

Joshua

The LORD is Salvation

Chapter 13:1-7 The Area of the Promised Land Yet Conquered

13:1 After 3 campaigns (central, southern, northern), Joshua was quite old (~95 years) ^{Joshua 23:1-2}.

The LORD spoke, reminding him of the many areas of the Promised Land still to be conquered.

Joshua was a great leader of the people, but as a human, his efforts to conquer the PL were incomplete, unlike the job his namesake, Jesus, will do in the 70th Week of Daniel ^{Revelation 4-18}.

13:2-5 The LORD detailed the areas not under the control of the Israelites: from east of the Nile, up the coast, all the way up to Lebanon (north of the Sea of Galilee) and inland toward Damascus.

At his advanced age, Joshua's work as the military commander was over; therefore, it seems obvious that the responsibility to complete the conquest of the rest of the PL was left to the leaders of the tribes assigned to those areas (with one exception ^{v.6}). The completion of this process was required for Israel to avoid disobeying God's command to (and ignore His promise they would be able to) totally conquer the PL that He was "giving" them ^{Deuteronomy 11:22-25}.

13:6-7 For some reason, the LORD told Joshua He would personally take care of the inhabitants of the mountains around Mt. Hermon. The LORD then reiterated His instruction to Joshua (and originally given to Moses) to allocate the land ^{Numbers 33:54} Israel was inheriting ^{Genesis 15:17}.

The word "inheritance" is throughout the final chapters. An inheritance is given, not earned.

The fact that neither Joshua nor the tribal leaders carried out the complete conquest of the PL resulted in compromising conditions, producing an unstable nation in the short term ^{Judges 1} and a rebellious/sinful nation in the long term ^{2 Kings 7, 25}.

Chapter 13:8-33 The Land East of the Jordan River is Divided

13:8 The tribes of Reuben, Gad and a half tribe of Manasseh were formally given their inherited lands east of the Jordan, promised to them earlier by the LORD through Moses ^{Numbers 32-34}.

The Israelites inherited the land, but God is the owner and the people of Israel are His tenants ^{Leviticus 25:23}. The "rent" God required from Israel was their obedience. In order for

Joshua M: 13-14

the Israelites to possess and enjoy the PL, there was a requirement for their submission and obedience to the LORD ^{Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 26-30}. The Christian's inherit salvation ^{Hebrews 1:14} and the Kingdom ^{James 2:5}, but obedience ^{John 14:15, 15:5,10-17} is also required for these blessings.

13:9-12 These two and a half tribes were given the land extending from the Arnon River (the middle of the eastern shore of the Dead Sea) north to Mt. Hermon, on the east side of the Jordan.

13:13 However, the Israelites failed to destroy the people of Geshur and Maacah (NE of the Sea of Galilee) in the land of the half tribe of Manasseh, and so they continued to live among the Jews.

13:14 In the midst of dividing the land east of the Jordan, Joshua surprisingly included the implication in this verse that the tribe of Levi would not receive an inheritance of land.

The Levites were called by God to be priests ^{Deuteronomy 18:1-8}. Their inheritances were to be "the LORD, the God of Israel" ^{v.33} (as it will be for the priests in the Millennium ^{Ezekiel 44:28}) and their "priestly service to the LORD" ^{v.33, Joshua 18:7}. Instead of specific lands, the LORD commanded that they receive 48 cities ^{Joshua 21} (and the pasturelands ^{Numbers 35:1-5} around those cities) that were scattered throughout the PL, so they could minister to all of Israel.

13:15-23 Reuben These verses specify the allotment for the tribe of Reuben ^{Genesis 29:32}. They inherited lands from the middle to the north end (and east of) the Dead Sea and 20 miles wide. During the conquest of these lands, Balaam son of Beor was killed with the sword ^{Numbers 31:8}.

Balaam was a false (Gentile) prophet who was summoned by the Moab King Balak ^{Numbers 22-25} to put a curse on Israel, but the Angel of the LORD (a Christophany) appeared to Balaam's donkey and then to Balaam, slowing down his journey to Balak ^{2 Peter 2:15-16}. However, Balaam and Balak did meet, and while God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel, Balaam told Balak he could create compromise within the nation of Israel by sending beautiful Moabite women to them ^{Numbers 31:16}. This strategy led to Israel committing idolatry & immorality ^{Revelation 2:14}. Much later, the name Balaam became synonymous with compromise/sin ^{2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11}.

13:24-28 Gad The lands inherited by the tribe of Gad ^{Genesis 30:10-11} had a southern boundary about 20 miles wide at the north end of the Dead Sea. The land extended northward along the east bank of the Jordan River, tapering to two very narrow strips of land trending NW and NE that stretched north to about the level of the southern edge of the Sea of Galilee.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price (505-294-4743; ron@hopeinchristnm.com).

Joshua M: 13-14

13:29-31 Half tribe of Manasseh Half of Manasseh's (Joseph's first born ^{Genesis 41:51}) descendants inherited the land situated north of the tribe of Gad, and just east of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River (up to 35 miles in width) and north to Mt. Hermon.

13:32 Joshua stated these descriptions were simply restatements of the lands allocated by Moses.

13:33 Another statement about the inheritance of the priestly tribe of Levi ^{see discussion above after v.14}.

Chapter 14 *The Division of the Land West of the Jordan River Begins*

14:1-5 The inheritances of the remaining 9½ tribes were determined by lots and distributed by Joshua, Eleazar the priest (Aaron's son) & the family heads of the Israelite tribes ^{Numbers 32:28}. Not allotting land to the tribe of Levi allowed both of Joseph's sons (Manasseh and Ephraim, who had been adopted and blessed by Jacob ^{Genesis 48:15-22}) to receive an inheritance.

As high priest ^{Deuteronomy 10:6}, Eleazar was undoubtedly appointed to cast the lots (probably the Urim ^{Numbers 27:21} & Thummim ^{Exodus 28:30}). Why lots? Answers were from God ^{Proverbs 16:33}.

There are 3 major examples in the early descendants of Abraham where God blessed the 2nd born over the 1st born: Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau and Ephraim over Manasseh. Could this be a hint of God's anointing of the 2nd (spiritual) birth over the 1st (physical) birth?

Note: When Joseph's two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) were blessed by Jacob ^{Genesis 48:8-20}, he was essentially adopting them ^{Genesis 48:16}, making them co-equal in status with his 12 sons. It seems this act made Joseph higher in stature than Reuben (the first-born), because Joseph received a double portion of Jacob's inheritance (i.e., 2 plots of land in the PL).

14:6-12 This is Joshua's first mention of Caleb. As a leader of the tribe of Judah, Caleb went to Joshua at Gilgal and recounted the story of him and Joshua being the only two of the original twelve spies who, after returning to Moses at Kadesh Barnea, were in favor of invading the PL, even though there were giants (the Anakites/Anakim ^{Joshua 11:21-22}) in the land ^{Numbers 13-14}. Caleb also reminded Joshua of God's promise to let him inherit some of the land ^{Numbers 14:24}. Caleb said he was 85 and the time since their spying as 45 years (wandering 38 years, 7 years for the conquest). Caleb assured Joshua: with the Lord's help, he would drive out the Anakim.

14:13-15 For Caleb's faithfulness, Joshua blessed him and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price (505-294-4743; ron@hopeinchristnm.com).