

FAILING TO FINISH THE FIGHT

Joshua 13-23

DOMINATION OF THE LAND 6-12 CONQUEST

DISTRIBUTION OF THE COVENANT LAND 13-24

Once Israel took control, the land had to be divided by tribe and family.

TERRITORY ASSIGNED FOR PERMANENT INHERITANCE 13-21

Command to divide land 13:1-7

Joshua is old and no longer able to lead the nation in battle. 13:1

God orders Joshua to divide the land by tribes and make each tribe responsible for eliminating the Canaanites in their area. 13:6-7, 8

Division of eastern territory 13:8-32

The description of the division of the territory starts with the tribes which settled on the eastern side of the Jordan.

Their distribution was assigned by Moses.

Description of territory 13:8-13

13:13 First of a series of references indicating that they fail to finish the fight God committed to them.

Exclusion of Levites 13:14

The Levites receive no land inheritance because God Himself is their inheritance.

They're to be supported by the tithes of the other tribes.

Territory of Reuben 13:15-23

Territory of Gad 13:24-28

Territory of Manasseh 13:29-31

Summary 13:32-33

Division of western territory 14-19

Throughout the description of the land division, the tribes fail to obey God's instructions concerning the Canaanites completely.

They don't drive them out completely!

Division of territory introduced 14:1-5

Inheritance for Caleb 14:6-15

In **stark contrast** to that general disobedience is Caleb.

Still a model to the people!

Previous example of faith and obedience at Kadesh-Barnea 14:6b-9

Continuing example of faith and obedience 14:10-14

Dependence on God 12

Wholehearted commitment to follow God 8, 9, 14

Fulfillment of his promise 15:14

[Don't miss irony—Caleb singlehandedly finishes off the Anakites—“giants” the spies were afraid of. He's STILL up to it! God can do it!] 14:15

In spite of his age, he still trusts God to enable him to remove the enemy from his inheritance.

Allotment for Judah and Joseph 15-17

Judah and Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) receive special attention because of their future importance in the north and south.

Other tribes fill in around them.

Judah 15

Caleb is faithful to finish his fight **15:14**

Failure to finish the fight **15:63**

Joseph 16-17

Summary 16:1-4

Ephraim 16:5-10

Failure to finish the fight **16:10**

Though the Canaanites become servants like the Gibeonites, they haven't acknowledged their God and haven't submitted to Him.

They become a spiritual weight to drag down God's people.

Manasseh 17:1-13

Failure to finish the fight **17:12-13**

Complaint and challenge 17:14-18

When Joseph's descendants complain about their limited territory, Joshua challenges them to stretch out and drive out the surrounding Canaanites. **17:14-18**

There will be plenty of room if they believe God and claim their entire territory.

"You can drive them out!"

Allotment for remaining tribes 18-19:48

Surveying expedition commissioned 18:1-10

The whole country is under their control. **18:1**

They have failed to move in and finish the fight. **18:3**

Distribution by lots 18:11-19:48

Benjamin 18:11-28

Simeon 19:1-9

Zebulun 19:10-16

Issachar 19:17-23

Asher 19:24-31

Naphtali 19:32-39

Dan 19:40-48

Inheritance for Joshua 19:49-50

At the conclusion of the division of the land, Joshua received a city for his inheritance.

He built up the town and settled in it.

Conclusion **19:51**

Thus the task of dividing the land was concluded.

Cities of refuge established 20:1-9

Having divided all the territories of Israel among the tribes, two special provisions had to be made to obey God's requirements.

First, cities of refuge were assigned for untried people who had killed someone unintentionally, to protect them from the families of the deceased who would be chasing them.

Cities for Levites designated 21:1-42

Second, cities were set aside as a place of residence for the Levites.

Forty-eight cities were designated for this purpose.

Commanded by God 21:1-3

Casting of lots 21:4-8

Cities of Aaron 21:9-19

Cities of other Kohathites 21:10-26

Cities of Gershonites 21:27-33

Cities of Merarites 21:34-40

Cities of Levites summarized 21:41-42

Fulfillment of covenant land promise summarized 21:43-45

Having completed the description of the distribution of the land, Joshua uses the fact to draw attention again to God's faithfulness to His covenant. **21:43-45**

God gave them the land just as He promised.

He fulfilled every promise He made.

God fulfilled every promise and yet, *they* failed to finish the fight and get rid of the pagan Canaanites in their land!

BORDER DISPUTE CONCERNING ALTAR 22

Permission given for eastern tribes to return home 22:1-9

Once the land has been conquered and divided among the tribes, the eastern tribes could return to their homes. 22:2-4

Joshua warned them of the importance of remaining obedient to God's Word, though separated from their brethren. **22:5**

Accusation made for construction of the altar 22:10-20

When the eastern tribes arrive back in their land, they built an altar as a reminder to them and to their brethren that they too belong to Yahweh's covenant people.

They don't want future generations to forget.

After they build the altar, their brethren become aware of it and fear they have established a different center of worship.

They prepare to go to war, lest God judge all Israel for their disobedience.

Explanation given concerning altar as a witness 22:21-29

The eastern tribes explain their purpose, that this altar serve as a witness to their relationship to Jehovah. 22:26-27

Explanation accepted with praise to God 22:30-34

The people accept the explanation and praise God for preventing this tragedy. 22:33-34

Joshua's final CHALLENGE TO BE FAITHFUL 23

A LONG TIME went by.

Their enemies stopped attacking them.

Joshua gathers the people together to issue a challenge.

Two final messages Joshua delivers 23-24

Four main thoughts in Josh. 23, derived from preceding chapters, and wrap them up:

1. God has fought for us. –just as He said He would 23:3, 10b, 14

2. God enables you to drive out the enemy 23:4-5, 9-10a

Past, present and future, . . .

You can trust God to take possession of land He promised to give you.

3. Don't make alliances with them 23:7, 12-13

Three dangerous alliances:

Political alliances 12a

Marriage alliances 12b

Personal identification with them and their gods. 12c

The danger of compromising relationships: 13

It's a trap! It will result in your downfall!

When God's people make an alliance with the Canaanites–pagans–their friendship always results in the spiritual decline of God's people.

Joshua realized you can't stay neutral!

You have to choose–will you cling to God or to the Canaanites?

If you turn from Him, He will turn on you. You will lose it all!

4. Remain faithful to God's Word. 23:6-8, 15-16

Verse 8: "Hold fast" to Him <= Gen. 2:24 (marriage) "be united to" your wife.

You're to be united with (stuck to/glued to) God.

You're ONE with Him!

LESSONS FOR US: Derived from Caleb's example in chapter 14

1. Wholehearted commitment to follow God.

Will it be said of us: “We followed God wholeheartedly?”—a total commitment to do
WHATEVER God wants us to do?

2. Confidence and dependence on God.

Trust Him—Depend on Him

3. Willing to take a risk and obey God, even if you have to stand alone.

—when we don’t know what the future holds?

—Even if it costs us *everything*?