

A Study of Joshua 18 & 19

A Note from Kathy

Take a moment to read Psalms 100 below, before you begin studying these chapters. Psalms 100 is a song of praise for the LORD's faithfulness to His people. If you are a child of God, that is you!!!

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

²Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

³Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

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. In chapter 13, we read of Rueben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh receiving their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River. The Levites were not to receive an inheritance, because they were to serve as priests of the Lord to the people. Their share was to be taken from the offerings brought to the temple. Seven tribes had not yet received their inheritance. Name the seven remaining tribes.
 - a. Joshua 18:11 _____
 - b. Joshua 19:1 _____
 - c. Joshua 19:10 _____
 - d. Joshua 19:17 _____
 - e. Joshua 19:24 _____
 - f. Joshua 19:32 _____
 - g. Joshua 19:40 _____
2. The whole assembly of Israelites gathered at Shiloh. According to Joshua 18:1, what did they do at Shiloh?
3. The country had been subdued, but what needed to be done in order to complete the work God had given the Israelites to do?
4. Joshua told them to appoint three men from each tribe, and what were these 21 men instructed to do?
5. When these men returned, they handed Joshua the completed survey of the land. What did Joshua do with this survey?

6. Notice the repeated phrase in verses 6, 8, and 10. What did this tell you about the attitude of those present that day? What did they acknowledge?
7. Scripture says the Levites got no portion of the inheritance of the land. Why?
8. Which was the first tribe to receive their inheritance, among the seven remaining tribes? As you read these boundaries, look at a map in your Bible, and try to follow them the best you can. Some maps will not show all the cities or locations, because many of the cities are no longer there.
9. How many cities were included in Benjamin's inheritance? _____
10. Which tribe was the next to receive a portion? _____ What interesting fact did you see concerning this tribe and their portion?
11. Which tribe received the third allotment? _____
12. Which tribe received the fourth allotment? _____
13. Which tribe received the fifth allotment? _____
14. Which tribe received the sixth allotment? _____
15. Which tribe received the seventh allotment? _____
16. After all the land had been allotted, who received their portion? _____
Only two men received an individual portion, who were these men? _____
Why did they receive this honor? If you do not recall, read Numbers 14:26-32.
17. Verse 51 painted a beautiful picture of this event. Once again we saw the phrase, "in the presence of the LORD." Take notice, where did this event take place? _____

Application

1. Shiloh became a very important city to the Israelites. It was their place of worship for many years. But things did not remain this way. Read Psalms 78:54-61 below to see the future events. There are more details in **1 Samuel 4** if you have time to read it.

Psalms 78:54-61

And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. ⁵⁵He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents. ⁵⁶Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, ⁵⁷but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. ⁵⁸For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. ⁵⁹When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel. ⁶⁰He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, ⁶¹and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.

2. The Israelites had forgotten the choice God had given them; read below in Deuteronomy 11:26-28.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷the blessing if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today ²⁸and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods, which you have not know.

How might we apply this to our own walk of faith?

In what areas might you be testing God and rebelling against the Most High God?

Has God been speaking to you about an area of obedience?

What are you ready to do, in order to walk in obedience and the blessings of God?

3. Joshua asked the question, "How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you?"

Why do you believe they waited and hesitated to take their inheritance?

4. What makes us procrastinate?

What are some of the reasons you procrastinate things that need to be finished?

5. Have you ever been in a tumultuous situation for an extended period of time? _____ Even though you had enjoyed many victories, you knew there would still be work that needed to be done, and so you hesitated to start. Perhaps you even spoke the words, "Okay, just let me sit here for a bit longer."

We cannot know how close to the end we really are, until we get back into the work. Weariness is no excuse for disobedience to God. Fear of new hazards should never be allowed to keep us from finishing the task we have been given. Read Luke 9:62. Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit (*useful*) for the kingdom of God." Mull these words of our Lord over for a few minutes, why would this be true?

When we are procrastinating and hesitating what are our thoughts fixed on? _____

What should they be fixed on? _____

6. The tribe of Benjamin was the first to receive their inheritance, when Joshua was casting lots among the remaining seven tribes. His description was very detailed. Why was it important that Joshua be specific, and where did their inheritance lay?

What is the best way to avoid misunderstandings and quarrels as a parent, as a leader or as a boss?

7. Can you imagine the suspense as each parcel of land was assigned? Joshua stood with Eleazar, the priest, and the heads of each tribe standing around them as the lot was cast. Can you imagine the joy as the description of the land was read and the name of the tribe was announced? The first parcel goes to the tribe of Benjamin; the second goes to the tribe of Simeon, and on and on until... and the last parcel of land goes to the tribe of Dan.

Have you ever been picked last?

What were you thinking each time a name was about to be called?

What feelings went on in your heart as you waited?

What was the feeling as your name was called?

Do you think the Danites experienced any of these emotions?

8. All of these allotments were done “in the presence of the LORD.” How important is it for us to take seriously the presence of the Lord?

The Israelites acknowledged that what they did that day was in the full view and with the blessing of God. What do you suppose that did to calm the anxious hearts of the people who were waiting for their inheritance?

Do you think it might help to acknowledge the Lord’s presence, before reading wills and handing out inheritances today?

9. Joshua was a man with a heart for God. What character qualities have you seen in him up to this point?

What character quality did we see when we read about his allotment being last?

10. Everything that was done that day, every word that was spoken, and every attitude of the heart was done in the presence of the LORD. The people came to the entrance of the tent of meeting with the full awareness that they were coming into the presence of the LORD.

When you come into worship, do you listen for God to speak to you? The truth is, we are always in the presence of the Lord.

When he speaks to you, are you quick to respond with a reverent heart of obedience?

11. This might be a very good time to stop and talk to God.