

# Within the Word

## A Study of Joshua 20, 21 & 22

### A Note from Kathy

Please do not be upset because we have three chapters this week. Open up your YouVersion app, or another audio Bible app, to make this larger section of scripture easier to read. Finish strong!!! Follow the inspirational words of Galatians 6:9, "...let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

### Observation

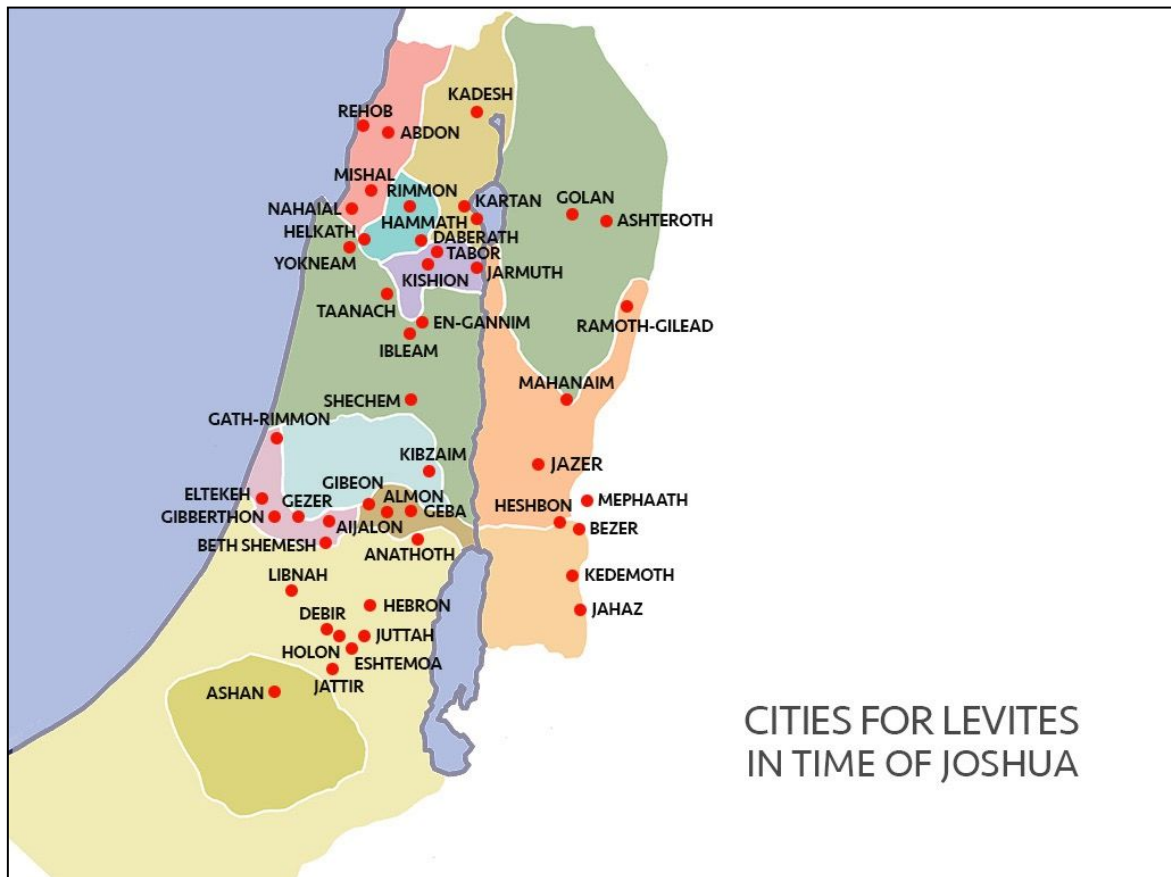
Read the chapter, at least twice, before beginning the study guide. This will give the Lord an opportunity to help you see the things He desires for you to know.

1. Joshua 19 beautifully illustrates another aspect of God's loving plan for the Israelites. "Accidents happen," but not everyone is willing to take the time to listen to all the facts. Now that they are in the land and have subdued it, the Lord instructs them to establish "cities of refuge." Define the word "refuge."
2. What very important fact did you see in verses 3 and 9?
3. Write a few sentences that describe the true purpose of these six "cities of refuge."
4. Was this a place to escape punishment for any crime committed?
5. Levi had three sons. Read Genesis 46:11. What were their names?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did they decide which of the three tribes of Levi would receive their cities first?



7. Draw the scene from Joshua 21:1-2. Stick people are fine.

8. Study the map. Even though many of the Israelites lived very far from the city of Shiloh, and later Jerusalem, everyone lived close enough to a Levitical city to visit one of their spiritual leaders for comfort, help, and guidance. Some of the cities listed are no longer cities, so this map is an educated guess as to their location.



9. The descendants of Kohath received \_\_\_\_\_ towns from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 21:4-5)
- They also received \_\_\_\_\_ towns from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The descendants of Gershon received \_\_\_\_\_ towns from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 21:6)

11. The descendants of Merari received \_\_\_\_\_ towns from \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21:7)

12. Fill in the chart below with the names of the cities given to the Kohathites. Not every box will be used. Use a highlighter to mark "cities of refuge." (vv. 21:11-26)

Judah/Simeon	Benjamin	Ephraim	Dan	½ tribe of Manasseh

13. Fill in the chart below with the names of the cities given to the Gershonite clans. Not every box will be used. Use a highlighter to mark "cities of refuge." (vv. 21:27-33)

½ tribe of Manasseh	Issachar	Asher	Naphtali

14. Fill in the chart below with the names of the cities given to the Merarite clans. Not every box will be used. Use a highlighter to mark "cities of refuge." (vv. 21:34-40)

Zebulun	Reuben	Gad

15. What was the wonderful news of verses 43 and 45? List every good thing you read in these verses.

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16. In Joshua 22, we see the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh were given permission to return to their homes on the other side of the Jordan. They were thanked for their service and for honoring their word. What warning were they given just prior to their departure?
17. According to Joshua 22:8, what did they return home with?
18. What did these men decide to do when they were about to cross the Jordan?
19. What happened when their fellow Israelites heard what they had done?
20. Why such a strong response? Please read Numbers 25 and Joshua 7 to refresh your memory regarding similar experiences the Israelites faced and the consequences that resulted. What do these Israelite leaders believe is happening?
21. A delegation is sent to deal with the potential offense as quickly as possible. Who did they send?
22. What did the delegation offer the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh?
23. When faced with the allegations and questions, what did the men of Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh say? What was the explanation for their actions?
24. When the delegation heard the explanation, what was their response?
25. What was the name given to this altar near the Jordan?

## Application

1. God has fulfilled his promises to Abraham. Abraham's descendants were a great nation, and the land was now their possession. They were to live in this land as a testimony before all the other nations. In order to do that, God had given them laws and commands to govern their society. God even provided for dealing with cases of extreme accidents. It was not a free pass to flee from justice, but a safe place to present the facts when emotions run high.

How do you handle accidental emotional or physical injuries in your home or at work?

Do your children/employees know there is a safe place they can turn to when tempers flare?

Are you that place?

2. If we are to build a strong foundation that we can stand on when times are rough, we must apply the truth of God's word one stone at a time. Read the verses below, and write a sentence or two describing the believer's foundation. Who are these verses specifically referring to? What do we learn about him?

**John 1:1-4**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
<sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that  
has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

**Hebrews 13:8**

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

3. What conclusion can a believer confidently come to after reading the verses from the previous question and then reading Joshua 21:43-45?
4. The men of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh were thanked for their faithful service, then given a blessing and permission to go home to their families. Can you imagine some of the conversations as these valiant warriors returned with their share of the wealth?

When the men neared the Jordan they must have discussed some of their fears for their future descendants. They decided to build a memorial altar as a testimony that they too were part of all God had accomplished. But their actions were misunderstood.

Have you ever been misunderstood?

Notice how the Israelites leaders handled their questions.

Notice how these tribes handled the accusations and questions.

When you perceive a disloyalty how do you respond?

What action do you take?

How do you handle being misunderstood?

5. To what lengths would you go in order to gather facts and restore a brother or sister in Christ?
6. What are the most important lessons you will be taking from your time in God's word this week?