

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JOSHUA 13-19

Isaiah 28:21 reads, “For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon - that He may do His work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act.” In the Valley of Gibeon God displayed “*His awesome work*” and “*His unusual act*” – we studied it last time in Joshua 10.

It’s not everyday, the sun and moon stand still in their march across the sky.

God may’ve worked directly by His own hand to produce the phenomena.

Or He might’ve employed some celestial mechanics – perhaps a planetary fly-by, or maybe a comet sweeping through the earth’s atmosphere.

Either way it was *an awesome work, an unusual act.*

Imagine God grabbing an aimless comet out of deep space, then directing it’s trajectory to reach earth at the exact moment to coincide with Joshua’s prayer...

Yet, tonight’s chapters detail a more *normal work* – a very *common act.*

I’ve discovered the Christian life is a combination of both. At times God works in miraculous, stupendous ways, but He also calls us to certain basic duties. The Christian life is a combination of God’s *unusual acts*, and our *common acts.*

Here General Joshua leaves behind his thrilling battles, his daring maneuvers, and his colossal triumphs – and embroils himself in a more mundane work.

He picks up his transit and range rod, and does the routine job of a surveyor.

Joshua's job in chapters 13-24 is to divide the land among the tribes of Israel.

It reminds me of the farmer who was tired of paying exorbitant property taxes. The taxes were driving him out of business, so he decided to sell his farm.

One day he was approached by a man who wanted to see the boundaries of his property. The farmer asked first... **“Are you a buyer, or a tax assessor?”**

Property lines, and boundary markers, and a good survey are important items.

Though all the earth belongs to God, land allotment was – and still is – an important issue in Israel. Two passages in Deuteronomy prove the point...

Deuteronomy 19:14 says, **“You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.”** God commanded respect for property markers and boundaries. Deuteronomy 27:17 also says, **“Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.”** And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Several years ago I read of a family of six found shot to death in their home.

It turns out they were murdered by their next door neighbor over a boundary dispute. The neighbor gunned down the whole family after the dad repositioned the survey pin. Even today people take property ownership very, very seriously.

The last half of Joshua was recorded to avoid such disputes... I guess you could say **we're going to cover a lot of ground** in tonight's study.

Joshua 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. This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites, from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines - the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites..." Sadly these cities were never fully conquered. Later they become the five Philistine strongholds... *Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.*

Verse 4 continues the land still inhabited by the Canaanites, "from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites; the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise (eastward), from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath; all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians" All along the outer ring of the land of Canaan the pagan nations were still entrenched – still holding on.

But God says, "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.”

Evidently, Joshua’s military campaigns had conquered the bulk of the land of Canaan, but there were still little pockets of resistance here and there...

The *Philistines* held on in the southwest, along the Mediterranean coast.

*Canaanites* lived in the south, bordering the wilderness.

The *Gebalites* occupied an area just south of Mount Hermon, north of the Sea of Galilee. *Sidionians* lived in what is today southern Lebanon, along the coast.

As the Lord told Joshua, “there remains very much land yet to be possessed.”

But God knew the best way to motivate Israel to drive out the remaining Canaanites was to go ahead and divvy up the land to the different tribes.

If a particular tribe knew the borders of their possession it would give them the incentive to take up arms and fight to occupy all that belonged to them.

Notice God’s words in verse 6, “divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.” The land was Israel’s inheritance. God promised a chunk of land to the nation’s forefathers - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants.

The land of Israel – or in the Hebrew, *Eretz Israel* - was God’s gift to His own.

This is why *the land* is so important to Israelis today. It’s

more than a political bargaining chip. To give up Gaza, or the West Bank, or the Golan Heights is to reject a present God intended for them. It's spiritually and morally wrong.

It's the sad tale of history that the Hebrews never fully possessed the land God promised them. After Joshua the Israelis found *compromise* an easier way to deal with the pagans than *combat*. A policy of tolerance replaced faith and courage.

Yet the Bible teaches that one day Israel will possess all the land that God has promised them. *Complete occupation is still future*. In fact, there's a prophecy in Obadiah 17 that says, "The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

And I think that's also a good motto for the Christian life.

*Do we fully possess our possessions? We've been given all spiritual blessings in Christ yet are we possessing all of our possessions? If we are... why does our life lack power over temptation – boldness in our witness – joy in our disposition?*

Most of us are living far below our privileges. Like Israel of old, we need to rise up in faith and possess our possessions – lay hold of all that's ours in Christ!

Verse 7 tells us, "Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh." What is called "The West Bank", or the land west of the Jordan – was to be allocated to 9½ of Israel's 12 tribes.

Verse 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...” In Numbers 32, Rueben, Gad, and half of Manasseh asked Moses if they could settle on the east bank of the Jordan. They figured the lush fields would make perfect grazing for their cattle.

At first Moses refused. He thought they were trying to shirk their responsibility to fight with their brothers, and conquer the Canaanites. But they assured Moses they were willing to go to battle. They would fight alongside the other tribes until the enemy was defeated, then they’d return to the pastures east of the Jordan.

In the remainder of chapter 13 Joshua reminds them of their boundaries.

Verse 9, “from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon (east of the Dead Sea), and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon; all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon (the description is moving north), as far as the border of the children of Ammon;

Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah; all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these. 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.” Sadly, this was case over and over.

Verse 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.”

The Levites were the one tribe that received no territory. Their inheritance was the administration of the tabernacle – the sacrifices and the worship of God.

Specific cities throughout the land were established for the Levites.

In verses 15-23 borders are staked out for the half tribe of Reuben that settled east of the Jordan. They occupied the land east and a little north of the Dead Sea.

Verses 24-28 marked off boundaries for the tribe of Gad. They inherited the land of the Ammonites – east of the Jordan. The modern city of Amman – in the country of Jordan – derives its name from the Ammonites. Verse 27 notes Gad’s northern border as “the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward.” This was another name for the Sea of Galilee. “Chinnereth” means “harp”. Look at the lake from above, and it certainly has a harp-shape.

Verses 29-32 pinpoint the boundaries for the half tribe of Manasseh that settled to the east and northeast of the Sea of Galilee – in the land of Bashan.

Verse 33 again makes the point, “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.”

We learn later the decision to settle outside the Promised

land ended up fatal.

According to 1 Chronicles 5:26-27 they fall victim to idolatry, and were first to be taken captive by the Assyrians.

Apparently, the Jordan was a needed wall of protection both militarily and spiritually that the 2½ tribes decided to neglect.

Guys, when we settle for second best - rather than go on with God into all He has for us - we make ourselves more vulnerable to danger and temptation.

We get right to the *brink of blessing* – then because it seems hard, or requires more faith - we pull up short. Don't do it. Press on. Enter into all God's goodness!

Chapter 14, “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. Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.” It amounted to a *righteous raffle*.

“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. For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. 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.” Here Joshua explains an important detail that'll come up again and again as we study Israel's history.

The Bible always speaks of Israel as 12 tribes – but *what* 12 tribes varies.

At times the 12 tribes include Joseph and Levi. But in the



allocation of the land Joseph received a double portion – thus his two sons take his place – Manasseh and Ephraim. But since Levi’s inheritance is the *Lord*, not the *land*...thus, Israel minus Joseph, plus Manasseh and Ephraim, minus Levi still equals 12 tribes.

Israel is always presented as 12 tribes – but the make-up often varies.

Verse 5, “As the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.” Chapters 15-19 divvies up the west bank. But first, guess who steps out of the crowd to take possession of the inaugural parcel?

Verse 6, “Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb...” Joshua’s old friend, Caleb - the only other faithful spy steps up to the plate...

Of the 3 million Hebrews who crossed the Jordan Joshua and Caleb were the only members of the Exodus generation who were allowed to enter the Promised Land. They were among the 10 men who Moses sent to spy out the land. Joshua and Caleb were the only two of the spies who brought back a positive report...

Both were men of faith - men willing to take possession of God’s promises.

Three times in chapter 14 we’re told Caleb “wholly followed the Lord”. He was a man who knew no compromise. No partial obedience. No half-hearted devotion.

“Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of

God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt (they frightened them), but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these 45 years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, 85 years old.

As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in." Get the picture... This old man is 85 years old. For the last 20 years Caleb has been eligible for social security. But rather than assisted living – he wants to fight.

Rather than *Geritol* he's ready to *leave-it-all* on the battlefield.

I love what the old geezer says in verse 12, "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there (the Anakim were the giants), and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." Forty-five years earlier Caleb assured his brothers God would give them victory over the giants. Now he's still chomping at the bit to

fight a few giants. He asks Joshua to give him Hebron, home of the Anakim.

Hey, rather than ask for a corner room in the nursing home – next to a couple of cut little old ladies – Caleb wants to scrap with a few giants! Caleb wanted a challenge. His faith needed a godly goal to tackle. Give me a couple of giants.

If you're looking for the fountain of youth, here's the best way to stay young. Ask God for a kingdom cause – a righteous pursuit. Keep your eyes on heaven. Seek God's glory and you won't notice that you're getting closer to the grave.

Verse 13, “And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.”

The standing Israeli army was dispatched, but skirmishes broke out in various corners of the land as God's people began to possess their possessions.

Caleb takes a mountain named after a giant, and turns it into a place called “Hebron” – which means “*communion*” with God. Guys, the sweetest communion – the richest fellowship with Jesus, the greatest awareness of His presence – is found not in a retirement home, but in a fox hole fighting a battle for God.

Chapter 15, “So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of

**Judah according to their families:**” The first allocation of land west of the Jordan goes to Judah.

“**The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward was the extreme southern boundary. And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward...**” Verses 3-4 continue to trace the southern border.

Verse 5, the eastern border was the Dead Sea up to the mouth of the Jordan.

And according to verse 8 the northern property line took in **“the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem).”** The holy city of Jerusalem was part of the territory of the tribe of Judah.

Verse 9 continues tracing the northern boundary... Verse 12 tells us the western border was **“the coastline of the Great Sea.”** (or the Mediterranean)

Verse 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). Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.”** An 85 year old, Caleb, tackles 3 giants and drives them out of Dodge.

It’s been said of Caleb, **“A faith that never wavered produced a strength that never weakened.”** Caleb was a feisty ole cuss until the very end! When we get to heaven we’ll probably see Caleb and John Wayne duking it out just for fun!

Ole Caleb might still be looking around for a giant or two to fight.

Verse 15 says of Caleb, “Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher). And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

Caleb was not just courageous. He was a leader. He felt the responsibility to encourage younger Hebrew men to follow in his footsteps and fight for God. As an incentive Caleb auctions off his pretty daughter to the guy willing to obey the Lord.

The name “Achsah” means “*to tinkle*”. It probably referred to the anklets worn by oriental women, and could’ve implied that Caleb’s little girl was a good dancer. She could tinkle an ankle bracelet. Here was the deal... Win a victory for God by *tangling* with a giant, and you can come home to Achsah *tinkling* her bracelets.

Verse 17, “So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.” Othniel was Caleb’s nephew, and became his son-in-law. We’ll learn later he was also the first judge of Israel.

“Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field.” It seems that Achsah was also ambitious to inhabit the land.

“So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" 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." It's ironic, Caleb was a giant-killer – but it seems his little girl had him wrapped around her little finger. He gives her a field - then she asks for a spring – then He ends up giving her two, the upper and lower spring.

Caleb had a common weakness – he couldn't say *no* to his little girl.

*He probably also bought her Brusters' ice cream cones whenever she asked.* I have no firsthand knowledge of this, but I've heard that's what doting dads will do.

The remainder of chapter 15 lists the cities of Judah – 106 different cities.

Verse 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." Jerusalem will remain a Jebusite city for the next 400 years – until the armies of King David make Jerusalem Israel's capitol city.

Chapter 16, "The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel..." These are the borders of Joseph's other son, Ephraim. The mountains of Samaria – in the heart of Israel – went to Ephraim.

The Ephraimites possessed a very famous city known as **Shiloh**. In fact, the Ark of the Covenant will rest in the Tabernacle at Shiloh for nearly 350 years.

Verse 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.” It’s sad, but once again the children of Israel fell short of total victory.

Chapter 17 marks out the territory of the remaining half tribe of Manasseh.

Joseph’s older son received the land north of Ephraim – which included another famous Hebrew city, *Shechem*. Later the city is renamed, *Samaria*.

Verse 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.

And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families... “ And those families are listed...

Verse 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.

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.” In oriental cultures property was passed down from fathers to sons – not fathers to daughters. Moses could’ve assumed, and ruled according to custom – but often what’s customary isn’t God’s will. Moses was such a good leader because he kept an open mind and consulted the Lord.

And here God ruled in favor of the girls.

Godly men need to be reminded that God has daughters – not just sons. Just because God ordains male leadership at home and at church doesn't mean His daughters have no rights. *Here Joshua carries out his predecessor's command.*

“Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers.”

Verse 5, “Ten shares fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side of the Jordan, because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons; and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.

And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that lies east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah...”

And on it goes... West Bank Manasseh was north of Ephraim. Westward it stretch to the Mediterranean. It was south of Asher, and west of Issachar. It's territory included the lower Galilee, Valley of Jezreel, and city of Megiddo.

Verse 12, “Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.” Apparently, the Canaanites were more determined to squat than the Israelites were to strike.

“And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.”

It was said of Ephraim and Manasseh - they didn't drive out



the Canaanites.

Rather than rise up and make an all out effort to rid themselves of the enemy, they lack courage. They're content to co-exist. They settled for a partial victory.

And in verse 14 they have the nerve to complain about their meager allocation. Hey, they're both Joseph's boys! They deserve a larger territory commiserate with their honorable status. They gripe, "Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us until now?"

And Joshua gets sarcastic, "If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you."

Hey, if you want more land take it from the Perizzites and the giants.

Why would God give you more land when you're not possessing all the land He's already given? *Guys, we can be just like Ephraim and Manasseh...*

We want more opportunity to serve the Lord – we want a larger ministry – while at the same time we're not taking advantage of the opportunities we possess.

We think we're a great people! *Oh, I've got talent – and I'm not getting the platform to minister that my talent deserves. I should be leading worship instead of Josh. I should be teaching on Sunday mornings instead of Pastor Sandy.*

But you've been asked to teach Sunday School... You could

sing songs for the kids on Sunday night... or lead worship for the Middle School... If you wanted to serve the Lord you could come up on the weekends and help clean the church... or serve as an usher or a greeter... or go to the homeless shelter...

Don't ask for more territory until you fully possess all that you've been given.

When they're no more giants in the land you currently occupy, then we'll talk about expanding your territory.  
*Faithfulness to God begins right where you're at!*

Verse 16, "But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel." They were cramped in the mountains while the Canaanites enjoyed the lush and fertile farmland down in the valley.

"And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph - to Ephraim and Manasseh - saying, "You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot, but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong." Hey, Joshua encourages Joseph's sons. *Their land will expand as their faith stretches.*

I think that's God's word to us tonight...

If you want more in your Christian life... more consistency...

more victory over temptation... more power... more joy... more peace... more harmony at home... more love for others... *then stop griping about what you lack!* Work on your faith – build it up on God’s Word - stretch your faith... and watch your blessings grow.

Chapter 18, “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. But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.”

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?

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. 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. 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.”

Twenty-one representatives walk the remaining land, and survey it into seven parcels. They’re to bring the plats to Joshua, and he’ll make the assignments.

In verses 11-28, *Benjamin* receives the tract of land between Ephraim and Judah. Benjamin stretched from the northern suburbs of Jerusalem to Bethel.

Chapter 19, “The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.” *Simeon* receives the southernmost section of Judah.

Beersheba was a famous city within the borders of Simeon.

Verse 9 makes an interesting comment, “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.” Apparently, the original allotment was larger than Judah could fully occupy - thus an adjustment was made. And to me this is interesting – it sheds light on discerning God’s will...

This means God’s will isn’t always a voice from heaven – a divine mandate written in stone. At times it includes sorting out - and practical concessions. Logic and horse sense, not just dreams and visions – help us discern God’s direction.

Verse 10, “The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families...” *Zebulun* receives the heart of Galilee. Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth was inside the territory of the tribe of Zebulun. Notice, verse 15 lists one of the cities of Zebulun as “Bethlehem”. This was not the birthplace of Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 says, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,” Notice Matthew specifies, “Bethlehem of Judea” – the southern Bethlehem – not the northern Bethlehem in the tribe of Zebulun.

Verse 17, “The fourth lot came out to Issachar...” *Issachar* stretched out across the lower Galilee just west of the Jordan River. It included the southwest shoreline of the Sea of Galilee. The later Roman city of Tiberias was in territory of Issachar.

Verse 24, “The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher...” The territory allotted to the tribe Asher was along the Mediterranean coast, northward toward the cities of Tyre and Sidon. It stretched southeast to Mount Carmel.

Verse 32, “The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali...” The tribe of *Naphtali* was allotted the territory north of the Sea of Galilee - near Mt. Hermon.

Asher was north of Zebulun and east of Asher. Today its territory borders on southern Lebanon. The famous city of Hazor was within Naphtali’s borders.

The southeastern boundary of Naphtali was the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee - where Jesus chose His disciples and performed many of his miracles.

In fact, Matthew 4:13-16 speaks of Jesus, “And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Matthew goes on to quote Isaiah 9:1-2... "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

God forever blessed the territory of Naphtali by allowing it to host a majority of the ministry of Jesus.

Verse 40, “The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan...”

*Dan* was given a strip of land between Ephraim and Judah – west of Benjamin toward the Mediterranean coast. Dan included the port of Joppa – where Jonah boarded a boat to Tarshish – and where a kosher Peter received a vision from God letting him know that Gentiles would now be included in God’s kingdom.

The territory of Dan included Philistine country. Samson was a Danite.

But notice verse 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.

This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.” Later a few Danites will migrate north and take the city of Leshem. They actually end up with two parcels of land.

“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.” God’s faithful servant, Joshua, receives his inheritance last.

“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.”

Joshua’s life began in the slave pits of Egypt and ended on the mountains of Ephraim. In between, perhaps no one ever saw more of God’s amazing miracles.

Verse 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.”