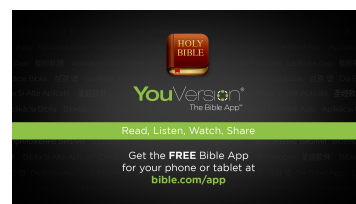


## A Study of Joshua 15, 16 & 17

### A Note from Kathy

*If you are not in the habit of listening to the Holy Bible read aloud, while you read along, this might be a good week to try it. If you do not have the YouVersion Bible app on your phone why not download it. It is free.*



### Observation

Read the chapter, at least twice, before beginning the study guide. This will give the Lord an opportunity to help you see the things He desires for you to know.

1. The conquest was completed. The land had been subdued, and Israel was in the land God had promised them. Reuben, Gad, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the tribe of Manasseh had gone back across the Jordan River to settle their land. Now, it was time for the other  $9\frac{1}{2}$  tribes to receive their share of the land of Canaan. Who was the first tribe to receive their allotment? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The list of leaders who were to divide the land was also given in Numbers 34:16-28. The LORD planned every detail of this beautiful gift they were about to receive. He began by naming \_\_\_\_\_, the priest, and Joshua son of Nun. He then said, appoint one leader from each tribe to help assign the land. Fill in the blanks below from Numbers 34.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the tribe of Judah  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the tribe of Simeon  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the tribe of Benjamin  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Dan  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Manasseh  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Ephraim  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Zebulun  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Issachar  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Asher  
\_\_\_\_\_ the leader from the tribe of Naphtali
3. Judah's name means "praised." Judah was the fourth son born to Jacob and Leah. God chose the tribe of Judah for the great honor of being first to receive their land. In Genesis 49, Jacob gave a blessing to his sons just before he died. Read Genesis 49, and you'll quickly understand why these three men were not chosen. Reuben had slept with Bilhah, his father's wife (Genesis 35:22-23). Simeon and Levi were violent, unpredictable men (Genesis 34). Judah received a long and positive blessing from his father, permeated with statements that highlight his positive qualities of leadership. How had the choices made by Reuben, Simeon, and Levi impacted their future?

4. What was the next order of business in Joshua 15:13-19, also mentioned in Joshua 14:13-15.
5. There is an interesting story in Joshua 15:16-17. Caleb offered the hand of his daughter, Achsah, to the man who attacked and captured the city of Kiriath Sepher. Othniel captured the city, and so he married Achsah. Othniel, Caleb's son-in-law, would soon become an important man to the nation of Israel. In Judges 3:7-11, we see Othniel becoming the first judge in Israel. What does Judges 3:10 say about this man?
6. Caleb gave his daughter and son-in-law Othniel the land in the Negev. This area can be oppressively hot, but you won't see the type of sand dunes like the Sahara or other deserts. Actually, the Negev is filled more with dirt, rocks, and canyons. What extra blessing did Achsah ask her father to give them?
7. Next, we read about a long list of cities and towns that the Israelites received as their inheritance. Do you recall the promise and the warning of Deuteronomy 6:10-15? What must the Israelites be very careful not to forget?

**Deuteronomy 6:10-15**

*When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you – a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, <sup>11</sup>houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant – then when you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup>be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>13</sup>Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. <sup>14</sup>Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you, <sup>15</sup>for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.*

8. Has the LORD been faithful to His promises to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Next, we saw the descendants of Joseph receiving their allotted land. Joseph had two sons, the eldest was Mannaseh, and the younger was Ephraim. Traditionally, the eldest received the inheritance first. Which of these tribes received their inheritance first? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What does scripture say about the effectiveness of the Ephraimites in expelling the people who previously lived in the land? \_\_\_\_\_  
Instead of sticking to the task at hand, until completely finished, what concession do we see the Ephraimites making? You can stay but you are going to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Who was next in line for their land allotment? \_\_\_\_\_
12. As the land allotment was being made, what unusual group stepped up to claim their share?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 17:3-4 and Numbers 27:1-11).
13. What disappointing, partial obedience did you see in Joshua 17:12-13, concerning the Manassites?

14. What did the descendants of Joseph think about the size of their allotment? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Joshua tell them to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did they say was the problem? \_\_\_\_\_  
What were they allowing their focus to get fixed on? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Joshua say to encourage them concerning conquering their enemies?

## Application

1. God is in complete control of all the details concerning any blessings He has for us. Do you believe God has a blessing for you today? \_\_\_\_\_ What is required in order to fully receive this blessing? \_\_\_\_\_  
What have you read in these chapters that you believe the Lord wants you to apply to how you live your life?
2. According to Exodus 20:3, what was to be the #1 priority of every Israelite?  
What is to be the #1 priority of every true believer and follower of Christ?  
Jesus was asked this question, "What is the greatest commandment? He replied 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'" If we have the Lord in his rightful place in our hearts, how will we respond to His commands?
3. We have talked a great deal about obedience. Below, write your definition of the word "obedience."
4. Caleb was a man of strong faith and character. He was not afraid to do all God had instructed him to do. He was also a man who knew how to encourage others. Caleb could have taken the city of Kiriath Sepher by his own hand, but instead he chose to help someone else accomplish something great for God, and propel their reputation, rather than his own. I'm sure there are many things you are able to do, and do quite well. Are you also looking for ways to help others accomplish great things for God? Write an example below to share with your small group.
5. Read the verse below. What is the formula for victory? \_\_\_\_\_  
The Holy Spirit in us is greater than our enemy, Satan. Just like the children of Israel, what are we to remain focused on, the enemy, and his weapons, or our God? This reminds me of the old hymn that says, "Trust and obey, there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." I encourage you to look up and read the lyrics to the song, "Trust and Obey."

### 1 John 4:4

*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them,  
because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

6. The chariots of the Canaanites posed very real obstacles that would need to be overcome, if the Ephraimites were to live at peace in the land. They would need to clear the forests, and they would need to remove the Canaanites from their land. Sadly, they focused on these obstacles, instead of the size of their God. There are always going to be a certain amount of obstacles in this life. How should we approach obstacles, if we are going to be successful serving God, walking faithfully in obedience to His commands?
  
7. Has God called you to a particular task? \_\_\_\_\_ Has the Lord given you a promise concerning this task? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you focusing on Him, so you will not be distracted or become anxious and ineffective? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Sadly, we saw the Ephraimites and the Manassites with unfinished business. The Canaanites had not been dislodged from living among them. Even though they had subjected them into forced service, they had not completely removed the Canaanites, as they were instructed to do. How much more effort would it have taken to actually get them out, as God had told them to do? Leaving the work unfinished exposed them to all kinds of influences that would eventually draw them away from God. Do you have any unfinished business? Are there areas of your heart and mind that still need some attention? The Psalmist invited the Lord to, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
  
9. Why do you suppose they did not go to the last bit of effort to get the Canaanites out of the land? Do you think it had anything to do with choosing ease over obedience? Perhaps, they were choosing economic gain over trusting the Lord. How might we apply this to the world we live in and the decisions we make today?
  
10. In spite of all the many victories subduing the land, why did Judah not dislodge the Jebusites? Was their god more powerful than Israel's God? The answer can be found in the beginning chapters of Judges. The Israelites had only partially obeyed the Lord. Read Judges 1:27, 29, 30, 31, 33. Partial obedience is really disobedience, which results in sadness, regret, and loss. Highlight the part of the text found in Judges 1 that specifically speaks about the actions of these tribes. Read Judges 2:1-5 to learn what God had to say about their disobedience. What did God say He would no longer do for them? The people named this place "Bochim," which means weeping.
  
11. Read 1 Samuel 15:22 below. In your own words, write what pleases God.

**1 Samuel 15:22**

*But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."*

12. We must be careful not to walk away from our time in Joshua simply shaking our heads in disappointment. The scriptures are written for our good. Below, read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and James 1:23-25.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,  
<sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**James 1:23-25**

*Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror  
<sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup>But whoever looks  
intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but  
doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.*

What will you take away from your study today? Spend some time talking to God about all you have seen, and ask Him how He wants you to apply it.