

## The Lord Is My Portion

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. No announcements (video or verbal).

B. Welcome and Prayer:

### II. Slide2 **Intro:** *The Lord Is My Portion*

A. *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.* Misunderstandings, Conflict resolution.

### III. Slide3 **LEVITE'S ALLOTMENT (Ch.21)** *Read 1-3*

A. Cities, *not big land allotments*, were given to the Levites.

1. All these cities are in the midst of the other 11 tribes. 48 cities in total.
2. At the end of the book of numbers Levites numbered at 23,000. They were given these 48 towns. Roughly that's 480 per town.
3. In total, the Levites received 48 cities *with* their surrounding pasturelands.
  - a) The priests were never more than **10 miles** away from anybody living anywhere. They were to proclaim *the excellencies of God* to all the people. *And that's what we are to be doing as well!*

B. Slide4 Numb. 18:20 *And the Lord said to Aaron, You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. **I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.***

1. The Lord told Aaron that the priests and Levites, though they had no territorial inheritance, would have a greater one - *the Lord Himself*.
  - a) This meant that the Levites would receive tithes from the people as their source of *income and in compensation* for their service at the tabernacle.
2. What if God said, *no inheritance for you, your only inheritance is Me!*

C. Slide5a Joshua's Summary Statement. *Read 43-45*

D. Slide5b He wraps up with **3 promises**:

1. **God Keeps His Covenants/Promises.** (43,45)

a) **Not** one word, **not** one promise has failed. He is faithful!

b) 2 Tim. 2:13 *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

(1) *Christ's faithfulness to Christians is not contingent on their faithfulness to Him.* BKC

c) Lam.3:22-24 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him.*

2. **God Gives Rest.** Vs.44

a) Today **we** have *spiritual rest* through Christ [*come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest*]. But we also see in Heb.4 (10x's *rest*) that we will one day enter into *eternal rest*. Heb.4:8,9 *For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest* (an appointed rest) *for the people of God.*

3. **God Gives The Victory.** Vs.44 *The Lord did it all, all to Him I owe.*

a) God has done his part!

#### IV. Slide6,7 **HONORABLE DISCHARGE (Ch.22:1-9)** *Read*

A. Slide8a Map: Not only had the Lord kept His promises to Israel, but Ruben, Gad, and the 1/2 tribe of Manasseh had also kept their promises as well (Numb.32:25-32)

B. After 7 years of fighting the land has been subdued. But it's taken a *physical toll, an emotional toll, and spiritual toll*. They are weary. Think of the toll that war takes.

1. So Joshua basically gives all the fighting men of the 12 tribes of Israel an *Honorable Discharge*.

2. Ps: the children of Israel didn't chase everybody out. They allowed some to stay, which will come back to haunt them later.

C. Slide8b JOSHUA'S 3 POINT COMMISSION

1. Joshua **Commended** them for their Faithful Service. (1-4)
2. Joshua **Commanded** them to Obey the Lord **and** Serve him Sincerely.
  - a) **Read** (vs.5) - 5 Imperatives.
3. Joshua **Cautioned** them not to become selfish but to share the spoils with their brethren. (7-9)

#### V. Slide9 **ALTAR OF WITNESS** (Ch.22:10-34) *misunderstandings*

- A. Here is a classic case for *Conflict Resolution Studies*, although it may illustrate how **not** to practice such efforts.
- B. Slide10 BUILDING AN ALTAR (10-12) *Read*
- C. The land was at rest, **but** the eastern tribes were restless, **because** the Jordan River separated them from their brethren.
- D. Slide11 PHINEHAS (13-20) *Read*
  1. Egyptian name, *the dark skinned*. Grandson of Aaron the high priest. Praised for his zeal and protection of Israel's **purity**. Plays a prominent role in **4 significant episodes** in Israel's formative period.
    - a) Baal-Peor (17). In Numb.25 An Israelite man named **Zimri** brought a Midianite woman named **Cozbi** into the Israelite camp, *apparently for purposes of ritual sexual intercourse*. When **Phinehas** saw them enter the camp, he followed them into the tent and *drove a spear through both of them*. Thus halting the plague that God inflicted on the Israelites because of their apostasy. God responded to Phinehas' actions by praising his zeal.
- E. Slide12 EXPLANATION (21-29) *Read*
- F. *Would their children grow up and think they were not truly Israelites?*
- G. Slide13 ALTAR OK'D (30-34) *Read*
- H. Here's the problem: When we stop fighting a common enemy **we turn on each other**.
  1. *They heard someone say*. (11) Hearsay, rumor, gossip.

a) Slide14 Assumption leads to Accusation. But ... Communication leads to Clarification. (How about the benefit of the doubt? Love believes all things. Trust and verify. I have a few questions)

(1) Assume less, Communicated more!

I. Slide15a Principles when it comes to Misunderstandings:

1. Respond with a concern for God's holiness.
2. Respond with the courage to confront in love.
3. Respond with an attempt to reconcile before you fight.
4. Slide15b Determine that you are willing to sacrifice to help them; don't confront unless you are willing to help.
5. Determine that you will see the situation from the perspective of the other person.
6. Determine that you will believe the best of one another.

J. Why didn't they build *some other* kind of monument? (Why make it look like an altar?)

1. Because they knew that the true basis of their unity was *their common worship* centered in the *sacrifices* at the altar.

K. Know your enemy:

1. Let's remember, *the world isn't* our enemy, *the world is* our harvest field.
2. The real enemy is who? The one who is here to *rob, kill, and destroy*.

L. Before you *declare war on* your Christian brother or sister, **stop** to ask questions. Ask what's going on. [maybe its sin. or maybe its misunderstandings. or maybe its just a difference of philosophy of ministry]

M. The building of the altar was at first misunderstood as a declaration of war, but then it became a **witness** of peace and unity.

N. Prov.18:13 *If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.*

O. James 3:13-18 *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

P. Keywords: