

Joshua

Lesson #13, Chapters 12-14

Read Chapters 12-14 before beginning this lesson. You may be tempted to think that the chapters to come on the land allotments have nothing much to teach you, but nothing could be further from the truth. Ask yourself, “Why did God want these specific details preserved for us today? What possible things can I learn about God’s character in these chapters about the land inheritance?” May you be blessed in the Lord as you meditate on those questions.

1. Chapter 12 is a synopsis of the conquered land and kings. Who defeated the kings mentioned in verses 1-6?

2. Who defeated the kings listed in Joshua 12:7-24?

3. What would be the significance of *retelling* the defeat of Sihon and Og, the kings who lived on the eastern side of the Jordan, while listing the defeated kings from the western side of the Jordan?

4. God wanted this chapter with its list of defeated kings to be included in the Bible for some reason. What are some possible reasons that you can think of for including it?

5. The Lord reminds Joshua that he is old and advanced in years and still has some work to do. What is it (13:1)?
 - a. Why would Joshua’s age make completing this task a priority?

- b. Joshua is old, his death is imminent; yet God tells Joshua to divide the land. Instead of recommending Joshua rest and take it easy, God urges Joshua to complete the task given to him. What does this teach you about the importance of completing or following through on something God has given you to do?

6. What previous command is God reminding Joshua about in 13:6? See Num. 33:50-56. What warning is given in Numbers 33 to remind the people to finish possessing the land?

7. What area had the 2 ½ tribes already been allotted and how did they get it? See 13:8; Num. 32:1-5, 20-27.

8. Josh. 13:14 and 33 record that the tribe of Levi didn't receive an inheritance of land. How did God provide for the Levites since they had no land? See 14:3-4; 21:41-42; Num. 18:21-32; 35:1-5.

9. Reuben's land allotment is recorded in 13:15-23. Reuben was entitled to a double allotment because he was the first-born (Deut. 21:17). Why is it that he is receiving only a single portion? See Gen. 35:22; 49:3-4.

10. In the midst of the details of Reuben's allotment, we see the name of Balaam in 13:22. What is his story and why is he so significant that his death is mentioned here (Num. 22-25:5; 31:8, 16; Josh. 22:17; 24:9-10)?

11. The land allotments for Gad and Manasseh are recorded in the rest of Chapter 13. After so many years of each tribe waiting and dreaming of their inheritance, what attitude should accompany the inheritance given to them as seen in Ps. 16:5-6?

12. We don't have a specific land inheritance in Israel, but we do have an inheritance. What do you learn about *our* inheritance from these verses? See Matt. 19:29; Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:5; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Rev. 21:3-7.

13. How does knowing you have an inheritance waiting for you encourage you? Reread Ps. 16:5-6. Do your thoughts about your inheritance mirror those of the psalmist?

14. With the 2 ½ tribes' allotment completed, the narrative focuses on the 9 ½ tribes who will soon receive their inheritance. Who was in charge of apportioning the land and how was it done (14:1-2)?

15. Who is Eleazar? See Ex. 6:23, 25; 28:1; Num. 3:32; 20:25-28.

16. Why did Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, receive an inheritance? See Gen. 48; especially verses 14-15, 22.

17. Josh. 14:6-15 tells the story of Caleb's inheritance. Why does Caleb receive an individual inheritance?

18. Read Joshua 14:6-15; Num. 13:23-33; 14:6-10. Write a short paragraph summarizing the character of Caleb. What key phrase is used to describe his life in Josh. 14:6-15?

19. What is significant about Caleb asking for his inheritance in the hill country where the Anakim live (verse 12)? See Num. 13:25-33.

20. Caleb's trust in the Lord hadn't wavered for over forty years. Caleb was patient and willing to wait for the Lord to fulfill His promise to him. What are some ways you can practice patience as you wait for God to act in different areas of your life?

21. Three times in Joshua 14:8-14 we read that Caleb followed the Lord his God *fully*. How do Caleb's words and actions show that full and complete obedience? Examine Joshua 14:6-15 and Num. 13:25-33 for your answer.

22. In what ways can you follow in Caleb's worthy footsteps to follow the Lord your God *fully*? Are there any changes you need to make in your life so that you can follow Him *fully*?

"Precepts instruct us what things are our duty, but examples assure us that they are possible....When we see men like ourselves, who are united to frail flesh and in the same condition with us, to command their passions, to overcome the most glorious and glittering temptations, we are encouraged in our spiritual warfare."

~William Bates