ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 11

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Lessons 11-16: The Inheritance and Division of the Promised Land Josh. 13:1-21:45

Lesson 11: Completion Necessary/Concession Josh. 13:1-33

Today's Study: Josh. 13:1-33

- 1. Challenges Yet to Be Addressed Vv. 1-6a
- 2. Charge Given v. 6b-7
- 3. Concession of the East Jordan Tribes Vv. 8-32
- 4. Covering the Levites v. 33

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Highlights from Lesson 10
 - (a) The Alliance of North Canaan Josh. 11:1-5
 - (1) The Canaanites were the ones who started the military campaign.
 - In this war by the Canaanites we have a final effort by the enemy to do
 what they could to stop Israel from securing their inheritance promised
 to them by God.
 - The Canaanites were the aggressors but only to their own destruction.
 - "Sinners bring ruin upon their own heads, so that God will be justified when He speaks, and they shall bear the blame. The uprising of the northern kings was at their own peril."
 - ➤ Beloved, the resistance of the enemy only hastens their own destruction.
 - (2) The head of the northern coalition was King Jabin of Hazor (Josh. 11:1-5)
 - Jabin carried the sway in northern Canaan, having the largest, most influential city-state and was regarded as the most powerful king throughout northern Canaan.
 - The call to unite was sent to all cities who despite their different locations, most likely personal differences, etc. were to lay aside everything and unite as one in order to annihilate the Israelites.
 - (3) The response to Jabin's request was overwhelming, resulting in the amassing of a huge army with chariots and horses (Josh. 11:4-5).
 - The Scriptures noted in reference to the size of the mobilization as: "... much people, even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many." (Josh. 11:4b KJV).

- In reference to this huge and united army Matthew Henry notes:
 "Thus are the children of the world more unanimous, and therein wiser,
 than the children of light. The oneness of the church's enemies should
 shame the church's friends out of their discords and divisions, and
 engage them to be one."
- Undoubtedly, King Jabin had a clear advantage over Joshua and his outnumbered forces; but those who honor God can be victorious regardless of the odds.

(b) Assurance and Realization of Victory Josh. 11:6-15

- (1) Once more God assured Joshua of victory and encouraged him to be courageous (v. 6).
 - Joshua was a courageous person but fresh dangers and difficulties made it necessary to obtain fresh support and comfort from the Word of God which is always available to us (Heb. 4:16; etc.).
 - God in assuring Joshua of victory over this multitude also assured him that victory would be realized in one day (Josh. 11:6a).
- (2) The assurance of victory by God was followed by special instructions.
 - The Israelites were to immediately after defeating the northern coalition cripple the horses and burn the chariots of the enemy (Josh. 11:6b).
 - Although chariots were the ultimate weapon, the Israelites were not to
 place their trust in these weapons of warfare because Israel's trust was
 not in horses and chariots, in military armaments and technology but in
 the LORD! (Psa. 20:7).
- (3) Joshua attacked the enemy, moving swiftly and remained focused on his objective.
 - The attack was launched at the waters of Merom (v. 7).
 - His surprised attack threw the enemy in panic because they had no idea that Israel was near them.
 - He also attacked in an area that was believed to be approximately 4,000 feet above sea level, consequently, the chariots would be ineffective.
 - Success was realized as the LORD delivered the coalition forces into the hands of Israel (Deut. 28:7).
- (4) One very important thing to note is the continuation and outstanding example of Joshua's obedience (Josh. 11:9, 15, 23).
- (5) After defeating the northern coalition army in the field, Joshua then went on to take cities of which Hazor was burnt but others were kept which was fulfilling what Moses foretold in Deut. 6:10.

(c) Astounding Victory Josh. 11:16-20

(1) Joshua's military campaigns involved only the major city-states. This meant that he defeated the large powerful armies and as a result it was not possible for the Canaanites to mobilize massive and powerful armies against Israel.

- (2) Joshua also destroyed the Anakims within the Promised Land. Whatever giants remained were in other nations outside of the Promised Land.
- (3) Three important truths that are relevant to the account of Israel occupying Canaan are:
 - Those who were entering Canaan were uniquely God's people and they were entering into that which had been promised to them (Gen. 15:18-21; Ex. 6:8; Josh. 1:13; etc.).
 - The eradicating of the enemy had long been promised (Ex. 23:27-32; Deut. 7:1-6; etc.).
 - God took an active part in these conquest (Deut. 2:25; Josh. 10:10-11; etc.).

2. Introduction to Josh. 13:1-33

Joshua chapter 13 starts the report of dividing the land of Canaan among the tribes of Israel and as noted, the method used for the distribution was by lot. It is an account (Josh. 13) that may not be entertaining and informative in regards to the conquest of Canaan by Israel, and yet the performance of the promise made to the patriarchs, that this land would be given to their descendants and not to any other, has now been materialized.

The preserving of this distribution would be of great use to the Jewish nation, who were obliged by law to keep up this first distribution, and not transfer these inheritances from tribe to tribe (Num. 36:9).

Num. 36:9 ESV

"So no inheritance shall be transferred from one tribe to another, for each of the tribes of the people of Israel shall hold on to its own inheritance."

This record of the distribution is also helpful to us, as it helps to clarify other Scriptures and the more advanced (in Scriptures) knows how much light the geographical description of a country provide to the history of it. With these facts in mind it can be seen why we are not to skip over these chapters of hard names as being useless, time consuming, and not to be regarded; beloved, "where God has a mouth to speak and a hand to write we should find an ear to hear and eye to read; and God give us a heart to profit!" (Matthew Henry).

Acquiring this inheritance was an exciting time in Israel's history. Receiving generally produce some level of excitement especially when receiving a large inheritance. A large inheritance can produce different responses: for example, children will do their very best to be pleasing and will abide by parents' rules and guidelines mainly because they intended to be recipients of that which was promised. Unfortunately, sometimes inheritance can result in uncalled for and atrocious acts among families. We are all aware of national or local news telling of family members who have done heinous acts, including murder, in order to receive a large inheritance. There are

brothers and sisters and close relatives who remain at odds because of inheritance. A large inheritance can be a motivating force for good or evil.

Israel's inheritance was a motivating force!

- (a) The hope of receiving the Promised Land kept them going.
- (b) The inheritance was a driving force, it kept them to do good, to faithfully follow God and obey Him.
- (c) For centuries they kept the promise of the Promised Land in focus, they had nothing but a promise, **a hope** of receiving an inheritance
 - (1) They were pilgrims, sojourners and strangers who were constantly on the move because they had no property.
 - (2) They were strangers and pilgrims not just for a few years but for centuries.
 - Note verse 15 in David's praise to God in 1 Chron. 29:10-19
 1 Chron. 29:15 ESV

"For we are strangers before you and sojourners, **as all our fathers were**. Our days on earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding."

- See also Gen. 21:34; Ex. 6:4; Heb. 11:8-10, 13.
- (d) **Hope** was a major contributing factor to Israel, that kept them moving, progressing!!
 - (1) The **hope** of the Promised Land! The inheritance promised them by God!
 - (2) It was that which aspired them to conquer the enemies of the Promised Land, no matter how formidable they were!
 - (3) **Hope** kept them going! The **hope** of receiving their inheritance, the great inheritance promised them by God Himself!

Now at last, the longing of their hearts; that which has so long anticipated has become a reality!!

- (a) They were to begin receiving their inheritance
- (b) At last! At last, for the first time in their history, they were to become property owners.
- (c) All the blessings of the Promised Land, the land that flowed with milk and honey—will become theirs!!
- (d) The great Promised Land of God was now to be divided and distributed to God's dear people.

(The latter portion of the above is a compilation based on quotes from The Preacher's Outline and sermon Bible)

3. Excerpts from Josh 13—Verses 1-7 NIV

"When Joshua had grown old, the LORD said to him, 'You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.

This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites, from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite though held by five Philistine rulers in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron; the territory of the Avvites on the south; all the land of

the Canaanites, from Arah of the Sidonians as far as Aphek and the border of the Amorites, the area of Byblos, and all Lebanon to the east, from Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon, to Misrephoth Main, that is all the Sidonians, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you, and divide it an inheritance among the nine and half of the tribe of Manasseh."

4. The Israelites—Highlighting a <u>Few</u> Basic Background Information

Time wouldn't allow for more information; this is a <u>limited selection of facts</u> about the new occupants of Canaan.

- (a) Who were the Israelites?
 - (1) The name Israel first appeared in the Old Testament in Gen. 32:29. It refers to **Jacob**, who wrestled with an angel (note verse 30), who gave him a blessing and **renamed him Israel** because he had "**striven with** <u>God</u> and **men, and prevailed**" (Gen. 32:28).
 - (2) In the early history, **Israelites** were members of the twelve (12) tribe of Israel, and were descendants of Jacob.
 - (3) After 930BCE and there came about the establishment of two independent Hebrew kingdoms in Palestine (The Land of Israel) the 10 northern tribes constituting the kingdom of Israel were known as Israelites to distinguish them from the Southern kingdom of Judah, constituting of two tribes. (Another brief reference is made below in regards to Judah and Israel)

(b) The Sons of Jacob

SON	MOTHER	SCRIPTURE
Reuben	Leah	Gen. 29:32
Simeon	Leah	Gen. 29:33
Levi	Leah	Gen. 39:34
Judah	Leah	Gen. 29:35
Dan	Bilhah/Rachel	Gen. 30:6
Naphtali	Bilhah/Rachel	Gen. 30:8
Gad	Zilpah/Leah	Gen. 30:11
Asher	Zilpah/Leah	Gen. 30:13
Issachar	Leah	Gen. 30:18
Zebulun	Leah	Gen. 30:20
Joseph	Rachel	Gen. 30:24
Benjamin	Rachel	Gen. 35:18

(c) The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Reuben	Asher
Simeon	Issachar
Judah	Zebulun
Dan	Benjamin
Naphtali	Manasseh
Gad	Ephraim

You will observe from this listing that there are two tribes who were descendants of Jacob but not his biological children. Manasseh and Ephraim the sons of Joseph were adopted by Jacob as his own sons (Gen. 48:5), they constituted two separate tribes. This made possible 12—part nation, with the Levites serving as non-political tribe.

(d) Disaster of Disobedience

- (1) Disobedience and rebellion against God's will (Num. 13:26-14:12) turned 11 day's journey into 40 years of wilderness wandering (Num. 32:13; Deut. 1:2-3)
- (2) Disobedience of King Solomon led to Israel being torn apart and becoming two nations (See 1 Kings 11:1-43, NB Vv. 9-13; see also 1 Kings 12, NB Vv. 16-19).
 - Ten tribes initially led by Jeroboam, became the **Northern Kingdom or Israel** (1 Kings 12:16-19, 20-24).
 - Two tribes remained under Rehoboam's leadership and they became the Southern Kingdom or Judah (Note 1 Kings 12:21-24).
- (3) Disobedience of the Northern Kingdom, **Israel**, resulted in being conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC (2 Kings 17:1-41), "The Assyrian Captivity."
- (4) Disobedience of the Southern Kingdom, **Judah**, resulted in being conquered by Babylon –587-586 BC (2 Kings 18:1-25:30; Jer. 52:1-34), "The Babylonian Captivity.

A. Challenges Yet to Be Addressed Josh. 13:1-6

- 1. Concerning Joshua's Age (Josh. 13:1)
 - (a) God puts Joshua in mind of his old age.
 - (1) He was old and stricken in years.
 - Joshua and Caleb at this time were the only old men among the thousands of Israelites.
 - ➤ Joshua <u>is believed</u> to have been between 85 and 100 years old; however, this we do know that he died at 110 years (Josh. 24:29).
 - Caleb was 85 years old (Josh. 14:10).
 - None among those Israelites, 20 years and above who came out of Egypt were alive at this time (Josh. 13) except Joshua and Caleb (Num. 32:11-12).

- Throughout the years Joshua was a man of war (Ex. 17:8-14, NB v. 9).
- It is a fact that as age increases, we do experience decline in various areas, physically and otherwise. The advancing of age is not strictly a sign of uselessness but the fact remains that we do not continue to have the same strength, vitality and vigor as before.
- (2) God took notice of Joshua and said: "You are old, advance in years . . . (Josh. 13:1a NKJV).
 - It is necessary to be conscious of our age; unfortunately, too many live-in denial of their age (Hosea 7:9). They do not care to think of it and need to be reminded and get busy in the things God would have them do (See Ecc. 3:1-8; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; James 4:14; etc.).
 - God made Joshua aware of his age.
 - Joshua was to realize that he was not going to be the warrior that he was before and will not live to see the total destruction of all Israel's enemies.
 - The realization of final victory, if such is realized, would not be done in his lifetime because there was much yet to be done (Josh. 13:1). (This fact will be further discussed below)
 - ➤ Beloved, God cares for us and will always do to the end of our days. He considers our bodily make-up, and would not have us burdened with work above our strength.
 - ➤ Beloved, it is reassuring and is a fact that God will not use us and cast us off because of age, physical decline, etc., He is there for us and will be with us all the way!!
- (b) Increased age does not necessarily mean inactivity or uselessness, a time to be kept out of sight, rejected, neglected, etc.
 - (1) Our culture often glorifies the young and strong and set aside those who are older.
 - Yet older people are filled with wisdom that comes with experience (Deut. 32:7; Job. 12:12; Psa. 71:18; Prov. 20:29).
 - They are very capable of serving if given the chance and should be encouraged to do so, conditions permitting. See the 85-year-old, Caleb, still ready for action (Josh. 14:6-15).
 - (2) Someone rightly said: "Believers are never allowed to retire from God's service."
 - (3) Those who have past retirement age should not assume that age disqualifies or excuses them from serving God.

John 9:4 Amplified Bible

- "We must work the work of Him Who sent Me and be busy with His business while it is daylight; night is coming on, when no man can work."
- (4) <u>Joshua "Thou art old</u> . . . Therefore, delay not to do the work which I have commanded you to do."

2. Completing the Task (Josh. 13:2-6a)

- (a) The Promised Land had now been taken over by Israel to the extent that organized resistance was destroyed. "The land rested from war" (Josh. 11:23b NKJV), however there were sections that remained to be conquered (Josh. 13:2-6).
 - (1) Joshua, by conquering the major cities throughout Canaan had broken the enemy's back and as a result, he eliminated the possibility of any significant resistance being formed by the enemy against the Israelites.
 - (2) Those that were yet to be conquered were small and weak cities, villages and small towns.
 - (3) It would be the responsibility of the individual tribes to conquer these remaining small and weaker cities.
 - The task of conquering the remaining smaller cities was an assignment that each tribe had the ability to do, providing God's help was available (Ex. 14:14; etc.) and He did promise to continue fighting for Israel, His chosen people.
 - This is a strong reminder that as believers we must go forth on our Christian warfare and then God will go before us.
- (b) The people were to be aware of some fundamentally important conditions relating to being God's people:
 - (1) They were to be aware of and appreciate God's goodness in giving them the good land and be more committed to love and serve Him. This inherited land, "The Promised Land", was so rich and beautiful in so many ways and was made possible because of the matchless and abounding love of God (**Deut.** 4:7; 9:5; etc.).
 - (2) Being God's called out people, the distinction must remain obvious and they must abstain from any temptation to make an alliance with the Canaanites or any other evil oriented people and should never adopt their sinful ways (Ex. 23:23-33; <u>Lev. 18:24-25</u>).
 - (3) It was important to remember that these other nations were enemies of righteousness and they (Israel) were to keep themselves in an attitude of war and not to consider laying aside the means and instruments of war as long as enemies remain in the land (Ex. 23:27; Deut. 6:19; **7:1-5**; etc.).
- (c) God would drive out the enemy.
 - "All the inhabitants of the mountains . . . I will drive out from before the children of Israel . . ." (Josh. 13:6a NKJV).
 - (1) Based on the original text, the message conveyed here is: "I will drive out" meaning: "I will do it by My Word."
 - (2) What God says He will do! He is not tardy nor slow about what He promises (2 Peter 3:9).
 - (3) As we have noted in other lessons, "Promises are conditional," meaning there are certain criteria that must be met for the promise to be realized (one example that I frequently use is Deut. 28:1-14; etc. note the word "if").

- As observed in all the wars Israel fought, God was there and fought for them as long as God's standards were met.
 - Another outstanding example is seen in the situation when Israel attacked Ai. In their first attempt they failed and lives were lost, etc. because of several factors of which the main problem was Achan's transgression (Josh. 7).
 - ➤ Once the matter of Achan's transgression was properly addressed, God's presence and guidance was restored and was evident in their victories as seen in Josh. 8, 10, etc.
- As seen in this account, Josh. 13:2-6, God did promise to drive out all the remaining enemies in the Promised Land (Josh. 13:6) <u>but we must note</u>: "The Israelites had to be involved."
 - Israel must themselves attempt the extermination of the enemies, they must go up against them.
 - ➤ If Israel, through laziness, or fearfulness, or affection to the idolaters, sit still and let them alone, they will have no one to blame but themselves, and not God, if these remaining enemies of God's righteousness are not driven out!!
- (4) Note these two quotes from Lesson 9A:
 - "God does His work, but He draws us into working with Him! Often God waits to see our initiative, our willingness to be partner with Him before He does what only He can do." (David Guzik)
 - "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overall and looks like work." (Thomas Edison)
- (5) Beloved, this is a call for "TEAM EFFORT!"
 - We must work out our salvation (Phil. 2:12), then God will work in us and with us.
 - We must resist our spiritual enemies, then God will tread them underfoot (Isa. 14:25).
 - We must go forth to our Christian work warfare, and then God will go forth before us (Deut. 31:8).
- 3. Clear-cut Practical Lessons (Josh. 13:1-6a)

This section (Josh. 13:1-6) highlights several important lessons.

- (a) In Joshua's situation he began to serve the LORD in his youth.
 - (1) Joshua was made aware that although he worked diligently, he also fully realized that "the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4).
 - (2) We must all give of our best to the Master, give Him the strength of our youth! It means giving it all to His honor and glory as we serve in the battle for truth!!
- (b) Joshua was a committed worker all his life, and in the end, there was much land for others to possess.
 - (1) Joshua's life opened many doors for others to enter.

- (2) Christ said of those who should follow Him, "Greater works . . . shall he do" (John 14:12).
- (c) Joshua's age will bring about a change in his life's work.
 - (1) Joshua had been a warrior most of his life; now he takes up the administrative duties of adjusting the inheritances "... as I have commanded you" (v. 6b).
 - (2) He remained in divine order although his vocation had been altered
- (d) God's gifts are frequently open opportunities on the shores of great possessions.
 - (1) "Them will I drive out" (v. 6), suggests that God expected the Israelites to improve that which had been given to them.
 - (2) The Promised Land was given but was safe only if it was developed (Josh. 13:2-6).
 - (3) We receive, maintain and improve that which God has entrusted to us (Luke 19:13).
- (e) God expected His people to be diligent in business.
 - (1) The allotment of the land in Canaan was carefully detailed.
 - Later in Israel's history this would prevent numerous litigations over disputed boundaries.
 - Obviously, an authentic register of each parcel of land was made available when needed.
 - (2) Business transactions by God's people were never to be done carelessly. **Rom. 12:11 NKJV**

"Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

- (f) There still remained enemies to be overcome, enemies who would continue to prevent Israel claiming their inheritances although not capable of securing victory in any battle.
 - (1) Similarly, believers will have challenges to the end of their lives.
 - (2) These enemies will do all that they can to keep us from receiving our full inheritance.
 - (3) Just as the Israelites needed to continue to conquer and overcome the enemy, even so believers must persevere against the enemy who is determined to defeat us (Matt. 10:22; James 1:2-4, 12; Rev. 2:10; etc.).
 - (4) The Israelites had the capabilities to overcome all remaining enemies in Canaan and beloved, we have the assurance of victory over the attacks of our enemies "because He Who lives in you (us) is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4b Amplified Bible).
 - (5) Satan is Limited in Power
 - In the Affliction of the Saints . . . Job 1:12.
 - May be Overcome by Divine Grace . . . Luke 10:19 with Rom. 16:20.
 - Limit to His Temptations . . . 1 Cor. 10:13.
 - Knows when He is Defeated . . . James 4:7.
 - His Time is Short . . . Rev. 12:12 with 13:5 and 20:7-10.

B. Charge Given Josh. 13:6b-7

1. Introduction

Joshua was now advanced in age (Josh. 13:1) and instead of leading in wars he would be performing in an administrative role. As we have noted above, there was yet much land still to be conquered (Josh. 13:1b); these were smaller and weaker cities and conquering them was the responsibility of each tribe. While there was yet unconquered areas, there was sufficient land conquered that was adequate for Israel's current needs.

Joshua was not only made aware of his age, but was notified of the unconquered areas and was charged to divide the conquered areas of the Promised Land among the tribes (Vv. 6b-7). It was as if God was saying to Joshua: "You are old, therefore, delay not to do the work which I have commanded you to do" (See Josh. 1:1-9, NB Vv. 2, 6).

That long anticipated day had arrived and undoubtedly, it was a most unusual time in the history of Israel. Indeed it was a grand and glorious time for all Israel and the people were overcome with abounding joy, great excitement and an overwhelming attitude of thanksgiving and praise to the God they served who has made it all possible because of His eternal love and care for His people!!

2. Instruction given to Joshua

Josh. 13:6b-7 ESV

- ". . . Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."
- (a) The land must be divided among the tribes bringing about a change for better in their lives.
 - (1) For the people to actually experience such tremendous blessings was only possible because of God! The very thought that the land was their very own and not another, was definitely exhilarating and gratifying, to the glory of God!!
 - (2) And yet at such times in our lives it makes us focus on the thought: "What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him?" (Psa. 8:4 Amplified Bible). (Read the Psalm)
- (b) Although Israel fought to obtain the land it must be regarded as an inheritance.
 - (1) The promise for this land came to them as an inheritance from their fathers (Gen. 17:8).
 - (2) The land of promise pertained to the children of promise, who were thus beloved for their father's sake, and in performance of the covenant with them (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 15:18; Lev. 20:22-26).

- (3) The possession of the Promised Land was to be transmitted by them, as an inheritance to their children (Gen. 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 28:13).
- (c) Joshua must not do the allocation of the land by his own will.
 - (1) Although he was a very wise, just and good man, the distribution of the land was to be done by lot (v. 6b), thus leaving the distribution wholly to God and to His determination.
 - (2) We briefly discussed the lot system in Lesson 6, of this series, page 17. It should be remembered that the "lot" causes contentions to cease as to fairness of what was being transpired (Prov. 18:18).
- (d) The account of the distribution of the Promised Land helps to bring to mind a strong symbolism of Jesus Christ (our N.T. Joshua).
 - (1) Jesus Christ conquered the gates of hell for us (Rev. 1:18; 2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14).
 - (2) He has opened to us the gates of heaven (John 14:6; 10:7-9; Rom. 5:1-2; 10:9-10).
 - (3) Christ also secured for us eternal life for all believers and there will be eternal joy when the former things are all passed away (1 Cor, 15, NB Vv. 42-58; Rev. 21, NB v. 4; also chap. 22).

3. Inheritance Assured . . . Practical Lesson

- (a) Just as the Israelites hoped for and greatly anticipated acquiring their promised inheritance, "The Promised Land," even so all believers are promised a glorious inheritance through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - (1) As we continue on our pilgrim journey we have been and will continue to experience continuous combat with the forces of darkness, whose desire is to defeat and destroy us.
 - (2) Irrespective of the continued attacks from the enemies of righteousness, we do have a glorious hope of the promised inheritance!
 - (3) We must make up our minds to persevere to the end; we are to remain focused on completing the race in order to obtain our prize (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; etc.).
 - (4) The gospel chorus: "Press Along Saints," says: (Partial quote)
 Trial and crosses in our way
 For the hotter the battle
 The sweeter the victory!!
 - (5) We do have an inheritance awaiting us and its one that by far exceeds all the combined riches of this world! We should be thus focused and be determined to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14 KJV)
- (b) Jesus has promised to all believers a glorious inheritance (One example is **John 14:1-3**)

There is much more to this passage than we have the time to discuss . . <u>. note a few highlights:</u>

- (1) Jesus' words shows that the way to eternity with Him is definitely a reality. In fact He has already prepared the way to eternal life.
- (2) John 14:2-3, not only, gives the assurance of our inheritance in Christ but it is rich in promises. *Briefly Note Two Things:*
 - "... My Father's house ..."
 - This phrase clearly refers to our new home (heaven), as Jesus is going there (after His death, resurrection and ascension) to prepare a place for us (as it relates to the time the statement was made ... at this time, all those conditions are met by Jesus Christ).
 - ➤ God has a home where there are many rooms to which "the household of God' who is now on earth (Eph. 2:19) will be transferred; "here we have no continuing city" (Heb. 13:14) . . . on this earth.
 - "... I will come again ..."
 - As surely as Christ went to heaven, so He will return from His Father's presence and take His followers with Him to heaven (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 - Taking us to the place He has prepared
 - This was the hope of the New Testament Christians and it is the hope of all believers today (1 Peter 1:3).
 - "... and receive you unto myself..." (v. 3)
 - The ultimate purpose of the Lord's return is that all believers may be with Him forever.
 - These words ". . . receive you to myself . . ." refer to the rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 - Christ is coming for the faithful and they will escape the future hour of trial that will come upon the world (Luke 21:36 read Vv. 5-38 for context; see also 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10).
 - ➤ We have the assurance of a glorious inheritance. This glorious and eternal reunion is comforting for all followers of Jesus Christ who desire to forever "be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thess. 4:17-18).
- (c) Israel waited for centuries before they possessed the Promised Land but they did!!
 - (1) Enemies were still to be conquered but Canaan was now Israel's.
 - (2) Through it all they learned to trust in God, to depend upon His Word, and for them to keep their focus on the Promised Land.
 - (3) Irrespective of our challenges, we must move on, knowing that what we have committed to God, He is able to keep until the end. For Israel, the reality of possessing the Promised Land was a time of great rejoicing and so it will be for believers on that "Great Day" . . . it will be "Joy unspeakable"

It is joy unspeakable and full of glory, Full of glory, full of glory Full of glory, full of glory It is joy unspeakable and full of glory, Full of glory.

Rom. 5:5 New Living Translation

"And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

C. Concession of the East Jordan Tribes Josh. 13:8-32

1. **Introduction** (Josh. 13:8-32)

You will notice that in Lesson 1B, of this series, where we briefly discussed the decision made by the East Jordan Tribes, Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, that I was not critical of these tribes in regards to their decision to stay on the east side of Jordan. This does not mean that **all** was well with their choice based on the reasons they gave as to why they chose that particular area (See Num. 32).

The decision did not mean a division of the nation although they were divided in regards to locations, by the river Jordan; the <u>actual division of the nation of Israel occurred during Rehoboam's reign, 1 Kings 12</u>. The decision was that of the two and the half tribe's assessments, because they saw that the area was ideal for their overall needs and secured future.

- (a) The word concession means:
 - (1) A thing that is granted, especially in response to demands.
 - (2) The acts or an instance of <u>conceding</u> (as by granting something as a right, accepting something as true or acknowledging defeat).
 - (3) Etc.
- (b) Some synonyms are allowance, **compromise**, **conceding**, granting, modification, etc

The act of concession also means: "a grant of property . . ." In our lesson Moses granted the land as requested by the two and half tribes (Num. 32).

<u>The following is a quote from Preacher's Outline Sermon Bible . . . it is a strong presentation but worth our attention:</u>

This acquisition by the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh is a strong evidence of a **compromised situation**, it was falling short of what was promised to them; Canaan was on the west side of Jordan. . . . The quote:

"This is a clear picture of compromise, of what Warren Wiersbe calls a borderline believer. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh had demonstrated a half-hearted commitment to the LORD. When Israel had camped for

some months in the plains of Moab by the River Jordan, these tribes saw and coveted the fertile land East of Jordan.

The motive of the East Jordan tribes is a picture of selfishness, covetousness and compromise. They became prime examples of borderline believers.

They were always to be what Scripture terms on 'the other side' or 'across the Jordan.' The Jordan River was always to separate them from the tribes who actually lived within the Promised Land.

The East Jordan tribes would pay dearly for their compromise, for being borderline believers. Their land was to be continually exposed to the attacks from invading armies coming from the east. There were no natural barriers to protect them from being attacked by the enemies such as the Moabites, Ammonites, Assyrians, Midianites, Amalekites and other nomad tribes of the desert. They would be the first tribes to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians."

Beloved, under all circumstances we must resist becoming **"borderline believers,"** by the grace of God and our submission and obedience to His perfect will. The following are randomly listed and without discussion . . . you may add to the list if you so desire

Guidelines to Overcome Compromise with the World

- (a) Be clothed in Jesus Christ: Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 6:10-18.
- (b) God's Word is our primary source of instruction: **Deut. 4:2**; Psa. 119:11, 128 (*Read Psa. 119; etc.*); Rev. 22;18-19.
- (c) Our devotion to God leaves no room for deviation: **Deut. 6:5**; *Matt. 22:37-40*; Josh. 24:15; Psa. 119:2, 10, 15-16.
- (d) Don't be deceived, be rooted in Jesus Christ/stand firm: Rom. 12:2; **1 Cor. 15:58**; 16:13; Col. 2:6-12, NB Vv. 7-8.
- (e) Crucify the flesh/the carnal nature: Matt.5:27-30; Rom. 6:6; **Gal. 5:16, 24-25**; Col. 3:5.
- (f) Remain separated from the world: Isa. 52:11; John 15:19; 2 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:11.
- (g) Under any circumstance, irrespective of the challenge, submit to God's will: Matt. 26:36-46, NB Vv. 39, 42; Acts 21:11-16; Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23.
- (h) Be a defender of the faith: Jude 3-4; 1 Cor. 16:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:24-25.
- (i) We must be good examples: **John 13:35**; 2 Thess. 3:9; **1 Tim. 4:12**; Titus 2:7; James 5:10.

2. Inheritance Overview East Jordan (Josh. 13:8-13)

Josh. 13:8-13 is a general description of the whole east Jordan country which Moses assigned to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh. This is followed by a detailed account of the several districts allotted to each tribe (Vv. 14-33)

The Preachers Outline and Sermon Bible notes three possible reasons for the review noted in Josh. 13:8-14.

- (a) To give a complete record of the inheritance given to all twelve tribes.
- (b) To stress the unity of all tribes.
- (c) To emphasize that special effort would be needed to keep the East Jordan tribes involved in the life of God's people, which requires special effort on the part of all tribes.

Josh. 13:8-9 NKJV

"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: from Aroer which is on the bank of the river Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon. . . . "

(If desired read to verse 13)

- (a) We are presented with how the account was initiated (Josh. 13:2-13)
 - (1) Joshua was commanded to divide the land to the remaining nine tribe and a half because the other two and a half had already received their inheritance.
 - (2) There was a standard for the distribution by which Joshua had to work.
 - He saw Moses distributed the East Jordan land and that would help him in this phase of the distribution.
 - In this distribution to the nine tribes and a half he was directed by God to use lot (v. 6).
 - (3) Joshua was encouraged not to delay but to hasten the dividing of the land for the remaining tribes.
 - The remaining nine tribes and a half tribe should not be kept any longer than was necessary to receive their inheritance.
 - Their brethren of the two tribes and a half were well settled in theirs, and God being the Father of them all would not have such a difference between His children.
- (b) Individual items of this account (Josh. 13:2-32).
 - (1) We are given a general description of the territory that was given to the two tribes and a half, which Moses gave them.

NOTE

Moses settled this matter and as Moses settled it, so shall it remain. "Their inheritance which Moses gave them . . ." (v. 8 KJV). Note the emphasis on Moses, the servant of God, his decision was of God and will remain intact. Joshua would not disturb the distribution made to the two tribes and a half but was to proceed and distribute Canaan to the remaining nine and a half tribes (v. 7).

 The set boundaries would identify each allocation and would help the owners to know their allotment which would prevent encroaching upon their neighbors and invading their rights and properties to which they were so entitled.

- One exception had to do with Geshur and Maacah (Josh. 13:13). The Israelites did not conquer the enemies occupying these cities.
 - These enemies were allowed to live among the Israelites, and this was a tragic disobedience against God.
 - ➤ God had demanded that **all** the enemies be confronted and destroyed, lest their evil influence corrupt the people of God (Num. 33:50-56, NB v. 52; Deut. 7:1-5; Deut. 20:17).
 - Nevertheless, the children of Israel expelled not ..." (Josh. 13:13). "Nevertheless" proclaims failure among the people of God to possess all that was promised.
- (2) We are next given an account of the inheritance of the two tribes and a half which we will discuss in the remaining three sub-points (Vv. 15-32 . . . (as a reminder the distribution noted below is a record of the land distributed <u>east of Jordan</u>).

3. Inheritance of Reuben (Josh. 13:15-23)

NOTE

Reuben was the first son of Jacob (Gen. 29:32) and lost his birthright because of his infidelity (Gen. 49:3-4), this blessing was given to Joseph (1 Chron. 5:1). The **birthright** has to do with both position and inheritance. By **birthright**, the firstborn son inherited the leadership of the family and the judicial authority of his father. The first-born son had allotted to him a double portion of the paternal inheritance (Deut. 21:15-17). Although the tribe of Reuben had lost the dignity and power which pertained to the birthright, yet it seemed, had the advantage of first served.

- (a) In this account (Josh. 13:15-23) of the land allocated to this tribe mention has been made of those conquered.
 - (1) Sihon, king of the Amorites (Josh. 13:21)
 - Sihon had conquered the king of Moab and had taken his land (Num. 21:26).
 - Later, when the Israelites asked to pass peacefully through Sihon's land, he refused them passage and came out to fight them (Num. 21:21-23).
 - Israel under Moses leadership fought back, defeated Sihon and took all the land that he had taken from the king of Moab (Num. 21:23-32, NB v. 23).
 - Sihon was a mighty king with valiant soldiers but Israel won because the LORD was with them.
 - (2) The princes of Midian (Josh. 13:21)
 - The princes of Midian were slain in another war; Josh. 13:21 they are referred to as "princes" and in Num. 31:8 as "kings."
 - Also noted in Josh. 13:21, they were slain along Og king of Basham, most likely because they were tributaries to King Og, confederate with him,

remaining united with him and thus likewise were destroyed. In regards to King Og's defeat see brief comments on Josh. 13:30.

(3) Balaam son of Beor (Josh. 13:22)

NOTE

Here we have Balaam, who was urged repeatedly by Balak (who worshipped Baal) to curse Israel but that curse was turned into a blessing because of the power and goodness of God. Unfortunately, Balaam did advice Balak how to cast a stumbling block before Israel (Num. 31:9-18, NB v. 16; 2 Peter 2:13-16; Jude 11).

The following is a quote from Beacon Bible Commentary:

"Balaam is referred to several times by later historians (Josh. 24:9-10; Neh. 13:2; Micah 6:5; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11 and Rev. 2:14).

Balaam's biography (Num. 22-24) suggests several valuable truths:

- The abuse of spiritual gifts is a sin.
- He who seeks God's light in order to get man's money is rating spiritual power by market value.
- The love of money produces spiritual wrecks.
- Being untrue to one's conscience leads to corrupt practices.
- Punishment comes surely, although it may seem to tarry.
- The enjoyment of sin is short lived (Matt. 16:26).
- The possession of spiritual gifts is no guarantee of salvation.
- He who does not use his spiritual gifts for the glory of God concludes his life as a 'might-have-been'.
- He who advances evil with his spiritual gifts ceases to be numbered among God's people."
- (b) In this account (Josh 13:15-23) within the lot of Reuben was Mount Pisgah.
 - "Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth" (Josh. 13:20 NKJV).

 (1) It was from Mt. Pisgah that Moses was allowed to view the Promised Land
 - (Deut. 3:27; 34:1-4) and from where he took his journey to heaven.
 - (2) It should be noted that Mount Pisgah is the peak of Mount Nebo (Note Deut. 34:1). **Pisgah** literally mean "peak, height, cliff."
 - (3) The significance of Mt. Pisgah continues to be of importance to the Church for example note the hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" ... the fourth verse:

 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!

 May I thy consolation share,

Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height'

I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout, while passing through the air,
"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

4. Inheritance of Gad (Josh. 13:24-28)

- (a) These were the descendants of Gad the seventh son of Jacob whose mother was Zilpah Leah's maid.
- (b) Gad was one of the tribe especially dedicated to fight to conquer the Promise Land
 - (1) They were renowned for their military spirit.
 - (2) Note in Jacob's blessings what was said of the tribe of Dan (Gen. 49:16-18)
 - Note verse 17 . . . observe: "A viper that bites" (NKJV)
 - This is a possible description of Dan's battles against the Israelites enemies, one outstanding example is the exploits of the Danite Samson (Judges 14-16, NB 14:4).
- (c) A few highlights regarding the allocation of this area (the inheritance of Dan).
 - (1) This lot lay north of Reuben's lot; the country of Gilead was located in this country which was famous for its balm (a fragrant ointment used to heal or soothe the skin).
 - The term "Balm in Gilead" refers to the rare perfume that was used for medical purposes (as noted above).
 - The ointment has been referred to several places in Scripture (Jer. 8:22; 46:11; 5:18; etc.).
 - In Jer. 8:22 (A deeper study of this subject is needed)
 "Is there a balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? . . ."
 - The African/American Spiritual assures us that: "There is a Balm in Gilead"

There is a balm in Gilead

To make the wounded whole;

There is a balm in Gilead

To heal the sin-sick soul.

- Absolutely! Definitely! There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole!! There is power enough in heaven, to cure a sin-sick soul (Isa. 9:1-7, NB v. 6; 53; 55, NB Vv. 1-7; Luke 4:18-19; etc.).
- (2) Gilead was the scene of the battle between Gideon and the Midianites (Judges 7, Nb Vv.17-22).
- (3) There were other places that stood out as related to this allocated area given to the tribe of Dan, for example, Succoth and Penuel. (Your continued study is encouraged, not only as it relates to this tribe but all twelve tribes).

5. Inheritance of the Half Tribe of Manasseh (Josh. 13:29-32)

- (a) The tribe of Manasseh (Briefly Noted)
 - (1) Manasseh was the first son of Joseph and Asenath (Gen. 41:50-52). Asenath was an Egyptian woman who Pharaoh gave as wife to Joseph; she was the daughter of Potipherah a priest of On (Gen. 41:50-52).

- (2) While no tribe bore the name of Joseph, two tribes were named after Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Epharim; they were both elevated by Jacob who adopted them as his own sons (Gen. 48:5).
- (b) The allocated area—the half tribe of Manasseh—east of Jordan . . . <u>a few</u> <u>highlights:</u>
 - (1) The allocation for the half tribe of Manasseh is clearly outlined in verses 30-31.
 - (2) **Verse 30**: "Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities" (NKJV).
 - The destruction of King Og is referred to for example in Psa. 135:10-11 and 132:20.
 - The area was said to be exceedingly fertile and was famous for having the best timber, produced from their great oak trees.
 - They were known for having well-bred and good quality livestock, producing good breeding cattle.
 - (3) **Verse 31:** This area lay north of Gad, reached to Mount Hermon and also included part of Gilead.
 - (4) "The children of **Machir** the son of Manasseh ..." (v. 31)
 - Previously, reference was made solely to the "tribe of Manasseh" or "children of Manasseh" (v. 29) here in verse 31 Joshua referred to them as "children of Machir."
 - Joshua is referring to them as "children of Machir" because Machir was the most eminent, and as it may seem, the only surviving son of Manasseh (Num. 26:28-29)
 - Later in Israel's history, the descendants of Machir are described as having settled in Gilead and Bashan, and consequently they were important in Gilead's history.

D. Covering for the Levites Joshua 13:14, 33

1. Introducing the Levites

The following <u>brief</u> presentation provides some basic information about the descendants of Levi; a deeper study would be beneficial.

(a) Who were the Levites?

The **tribe of Levi** is one of the tribes of Israel, traditionally descended from Levi, the third son of Jacob and whose mother was Leah. The descendants of Aaron, who was the first high priest of Israel, were designated as the priestly class also referred to the Levitical Priesthood or Priests.

(b) The Role of the Levites

The Levites principal roles in the Temple included singing Psalms during Temple services, performing construction and maintenance for the Temple, serving also as guards and performing services. The Levites also served as teachers, judges

and maintaining cities of refuge. Their most sacred task including duties associated with sacrifices and offerings (See. Lev. 21; Num. 18; etc.). It should also be remembered that only the priests were allowed to bear the Ark of God (Deut. 10:8; 1 Chron.15:2; etc.). You may also want to read Numbers 3 and 4 plus other relevant Scriptures relating to the functioning of the Levitical Priesthood.

(c) How the Levites Lived?

When Israel was allotted their inheritance, the Levites were not given any of their own. Instead they lived in certain towns, scattered all over Israel, **amongst the tribes**. Some of these were designated cities of refuge where people accused of man slaughter could live from vengeful relatives of the victim, and be inspired by the devout Levite to become more caring and spiritual.

(d) Priestly Gifts

The following relates with the information shared above.

With no land of their own, the Levites were not able to farm. Additionally, their Temple duties may have prevented them from investing themselves in working a trade. They were supported through tithes and other gifts. Every Jewish farmer gave a tenth of his produce to the Levite. The priest serving in the temple would also receive portions of the animals and offerings brought to the Temple.

2. Levites Inheritance ... Note carefully Josh. 13:14 and 33

- (a) The Scripture says: The Levites (priests) were to receive a very special inheritance, the inheritance of the LORD Himself!
- (b) God Himself was to be the very special inheritance of the priests.
- (c) God's very presence, guidance, and power were to be given to the Levites, given in a very special way.
- (d) The Levites were not to be entangled with the affairs of this life, looking after property and finances and managing the purchasing and selling of land, livestock and produce.
- (e) The priest was to give his—life all of his attention and energy and work—to the LORD. He was to focus upon the LORD and upon ministering to the people of God. The LORD and the people of God were to consume his very life!!

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Amplified Bible

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth."

LESSON 11 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1.	" "Complete the following by choosing the correct answer: "The head of the Northern Coalition (Josh. 11) was
	(a) King Adonizedek of Jerusalem
	(b) Sihon king of the Amorites
	(c) Piram king of Jarmuth
	(d) King Jabin of Hazor
2.	(a) What was considered to be the "ultimate weapon" possessed by the Northern Coalition (Josh. 11)? (b) Why was Israel commanded to destroy them (Josh. 11:6)
	,
	·
3.	(a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer: "Joshua's conquest of Canaan included all the cities, large and small."
4.	What was the governing rule regarding the transfer of allotted land among the tribes of Israel, give reference?
	~

5.	Complete the following ('a quote used in our lesson):	
	"Where God (a)	has a mouth to (b)	and a
		we should find an (d)	
	eye to (e)	; and God gives us a (f)	to
	profit."		
6.	was one major contribut	ad for centuries was a promise of the Pro ling factor that kept them going? (b) Give sased on you answer above) inspired them	some specific
7.		nised Land, what were some things, in reg d to the reason for the Israelites overwho	
8.	Give a brief account of the tribes of Israel.	ne origin of the name "Israel" and who co	onstituted the twelve

9.	Observing the listing of the 12 tribes of Israel, the Jacob's biological sons; explain the reason for the second s		d who were not
10.	Match the statements on the left with the corrections are highlighting a few examples of the act to the nation of Israel.	_	nce in regards
		CORRECT	JUMBLED
	STATEMENTS	REFERENCE	REFERENCES
	Disobedience resulted in 40 years of		2 Kings 18:1-
	wilderness wandering.		25:30
	King Solomon's disobedience led to Israel's		2 Kings
	division into two kingdoms.		17:1-41
			1 Kings 11:1-
	Disobedience led to the Northern Kingdom's		43 & 12:16-
	(Israel) captivity.		24
	Disobedience led to the Southern Kingdom's		
	(Judah) captivity.		Num. 32:13
11.	In regards to old age (example Josh. 13:1a): (a) reality? (b) What are some negative implication		ous of its

12.	John 9:4 was noted in our lesson (Page 7); what important lesson was taught in this verse?
13.	God fought for Israel and promised to drive out the remaining enemies in the Promised Land (Josh. 13:6); however, Israel had to take the initiative to go up against the remaining cities. "What very important lesson to be learnt from this fact?
14.	Now that Israel was settling in Canaan, what were some fundamentally important conditions, as the people of God, they were to be constantly aware of?
15.	List five of the six "Practical Lessons" noted in Josh. 13:1-6.

16. Satan will continue to attack the people of God but he is limited in what he can do. Match the statements on the left with the correct reference on the right.

Satan is Limited in Power

CTATENAENITC	CORRECT	JUMBLED
STATEMENTS	REFERENCE	REFERENCES
		Rev. 12:12;
In the Affliction of the Saints		13:15; 20:7-
		10
May be Overcome by Divine Grace		James 4:7
Limit to His Temptations		Job 1:12
		Luke 10:19
Knows when He is Defeated		Rom. 16:20
His Time is Short		1 Cor. 10:13

17.	Reference and brief comments were made in regards to John 14:1-3 in our lesson; briefly explain the following as used in the text: (a) " My Father's house" (b) " come again" (c) " receive you unto Myself."	l will
	come again (c) receive you unto wrysen.	
18.	Complete the following:	
	Made in reference to the choice of the East Jordan Tribes to occupy east of Jordan.	
	"This acquisition by the (a) of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of	
	Manasseh is a (b)evidence of a (c)	
	situation, it was falling (d) of what was (e)	
	them; (f) was on the other side of (g)	

19.	In what ways did the East Jordan Tribes experience adverse, negative setbacks, because of their location?
20.	In our lesson, what three possible reasons were noted why we have the review as noted in Josh. 13:8-14?
	
21.	The allocation of each tribe's lot was identified by set boundaries; in what way was this procedure beneficial?
	

22.	. Josh. 13:15-32 covers the allocation to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. For each tribe briefly note two outstanding features about the tribe or their location.				
23.	Discussing Balaam's biography, we noted several valuable truths to be heeded, list seven of these pointers.				

	rmed and			nin (a) who t	ney were ((b) some o	i tile tasks ti	ney
۷hy ۱	did the Le	vites not r	eceive an inl	heritance lik	ce the othe	er tribes?		