facts:**

**a. Joseph's sons were Manasseh & Ephraim [16:4] Manasseh was firstborn of Joseph, but Ephraim would be greater [Gen.48:14-20]** Jacob blesses Joseph's sons Ephraim (fruitful) & Manasseh, and puts his right hand on Ephraim as a symbol that the greater blessing was given to the younger. Jacob wanted to place Jacob's right hand on Manasseh the firstborn. But Jacob realized that Ephraim was to be greater than Manasseh.

b. **Zelophehad's daughters [17:3-6]** had no sons, but five daughters, and they rec'd an inheritance.

i. Moses promises daughters an inheritance with the rest of the tribes [**Num.26:33**]

c. **Beth Shan [11]** After Saul's death during battle with Philistines they fastened his body to city wall [**1Sam.31:10**]

d. **Meggido [11]** Site of the Battle of Armageddon [Rev.16]. Located over Jezreel Valley, the north South trade route to Egypt. During Egypt's Golden Age Thutmose III described it as worth a 1000 cities. Where General Allenby defeated the Turks WWI.

e. Gideon (Judges 6) was of the tribe of Ephraim

## 2. Correction:

**a. Ephraim [16:5-10] and Manasseh [17:12-13] did not drive out the Canaanites but instead made them pay tribute**

i. *Cf. God's command to defeat & drive out the Canaanites was apparently compromised for money*

**? How can materialism be an obstacle to experiencing the promises of God?**

**3. Caution: Ephraim + Manasseh complain about their portion [17:14-18]:** They wanted more land, "We are a great people" [14]. Joshua rebukes them if you're great take more land [15]. They were afraid of the chariots of iron since Israel had no chariots [16]. Joshua encourages them to press on and possess and assures them of victory [17-18]. Joshua was an Ephraimite [Num. 13:8] but shows no partiality.

**a. Rather than complain about your situation press toward God + His promises**

**Phil. 3:14 Press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**

## D. The Distribution to the remaining tribes [18:1-19:51]

**1. Fun fact or caution: [18:1] Tabernacle moved from Gilgal to Shiloh in the center of country in the area of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.** Males were to worship at the Tabernacle at the 3 major feasts each year. The relocation makes travel more convenient. But was it God's directive or man's [Scripture is silent]?

**a. Discern God's leading in making (major) decisions** evaluation based on what is practical or logistical without knowing God's will can lead to unintended consequences.

i. Gilgal was generally a spiritual epicenter: covenant renewed, circumcision, Passover, HQ for conquest, later Elijah + Elisha. Shiloh not as much as a spiritual epicenter [cf. Ps.78:60 God had forsaken Shiloh]

**? How can we discern God's will?**

**2. Divide remaining land into 7 parts [18:1-10]** for remaining tribes, and lots will determine which tribe receives each section [8-10]. Survey of land + cities to be completed by representatives of the tribes

a. The 2 ½ tribes east of the Jordan already received their sections [ch.13]

**3. Benjamin [18:11-28]** the youngest son of Jacob, men of valor [11] **Gen 49:27**

a. Fought against all of other tribes [Ju.19-20]. Famed left-handed slingers [20:16]

b. Tribe of 1<sup>st</sup> king (Saul), Esther + Mordecai, apostle Paul

c. Jerusalem part of the city to Benjamin [and part to Judah]

i. Mount Moriah was border (Deut. 33:12 implies temple to be within area of Benjamin)

**4. Simeon [19:1-9]** Rec'd part of the area of Judah

**5. Zebulun [10-16]**

a. Mount Carmel [Elijah and prophets of Baal – **1 Ki.18**]

**5. Issachar [17-23]**

a. Included the mountains of Gilboa where Saul and Jonathan were slain

**6. Asher [24-31]**

a. Sidon and Tyre [28-29] were great Phoenecian coastal cities conquered by Alexander the Great @ 330 BC

**7. Naphtali [32-39]** furthest north

a. Galilee area [**Matt. 4:15-16**]

b. Bethsaida + Capernaum – Christ's headquarters

**8. Dan [40-48]**

**a. Commendation:** Went beyond their area in faith + fought for more possession [47]

**b. Correction: Notorious as the first tribe to fall into idolatry [Judges 18:30]**

**c. Caution: Samson was of this tribe. Moral: great potential will be undone without submitting to God.**

**9. Joshua [49-51]**

**Commendation: In gratitude for faithful service Joshua is given a portion within the area of the tribe of Ephraim**