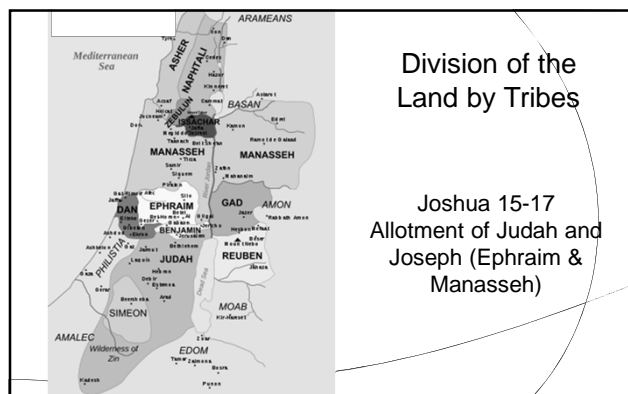


Inheriting the Land of Promise

JOSHUA



Details, Details, Details!

1. The significance of land

- land is God's idea – man was made from the land and land was made for man
- living in and from the land of Canaan was the concrete expression of the Lord's covenant blessings on His people

Details, Details, Details!

2. The realism of God's promise

- the Lord's inheritance was concrete and tangible, not purely spiritual
- Israel's concrete and tangible inheritance of Canaan is a foreshadowing of our greater (yet no less tangible) inheritance

Details, Details, Details!

➤ *The Example of Caleb*

- Caleb was example of how Israel was to take possession of the inheritance – by driving out the remaining enemies and fully possessing the land
- rest of Caleb's story (Josh. 15:13-19)

Dangerous Detours

"Now as for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the sons of Judah could not drive them out; so the Jebusites live with the sons of Judah at Jerusalem until this day." (15:63)

"But they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites live in the midst of Ephraim to this day, and they became forced laborers." (16:10)

"But the sons of Manasseh could not take possession of these cities, because the Canaanites persisted in living in that land. It came about when the sons of Israel became strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely." (17:12-13)

¹⁴ Then the sons of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given me only one lot and one portion for an inheritance, since I am a numerous people whom the LORD has thus far blessed?"

¹⁵ Joshua said to them, "If you are a numerous people, go up to the forest and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you."

¹⁶ The sons of Joseph said, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the valley land have chariots of iron, both those who are in Beth-shean and its towns and those who are in the valley of Jezreel."

¹⁷ Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, saying, "You are a numerous people and have great power; you shall not have one lot *only*,

¹⁸ but the hill country shall be yours. For though it is a forest, you shall clear it, and to its farthest borders it shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, even though they have chariots of iron *and* though they are strong."

Dangerous Detours

1. Beware of small compromise with sin

- part of sin's deceit is that it does not always bring immediate consequences
- sin not dealt with will always lead to spiritual disaster (c.f. Matt. 5:29-30)

Dangerous Detours

2. Beware of discontentment with God's gifts

- guard against the grumbling attitude that says "*I deserve better*"
- do not lose sight of the incomparable worth of our unfading inheritance