

## Week 25

Key Verse: Joshua 24: 15 NIV. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua led the people in taking the land belonging to 31 kings. Two kings had been conquered by Moses; the total was 33 kings that the Lord defeated for Israel. Joshua had taken the main towns, but the Israelites were not yet in full possession of the land. God had promised all the land to them if they remained obedient to Him. This would require their faith to remain strong in the Lord in order for them to conquer the enemy and possess the entire land. Likewise, our faith must remain strong in the Lord so He can deliver us from our enemy and bless us.

God used Moses and Joshua to allocate and distribute the Promised Land to each tribe. God gave each tribe a specific responsibility in their territory. They were to worship God only, completely destroy the enemy, and be a witness to other nations. Then God would bless them. In chapters 12 – 21, the word *inheritance* is found over 50 times, indicating they did not win their land or purchase their land, the land was from God. In Leviticus 25:23 NASB God says, "The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me."

God always keeps His promises. He made a promise to us in John 14:2 & 3 NASB "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also." As we eagerly await the fulfillment of this promise, let's not neglect the place God has provided for us in this world. Wherever you are is your promised land on this earth; it is the place God made for you to serve Him. We are not called to defeat the enemy in the same way as the Israelites, but we are to defeat sin in our personal lives. Just like the twelve tribes, we are to worship only God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and be a witness for Him. Just like God defeated the enemies of the Israelites, Jesus has defeated the enemy for us through His death and resurrection. The Israelites had to work to clear the land and we have to work to increase our faith and mature in Christ.

### **Day One: Joshua 13:1 – 15:63, Joshua Fulfills the Second Part of His Commission**

1. What does the division of Canaan's real estate do for the tribes of Israel?

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2. Which tribes possessed the land east of the Jordan River? Why was it given to them?

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3. How does Caleb motivate his men to drive out the Anakites?

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4. Describe Caleb's relationship with his daughter, Acsah. 15:18 & 19

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**Prayer: Jeremiah 32:17**

**Day Two: Joshua 16:1 – 19:31, Rewards of Land Allocated By Joshua**

5. What was unusual about the situation with Zelophedad's children and how did Joshua handle the problem? (17:3 & 4) More information can be found in Numbers 27:1 – 11.

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6. Where was the tabernacle placed? How is this important? (18:1) See Acts 7:44 – 46. You may want to check a map of Israel for this period of history.

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7. What or who is at the center of your life? Check a few of these references: Psalm 9:1 & 119:10; John 15: 4 - 7, 10; Colossians 1:18 & 3:16

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8. How were the attitudes of Caleb and the daughters of Zelophedad different from the attitudes of the last seven tribes? (15:14; 18:2 & 3 & 8)

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9. Read Proverbs 16:33. How does "casting lots" prohibit bickering? Look back on the first page of Week 24 in the third paragraph to review casting of lots.

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10. In the Old Testament, casting of lots was a method of determining God's will. How do we determine God's will for our lives?

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**Prayer: Psalm 77:13 & 14**

### **Day Three: Joshua 20:1 – 21:45, God Provides Refuge**

11. Why were the cities of refuge established in Israel? Joshua 20:1-9

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If you would like to learn more about the cities of refuge, see: Exodus 21:13; Numbers 35:6-34 pay attention to verse 14; Deuteronomy 19:1-13

12. How does the concept of a place of refuge apply to us? Psalm 91:21; Hebrews 6:18

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13. Why were the Levites given towns in each of the tribal areas? Deuteronomy 18:1 & 2; Numbers 35:1-5

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According to the blessing of Jacob, Genesis 49:5-7, the tribes of Simon and Levi would be scattered among the nations.

14. How was their being scattered among the nations beneficial to the people? Deuteronomy 10:8 & 9  
What is a Christian's purpose in this world? Matthew 5:13 - 16

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15. First Peter 2:5. NLT. And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. As God's holy priest, what three sacrifices can we offer daily to God? Romans 12:1, Hebrews 13:15 & 16

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**Prayer: Psalm 59:16 & 17**

### **Day Four: Joshua 22:1 – 34, Honorable Discharge**

16. Why do the Israelites act so quickly when they hear that their brethren have built a replica altar on the border of Canaan near the Jordan River? (22:15 – 20) Numbers 25 & Deuteronomy 4:3 tells about Peor.

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James 1:19 NLT: Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

17. What reason does the Transjordanic tribes (Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh), on the east side of the Jordan River, give for the building of this altar? (22:21 - 24 & 26 – 29)

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18. Who did the Transjordanic tribes accuse of creating the problem? (22:25) Do we ever do the same?

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19. Were the Transjordanic tribes living in the land God told them to possess? Genesis 13:15 & 17:8; Numbers 32:31 & 32; Deuteronomy 32:49; Psalm 105:11

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There are many references to the Promised Land and Canaan was part of it. One reference is Genesis 15:18, which gives boundaries for a tract of land we call the Royal Grant that includes a much larger tract of land than Canaan. A large tract of land is also mentioned in Ezekiel that possibly pertains to the Millennial Kingdom. The boundaries of the Promised Land are listed in Numbers 32:31 & 32; 34:7-12, particularly verses 10 & 11, and verse 15.

20. What were the possible consequences to the Transjordanic tribes living on the east side of the Jordan? See 1 Chronicles 5:25 & 26

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**Prayer: Psalm 86:11**

### **Day Five: Joshua 23:1 – 24:33, The Way of All the Earth**

There are three funerals in these chapters of the Book of Joshua: Joshua was buried on his own inherited land, Eleazar was buried on his son's property in Ephraim near Shiloh, and Joseph's bones were buried in the plot of ground in Shechem that was purchased from Hamor by Jacob in Genesis 33:19.

21. What warning did Joshua include in his departing words to Israel?

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22. What point was God making in 24:1-13 when recounting their history?

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23. What does the "stone of witness" signify? This is the ninth and last stone memorial in the book of Joshua.

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The Nine Memorials in the Book of Joshua:

Joshua 4:9; 4:20-24; 7:26; 8:29; two in 8:30; 10:27; 22:10; and 24:26-28

There is nothing unbiblical about Christians having memorials unless they take the place of God.

### **Prayer: Psalm 119:33-37**

The key verse for this week contains a phrase that applies to our daily walk with the Lord. "Choose this day" does not apply just to the moment you chose Jesus as your personal Savior; it is an every day, on-going, moment-by-moment decision we have to make as we mature in Christ. Philippians 1:27 NIV, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." The Israelites chose God verbally, but their lives did not reflect their decision. Keep in mind that our lives are our witness.

The Israelites received the free gift of the riches of the Promised Land, yet it is tragic they did not continue in obedience to God and claim all the land. We have also received every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). It is a tragedy that some Christians live as spiritual paupers because they do not claim all the riches God has given us through Jesus.