

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JOSHUA 13-19

So far the book of Joshua has been action-packed. But in today's chapters we leave behind the battles, strategies, and triumphs. Joshua takes up **real estate**.

He picks up a transit and range rod, and does the job of a surveyor. In Chapters 13-24 *General Joshua* shifts to *Realtor Joshua* and divides the land among Israel's tribes... So to prep us for this passage I brought with me today, **The Top Ten Real Estate Jokes** of all time.

1) A commercial broker had a client who wanted to buy a baseball stadium, but had trouble estimating the closing costs... *He lost the client because he could only give him a ballpark price.* 2) What did the new landowner say to his girlfriend... *"Now we can plant a garden and put our tulips together."* 3) Why did the realtor board the boat... *He was the sailor's agent.*

4) Why did the house go to the doctor... *It had a window pane.* 5) Did you hear about the last remaining unit in the apartment complex... *It was last but not leased.* 6) What kind of building weighs the least... *A lighthouse.* 7) Did you hear the joke about the roof... *Ah, most people don't get it - it's over their head.*

8) What did the boy mortgage say to the girl mortgage... *Wow, you've got my interest!* 9) Why did the mortgage broker eat lunch all by himself... *He was a loaner.* And lastly, 10) What is a Realtor's favorite Christmas song... *For Lease Navidad.*

Well, property lines, boundary markers, surveys are all important. Though the Bible says the earth belongs to God, land *allotment* was, and still is, vital in Israel.

Deuteronomy 19:14 proves the point, *"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."*

Several years ago a family of six was found shot to death, murdered by their next door neighbor over a boundary dispute. He gunned down the family after the dad had repositioned a surveyor's pin. Even today, it's not a good idea to *"remove your neighbor's landmark."*

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

Joshua 13:1, *"Now Joshua was old, advanced in years."* Well over 100. *"And the LORD said to him... 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..." The Philistines were a non-indigenous people who'd settled in Canaan, and built a metroplex of five cities: *Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, Enron*.

Verse 4 continues the land still inhabited by *native* or *indigenous* people. He starts in "the south, the Canaanites" - moves up the Mediterranean coast to "Lebanon" - then "toward the sunrise" (or east), from Mount Hermon... all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon... all the Sidonians..." All along Canaan's outer ring, pagan nations stayed entrenched.

Yet God is telling Joshua to go ahead and give away their land **by faith**, for "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." Joshua's military campaign had conquered the bulk of the land, but there were pockets of resistance... The *Philistines* in the southwest, by the Mediterranean Sea... Up the coast, the *Canaanites*... The *Gebalites* south of Mount Hermon, and north of the Sea of Galilee. And finally, the *Sidionians* in what is today southern Lebanon.

As the Lord told Joshua, "there remains very much land yet to be possessed." God knew the best way to motivate Israel to drive out the remaining pagans was to go ahead and divvy up the land to the tribes. If a particular tribe knew their borders, it might incentivize them to fight to occupy all the land belonging to them.

Notice God's word in verse 6, "divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you." Canaan was Israel's inheritance - *sod from God*. God had promised a chunk of land to the nation's forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their heirs.

The land of Israel, or as the Hebrew's say, "*Eretz Israel*" was God's gift to His people. This is why *that land* is vital to Jews 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 God-given gift. It would be spiritually and morally insulting to Yahweh...

**It's a sad tale of history that the Hebrews never fully possessed the land God promised them.** After Joshua, the Israelites found *compromise* easier than *combat*. A policy of tolerance replaced faith and courage. Yet the Bible teaches one day Israel will possess the land God promised. *Complete occupation is still in their future*. Obadiah 17 prophecies, "The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

And this is 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 we've been promised? If we are, why does our life lack power over

temptation, and **boldness** to be a witness, and **joy** in the midst of all things? **Most of us are living far below our privileges!** Like Israel of old, we need to rise up in faith and possess all our possessions - *lay hold of all that's ours in Christ Jesus!*

Verse 7 tells us, “**Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.**” What is today “**The West Bank,**” the land west of the Jordan - was allocated to 9½ of 12 tribes.

Two-and-a-half tribes settled east of the Jordan. In Numbers 32 Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh asked Moses if they could settle on the east bank of the River. They figured the mountain pastures and lush fields would make perfect grazing for their cattle.

At first Moses balked. He thought they were trying to shirk their responsibility to fight with their brothers to conquer the Canaanites. But when they assured him they were willing to fight alongside the other tribes until their enemy had been defeated, Moses agreed with their request, and let them settle east of the Jordan.

In the remainder of Chapter 13 Joshua reminds these eastern tribes of their boundaries. Verse 9, “**from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon** (east of the Dead Sea)... **the plain of Medeba... all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon** (we're now moving north), **as far as the border of the children of Ammon; Gilead... all Mount Hermon... all Bashan... 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 (they) dwell among the Israelites until this day.**” Sadly, this was the case over and over again. The Israelites failed to drive out their idol-worshipping neighbors.

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.**” Levi was the one tribe that received no territory. Their inheritance was the administration of the tabernacle, *the sacrifices and worship of God*. Specific cities throughout the land would be established for Levites.

In verses 15-23 borders are staked out for *the half Reuben*, east and north of the Dead Sea. Verses 24-28 marks boundaries for Gad. They inherit the land of the Ammonites. The modern Jordanian capitol of Amman, derives its name from the Ammonites. Verse 27, Gad's northern border is “**the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward.**” “*Chinnereth*” was the OT name for the Sea of Galilee. It means “**harp-shaped.**” From an overlook it resembles **a harp**.

Verses 29-32 pinpoints the boundaries for the half tribe of Manasseh, northeast of the Sea of Galilee - *in Bashan*... Verse 33 again reminds us that the tribe of Levi received no land. It reads, “**The LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.**”

We learn later this decision of the two-and-a-half tribes settling outside the Promised land was a fatal mistake. 1 Chronicles 5 tells us they fell victim to idolatry, and were the first taken captive by Assyria. Apparently, the Jordan River was a needed barrier militarily and spiritually that these tribes neglected.

And when you and I settle for second best, *rather than God's fullness*, we too become vulnerable to temptation. You can get to the *brink of blessing*; then because it's hard, or requires faith, pull up short. Don't let it happen. 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.**” *And so the day came to divide the west bank, Canaan-land proper.*

Imagine an all-day raffle. Two-thirds of the people gathered with Joshua and Eleazar the high priest. Lots or dice were cast... Proverbs 16:33 tells us, “**The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.**” In other words, **God was in charge of the lots.** God's providence will decide the allocation of the land!

And check out the notation in verse 4, “**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...**” The Bible always speaks of Israel as twelve tribes - *but what twelve vary.*

At times, the twelve tribes include Joseph and Levi. But here, Joseph gets a double portion; thus his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, replace him in the list. And since Levi's inheritance is *the Lord*, not *the land*, Levi is subtracted from this list of tribal allotments.

So Israel is here twelve minus Joseph, adding back Manasseh and Ephraim; minus Levi - equaling twelve tribes. Israel is always twelve tribes, but which twelve varies according to God's purpose in the passage.

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 ready to fight a few Canaanites and take dominion of the*

*inaugural parcel?*

Verse 6, “**Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb...**” Joshua’s old pal, Caleb, the only other faithful spy, steps up to the plate... Of the three million Hebrews who crossed the Jordan, Joshua and Caleb were the only members of the Exodus generation, who’d been captives in Egypt. They were the only two of the ten men Moses sent to spy out the land, who brought back a positive, faith-filled report.

Joshua and Caleb were men of faith - willing to lay hold of all God’s promises. Three times in Chapter 14 we’re told Caleb “**wholly followed the Lord.**” Caleb was no compromise - a man of whole-hearted devotion. You and I would do well to model Caleb’s fearless faith.

“**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 scared 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 forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.”** Caleb had been holding on to a personal promise of God for 45 years.

And “**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.**” Wow, here’s an old man, 85. For twenty years Caleb has been eligible for social security. But rather than assisted living, he’s ready to make war. Rather than *Geritol* he’ll *leave-it-all* on the battlefield.

And 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 satanic 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 in the land. Now, he’s still chomping at the bit to fight a few. He asks for *Hebron*, a home of the Anakim. Rather than a corner room in the nursing home, next to a couple of cute little old ladies - Caleb wants to scrap with a



few giants! The old man wants a challenge! His faith needs a godly cause - a battle to fight. He says, give me a few giants.

And if you're looking for the fountain of youth, here it is! ***Here's how to stay young!*** Ask God for a kingdom cause - a righteous battle to fight. People ask me if I want to retire. Man, I'm still looking for giants to fight. *"Lord, Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done!"* Enroll in God's eternal purposes, and life will never get old.

Verse 13, "And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance... because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. And the name of Hebron... was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim).

The word "Kirjath" means "village," so this was "the village of Arba." But not when Caleb is done. He takes a mountain named for a giant, and makes it "Hebron" or "communion." It means "communion with God." The sweetest communion, the richest fellowship with Jesus, the greatest awareness of God's presence is found not in a retirement home, but in a fox hole with God.

Chapter 15, "So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah..." After Caleb, the first allocation of land west of the Jordan is to tribe of Judah. And rather than read the legal description on the deed, I'll put up the plat, and you'll see each tribe's allotted territory.

Judah's southern and eastern borders were the Dead Sea. It's western border was the Mediterranean Sea. And its northern border was the Jebusite city of Jerusalem. The holy city eventually became its capitol.

Verse 13 is back, "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, tackled three giants and drove them off his mountain. It was said of Caleb, "A faith that never wavered produced a strength that never weakened." Caleb was a feisty fighter until the very end! When we get to heaven you'll probably see Caleb and John Wayne duking it out just for fun! Ole Caleb might still be looking for a giant or two to fight.

Verse 15, "Then (Caleb) 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 of men.* He felt the responsibility to encourage younger

men to follow in his footsteps and fight for God. And as incentive Caleb auctions off his pretty daughter to the guy who's willing to obey God.

The feminine name "**Achsah**" means "**to tinkle.**" It probably referred to anklets worn by oriental women, and implied that Caleb's little girl could dance. She could tinkle an ankle bracelet... So here's Caleb's offer, win a victory for God by *tangling* with a giant, and you can come home to Achsah *tinkling* her bracelets.

And there was one, aggressive, assertive young man who rose to the challenge! 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 Othniel will also be the first judge in 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 some 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.**" And how ironic, though Caleb was a *giant-killer*, *it seems a young girl had him wrapped around her little finger*. He gives Achsah a field - then she asks for a spring - so he ends up giving her two, the upper and lower spring.

Caleb had a weakness - he couldn't say *no* to his little girl. *He probably took her to Brusters for ice cream whenever she asked*. I have no firsthand knowledge of this... but I've heard this is what doting dads often do.

Well, the rest of Chapter 15 lists the 106 cities of Judah. 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 conquer the city and make it their capitol.

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...**" He gives Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, their allotment in the heart of Israel. They get the mountains of Samaria.

The tribe of Ephraim 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. *Here's me standing where the Tabernacle once stood*.

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 again the Israelites fell short of total victory. Idolaters remained a

presence in Ephraim.

Chapter 17 marks out the western territory of the half tribe of Manasseh. Joseph's older son received the land north of Ephraim - which included another famous city, *Shechem*. Later, *Shechem*, is renamed *Samaria*.

Verse 3, "But Zelophehad (and his genealogy is listed) had no sons, but only daughters... 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 passed from fathers to sons, *not fathers to daughters*. Thus, if Moses had assumed or ruled according to custom, these girls would've been left out. But this is why Moses was such a good leader, *he kept an open mind and consulted with the Lord*.

And God ruled in favor of the girls... Godly men need to remember God has daughters, *not just sons*. Just because males are to lead at home and in the church it doesn't mean God's daughters have no rights. *Here Joshua carries out his predecessor's ruling, "Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers."*

Now West Bank Manasseh was north of Ephraim. It stretched westward 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." Sadly, they were more determined to **squat** than Israel was 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.**"

Both sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, left enclaves of Canaanites. Rather than rise up and make an all out effort to rid themselves of the enemy, they lacked courage. They were content to co-exist.

And in verse 14 they have the nerve to complain about their allotment. "*We're Joseph's boys! We deserve a larger territory commiserate with our exalted 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?"

But Joshua says, "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.” If you want more land take it from the Perizzites, the giants, who are homesteading within your own boundaries. Why should God give you more land when you’re not possessing the land He’s already given you.

*And we can be just like Ephraim and Manasseh.* Some of us 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 have.

We think we’re *“a great people!” I’ve got talent! I’m not getting the platform to minister my gifts deserve... I should be leading worship instead of Matt... I need to be teaching a Woman’s Bible Study rather than her...*

If you want to serve God, there’s stuff to do! There’re a whole host of tasks that need to be done. But let’s not ask for new territory until we fully possess what we’ve been given. When there’s no more giants where you live; then you can talk about expanding borders. *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.”*

The tribes of Joseph were camped out in the mountains while the Canaanites enjoyed the lush and fertile farmland in the valley. *But they complain about being cramped.* *“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.”* Joshua encourages the men of Manasseh and Ephraim. *Your land will expand as your faith stretches.*

And I think that’s God’s word to us! If you want more from the Christian life - more consistency... more victory over temptation... more power... more harmony at home... more joy... more peace... more love for others... *then stop griping about what you lack!* Rather work on your faith - build it up on God’s Word - stretch it out with frequent use... then your blessings will grow!

Chapter 18, *“Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh (in the hill country of Ephraim), and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.”* Finally, the Tabernacle has a permanent home.

*“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 are to walk the remaining land, and survey it into seven parcels. They’re to bring the plats to Joshua, and he’ll assign them to the tribes.

In verses 11-28, **Benjamin** receives the tract of land between Ephraim and Judah. Benjamin stretched from the northern suburbs of Jerusalem to the city of 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 that was 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.” Evidently, Judah’s original allotment was larger than they could fully occupy - thus an adjustment gets made... And to me this is a valuable detail that sheds light on discerning God’s will.

Perhaps His will isn’t always a voice from heaven, a divine mandate set in stone. It could be a leading that includes some human sorting out - maybe a practical concession. Logic and horse sense, not just dreams and visions, are needed to discern God’s direction.

Verse 10, “The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families...” **Zebulun** gets the heart of Galilee. Jesus’ hometown, Nazareth, was a city of Zebulun... Notice, verse 15 lists one of its towns as “**Bethlehem**.” This was not the birthplace of Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 specified, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king.” Note, there were two Bethlehems. A northern one in the tribe of Zebulun - a southern Bethlehem in Judea.

Verse 17, “The fourth lot came out to Issachar...” The territory of **Issachar** stretched across the lower Galilee to Mount Tabor, west of the Jordan River. It covered the lower end of the Valley of Jezreel.

Verse 24, “The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher...” The territory allotted **Asher** was along the Mediterranean coast, north toward Tyre and Sidon, Phoenician cities. It stretched southeast to Mount Carmel, where Elijah called fire from heaven.

Verse 32, “The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali...” **Naphtali** was allotted the territory north of the Sea of Galilee - near Mount Hermon. It was north of Zebulun, and east of Asher. Today, it borders with Lebanon. The famous city of Hazor was within its borders. Naphtali’s southeast boundary was the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee - where Jesus chose His disciples and did many of His miracles.

Matthew 4 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... And Matthew then quotes Isaiah 9, “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 Jesus’ ministry.

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 Sea. Dan included the port of Joppa (*where Jonah boarded a boat to Tarshish*), and where a kosher Peter got a vision from God revealing to him that Gentiles would now be included in God’s family.

The territory of Dan included the five Philistine cities. And the Philistine killer, 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 migrate north, and take in battle the city of Leshem. They actually end up with two tribal parcels.

Then notice verse 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.” It’s interesting God’s faithful servant, Joshua, receives his parcel last.

“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.” This was near Caleb and Othniel, two like-minded patriots. Joshua’s life began in *the slave pits of Egypt* and ended on *the mountains of Ephraim*. In between, perhaps there was no one who ever lived who saw more amazing miracles than him.

Finally, 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.”