



**The Land Possessed  
Lesson 7  
Joshua 13-22**

**Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
October 18, 2009**

# **Outline of Joshua**

- 1. The Conquest of the Land – Joshua 1-12**
- 2. The Division of the Land – Joshua 13-21**
- 3. The Possession of the Land – Joshua 22-24**

# Conquest of the Land (1-12)

- ▶ **Historical events**
- ▶ **Spiritual instruction**

# Why is Joshua important to us?

- ▶ **A major display of God's holiness and grace**
  - Divine intervention
  - HARAM (Hebrew) – accursed *of God*
  - Devoted to destruction or service
- ▶ **An incomplete story**
  - Incomplete conquest
  - A future rest

# **Division of the Land (13-21)**

- ▶ **The inheritance of the tribes (13-19)**
- ▶ **Cities of Refuge (20:1-9)**
- ▶ **Cities of the Levites (21:1-42)**
- ▶ **Summary (21:43-45)**

# Possession of the Land (22-24)

- ▶ On the brink of civil war (22)
- ▶ Joshua's farewell address (23)
- ▶ Covenant renewal at Shechem (24)

# **Lesson 7: The Land Possessed**

**The inheritance of the tribes**

**The cities of refuge**

**The Levitical cities**

**The threat of civil war**

# **The Inheritance of Israel (13-19)**

- ▶ **The Promise of the LORD God**
- ▶ **Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17**
- ▶ **Deuteronomy 1:8**



# The Inheritance of Israel (13-19)

## Numbers 26:52-56

- larger and smaller divisions – distributed by lot
- Judah (76,500), Joseph (85,200)
- 8 tribes 40,500 to 64,400; Simeon 22,200

## Numbers 33:50-56 – large & small; by lot

## Numbers 34:1-29 – size of land; committee

## Numbers 27:1-11 – order of inheritance

- Numbers 26:33; 27:1-11; 36:2-11; Joshua 17:3-6

## Numbers 36:9 – non-transferable



# **The Inheritance of Israel (13-19)**

**Genesis 49:5-7 – Levi and Simeon**

**Genesis 49:13 – Zebulun**

**Genesis 49:26 – Joseph (cf. Genesis 48:21-22)**

**Genesis 49:9-12 – scepter**

# The Inheritance of Israel (13-19)

## Caleb

### Two large tribes first – Judah and Joseph

- Judah “by lot” (15:1)
- Joseph “by lot” (16:1)
- A tragic failure (15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13) – Judges 2:1-4
- A request for more land

### Seven smaller tribes

- Survey and division
- Simeon with Judah
- Dan (Leshem or Laish – Judges 18)

# The Inheritance of Israel (13-19)

- ▶ **Why is this issue important?**
- ▶ **Looking out for your family?**
  - daughters of Zelophehad
  - Non-transferable
- ▶ **Preserve inheritance for the dead**
- ▶ **Hope of resurrection**

# Cities of Refuge (20)

- ▶ **Ex. 21:12-14; Num. 35:6-34; Deut. 19:1-13**
  - Manslaughter – unintentional death
  - Avenger of blood – may kill the killer
  - City of refuge – temporary amnesty for the killer
  - Death of High Priest – release for killer

# Cities of Refuge (20)

## ▶ Numbers 35:33-34

Issue is not revenge

Issue is pollution of the land by shedding blood

Redemption may occur

- Death of killer
- Death of High Priest – holy substitute

# Cities of Refuge (20)

## ▶ Genesis 4:10-12

- Abel's blood on the earth
- Curse of God upon Cain

## ▶ Genesis 9:3-6

- Blood is life of man
- Required by God for murder by the deceased's brother

## ▶ The avenger of blood

- Hebrew: GAAL
- Redeemer – Kinsman-redeemer



# Cities of Refuge (20)

1. Property or slave (Leviticus 25:25-55)
2. Property dedicated to the LORD (Leviticus 27)
3. Manslaughter – Cities of Refuge
4. God is Israel's Redeemer (Psalms and Prophets)
  - ▶ Job 19:25 – hope of resurrection

# Cities of Refuge (20)

- ▶ **Defilement by blood brings the curse of God**
- ▶ **Kinsman-Avenger removes the curse**
  - Death of the individual
  - Death of a substitute – the holy High Priest
- ▶ **Christ is the Kinsman-Avenger & Substitute**

# Cities of the Levites (21:1-42)

- ▶ **The curse of Jacob is changed to blessing**
  - Numbers 35
  - 48 cities and common-land – including 6 cities of refuge
  - 2000 cubits in each side = 0.6 mile

# Summary (21:43-45)

- ▶ **The LORD gave them rest**
  - cf. Hebrews 4:8-10
  - Rest from their enemies
- ▶ **Not one word failed**
  - The people failed
  - Future hope

# On the brink of civil war (22)

The end of a responsibility to Moses (22:2-4)

Charge to obey (22:5-6)

A “great impressive altar” (22:10)

War council at Shiloh (22:12)

A delegation

- Deuteronomy 12:1-6

War avoided

- A memorial

Preserving faithfulness

# Lessons from Joshua

- ▶ **Real history**
- ▶ **Anticipating Christ and His Kingdom**
- ▶ **Redemption**
  - Accursed of God or Devoted to His service
  - God's provision for the curse by death – substitution
- ▶ **The hope of resurrection**
- ▶ **Trial of faith – living away from His presence**