



SERIES:	06 Joshua - 2017
MESSAGE:	Joshua 18-21
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Joshua 18-21

MESSAGE SUMMARY

There were seven tribes who had yet to receive their land allotments, and Joshua challenged them to occupy what God had given them. In this message, we learn about the allotments given to the remaining tribes, including the special cities given to the Levites.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. David recognized how small he was in the cosmic setting of the universe (see Psalm 8:3-4)
 - 1. There are 7.3 billion people who live on earth
 - 2. Earth rotates and makes its way around the sun
 - 3. The earth is small in relation to the universe
 - 4. The sun is much larger than the earth
 - 5. There are 100 billion stars in the Milky Way
 - 6. There are 100 billion other galaxies that exist
- B. The God who made all of that is intimately concerned with your life (see Psalm 139:18)
 - 1. God thinks good things about us (see Jeremiah 29:11)
 - 2. In Joshua, we get a detailed taste of the love God has for His people
- C. God is a God who loves His people with a covenant love
 - 1. *Checed* = favor
 - 2. Abiding love, a love covenant

II. Joshua 18

- A. Shiloh was on a hill in Ephraim's tribal allotment
 - 1. The tabernacle was set up here
 - a. Its first permanent location
 - b. Stayed there for the next 369 years
 - c. Center of worship and national community before it moved to Jerusalem
 - 2. After they crossed the Jordan, they set up headquarters at Gilgal, then moved to Shiloh
 - a. It was not the place God had chosen for the tabernacle
 - b. They probably moved it from the flatland for military reasons
- B. The tabernacle (see Exodus 25)
 - 1. The Israelites plundered the Egyptians before leaving Egypt
 - 2. God received an offering from them so they could build the tabernacle
 - 3. The tabernacle occupies more biblical real estate than any other subject in Scripture

- a. Creation: two chapters
 - b. Tabernacle: fifty chapters
 - 4. The tabernacle was a model of heaven (see Hebrews 9:11)
- C. Seven tribes had yet to possess their land
 - 1. God gave them the land; they had to unwrap—or settle—it (see Joshua 1:3)
 - 2. You only occupy what you stand on
- D. Joshua sent twenty-one men to survey the land, dividing it into seven parts
 - 1. Joshua cast lots before the Lord
 - a. Some believe they used the Urim and Thummim
 - b. Some believe they used marked stones or pieces of wood
 - c. It was done before the Lord (see Proverbs 16:33)
 - d. God superintended this exercise
 - 2. Casting lots continued into the New Testament, but after the Holy Spirit came upon believers at Pentecost, they never did it again (see John 16:13)
- E. Tribal allotment of Benjamin
 - 1. A small tribe between Judah and Ephraim
 - a. When the kingdom split, there began a rivalry between the tribes of Judah and Ephraim (see 1 Kings 12)
 - b. The Benjamites became a buffer between the two
 - 2. There were significant cities within the tribe of Benjamin
 - a. Jericho
 - b. Ai
 - c. Gibeon
 - d. Jerusalem
 - e. Jerusalem was shared between Benjamin and Judah
 - 3. The Benjamites became known as men of valor
 - a. Jacob predicted this when he blessed his sons (see Genesis 49:27)
 - b. Many warriors came from the tribe of Benjamin
 - c. Kish, the father of Saul, came from this tribe
 - d. Saul of Tarsus was a Benjamite (see Philippians 3:5)
 - 4. When the kingdom split, there were ten tribes in the north and two in the south
 - a. The southern tribes were Judah and Benjamin
 - b. Because they shared Jerusalem

III. Joshua 19

- A. Tribal allotment of Simeon
 - 1. Judah was given a huge allotment, but Simeon was placed right in the middle of it
 - 2. Desert area
 - 3. Simeon and Levi were cursed by their father, Jacob (see Genesis 34; 49:5-7)
 - a. Simeon got land in the center of Judah
 - b. The Levites were scattered to Levitical cities
 - c. It would eventually be a blessing
 - 4. When the kingdom split, the people of Simeon migrated north
 - a. They were not ideologically a part of Judah
 - b. They settled in the northern kingdom of Ephraim (see 2 Chronicles 15:9)
 - 5. They should have been loyal to David's house
 - a. In 722 BC, the Assyrians came and took the northern tribes long before the southern tribes fell to the Babylonians

- b. Included the tribe of Simeon, which had moved
 - B. Tribal allotment of Zebulun
 - 1. Zebulun was landlocked
 - 2. Jacob predicted they would be a haven for ships (see Genesis 49:13)
 - 3. There was one little strip of land that was by the sea
 - 4. North of Megiddo, east of Mount Carmel
 - C. Tribal allotment of Issachar
 - 1. Issachar received the Valley of Jezreel
 - a. Breadbasket of that entire part of the world
 - b. Fertile land; anything could grow there
 - 2. The Valley of Jezreel also goes by the name Valley of Armageddon
 - a. Has become a place where notable battles of civilizations have taken place
 - b. The greatest battle of all will take place there in the future
 - D. Tribal allotment of Asher
 - 1. Asher got land along the Mediterranean Sea
 - 2. They were in a position vulnerable to attack
 - 3. You don't hear a whole lot about the tribe of Asher until the New Testament
 - a. Anna got to see Jesus as a baby (see Luke 2:36-38)
 - b. She was one of the first people to proclaim Jesus as Israel's Messiah
 - E. Tribal allotment of Naphtali
 - 1. Region of Galilee
 - 2. Would be called the Galilee of the Gentiles
 - a. They got the brunt of attack on the west side of the Jordan River
 - b. Many Gentiles settled there
 - 3. Subject of a messianic prophecy
 - a. Isaiah 9:1-7
 - b. This tribe would experience deliverance as Jesus set up His headquarters there
 - F. Tribal allotment of Dan
 - 1. They were given an area called the Philistine country
 - 2. Samson was a Danite (see Judges 14-16)
 - 3. They never occupied the land because of the Philistines
 - 4. They moved up north to Laish
 - 5. The Jordan River starts in that region
 - G. Joshua's allotment
 - 1. He made sure everyone was taken care of first
 - 2. He asked for the city of Timnath Serah
 - a. It was barren wilderness
 - b. The name means *abundant provision*
 - 3. Like Abraham and Lot (see Genesis 13:5-12)
 - a. Abraham let Lot choose the better land
 - b. Abraham took the leftovers
 - H. About three-fourths of the Bible has to do with the tribes of Israel
 - 1. In the future, an angel will mark 144,000 people of the tribes of Israel
 - 2. They will come to faith in Christ through the testimony of the two witnesses
- IV. Joshua 20

- A. Cities of refuge
 - 1. There were no prisons in those days
 - 2. Avenger of blood
 - B. City of refuge was a place of judicial asylum
 - 1. Six cities were positioned so wherever you lived, you were no more than one day's journey from one
 - 2. Given a place to stay
- V. Joshua 21
- A. Levitical cities
 - 1. Forty-eight cities given to the Levites
 - 2. Common lands
 - 3. They were never more than ten miles away from anybody living anywhere
 - 4. The teachers of the law were in the midst of the children of Israel
 - B. They possessed their possessions
 - 1. Everything God had promised them came to pass
 - 2. Beautiful example of God's promises
 - C. Notable Levites
 - 1. Moses
 - a. Trained to be next in line to the throne of Egypt
 - b. Let it all go to suffer with his people (see Hebrews 11:23-26)
 - 2. Aaron the high priest
 - 3. Eli in 1 Samuel
 - 4. Ezra the scribe who partnered with Nehemiah to resettle Jerusalem
 - 5. John the Baptist
 - a. Most notable Levite of all
 - b. Jesus called him the greatest man ever born (see Matthew 11:11; Luke 7:28)
 - D. The Levites got the Lord of the land
 - 1. Covenant of intimacy and service with the Lord
 - 2. The Lord was their inheritance
- VI. Closing
- A. Regardless of what sins your parents or grandparents may have committed, it is time for you to turn the cursing into a blessing
 - 1. Let the Lord get a hold of you
 - 2. Watch what He can do in and through you
 - B. You can be a blessing to others just like the Levites were to the rest of Israel

Figures referenced: Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Spurgeon

Hebrew words: checed

Cross references: Genesis 13:5-12; 34; 49:5-7, 13, 27; Exodus 25; Joshua 1:3; Judges 14-16; 1 Samuel; 1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 15:9; Psalm 8:3-4; 139:18; Proverbs 16:33; Isaiah 9:1-7; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 11:11; Luke 2:36-38; 7:28; John 16:13; Philippians 3:5; Hebrews 9:11; 11:23-26

Topic: Israel

Keywords: God's love, tribal allotments, Israel, tribes, tabernacle, occupy, Urim and Thummim, casting lots, blessing, curse, messianic prophecy, provision, city of refuge, Levitical cities, Levites