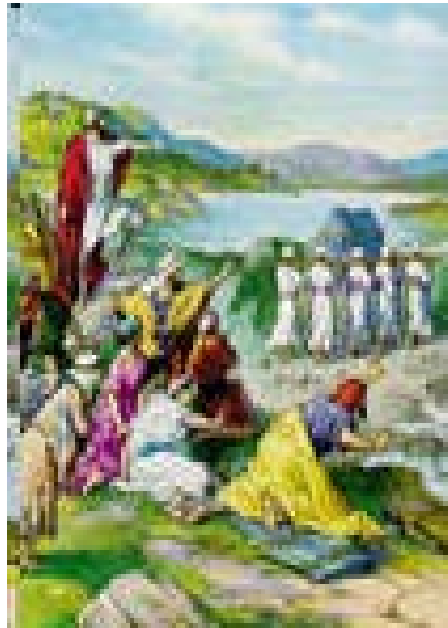


# A Study in the Book of Joshua



*By Cecilia Perh*



Entrusting the Word  
to the Faithful



# Overview of Joshua

**Joshua 1-5  
PREPARING**

**Joshua 6-12  
CONQUERING**

**Joshua 13-24  
DIVIDING**

**The Calling and  
Responsibility of  
Godly Leadership**

**Developing God's  
People**

Success is determined by one's ability to become and remain sensitive to the Lord's authority and methods.

**The Implementation  
of God's Strategy  
for Victory**

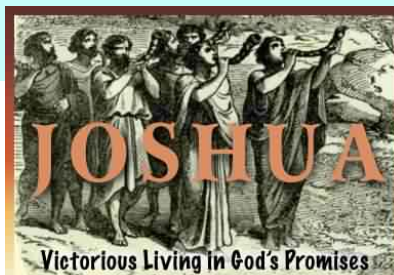
**Understanding  
God's Strategy**

Victory only arises when one fully understands temptation and wholly depends upon the Lord's means for deliverance.

**The Accountability to  
Complete God's  
Mission**

**Grasping God's  
Good Purposes**

God's full favor is found only when one both understands and diligently seeks God's complete purposes.



[http://www-foundationsforfreedom.net/Article/Bible/OT/OT\\_Historical/Joshua/Joshua\\_00\\_Overview.gif](http://www-foundationsforfreedom.net/Article/Bible/OT/OT_Historical/Joshua/Joshua_00_Overview.gif)

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# MOBILIZING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR VICTORY



## Book of Joshua

Paul J. Bucknell

**Purpose of Joshua** • God's good purposes can always be gloriously fulfilled when we faithfully trust and obey Him.

### DEVELOPING GOD'S PEOPLE

THE CALLING AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GODLY LEADERSHIP

*PREPARING*

Joshua 1-5

### UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STRATEGY

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOD'S STRATEGY FOR VICTORY

*CONQUERING*

Joshua 6-12

### GRASPING GOD'S GOOD PURPOSES

THE ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMPLETE GOD'S MISSION

*DIVIDING*

Joshua 13-24

1:1-5	The Mission
1:1-9	Developing Godly Leadership
1:10-18	Maximum Mobilization
1:12-18	The Battle Before the Conquest
2:1-24	God's Mysterious Ways
3:1-17	Signs & Wonders
4:1-24	Pauses #1: Forming Memories
5:1-9	Pauses #2: Our Step of Faith
5:10-12	Pauses #3: Communing With God
5:13-15	Pause #4: Following God's Leader
6:1-27	God's First Victory at Jericho
7:1-26	A Battle with Sin
8:1-29	Recovering From Defeat
8:30-35	Delight in God's Torah
9:1-27	Falling For A Lie
10:1-43	The Battles Against the Kings
11:1-23	Responding Strategically
12:1-24	Gaining Momentum
13:1-13	Rules for Victorious Living
14:1-15:19	Caleb: A Man Willing to Fight
15:20-17:13	Fulfilling Our Obligations
17:12-18	Escaping From Fear's Grip
18:1-19:51	Dividing the Inheritance
20:1-9	Where Can I Run?
21:1-45	Care of God's Workers
22:1-34	For Good or For Bad
23:1-16	Passing the Torch
24:1-13	Truth or Fiction
24:14-33	Declaration of our Commitment

### BEING READIED FOR GOD'S WORK

Success is determined by one's ability to become and remain sensitive to the Lord's authority and methods.

### THE RECORD OF GREAT VICTORIES

Victory only arises when one fully understands temptation and wholly depends upon the Lord's means for deliverance.

### THE EVALUATION OF THE MISSION

God's full favor is found only when one both understands and diligently seeks God's complete purposes.



# Conquest of the Promised Land

Invasion of Canaan					Conquest of Canaan							Division of Canaan							Conclusion				
Charge to Joshua	Spying out Jericho	Crossing the Jordan	Stones Set Up	Circumcision & Passover	Central Campaign			Southern Campaign		Northern Campaign		Special Allotments		Major Allotments				Special Provisions		Altar by the Jordan	Joshua's Farewell Speech	Covenant Renewed at Shechem	
					Fall of Jericho	Achan's Sin	Restoration	Gibeon Tricks Israel	Joshua's Long Day	Northern Conquests	Defeated Kings	Transjordan Tribes	Caleb	Judah	Ephraim	Manasseh	Benjamin	Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan	Cities of Refuge				Levitical Cities
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1-5					6-12							13-19							20-24				
Preparation					Conquest							Inheritances							Consecration				
ACTION					ALLOCATION							APPEAL											
The Promised Land					Conflict and Conquest							Dividing the Land							Joshua's Farewell				
Possessing the Land					Partitioning the Land																		
7 years (50% of Joshua)					About 18 years (50% of Joshua)																		
<p>9 ½ Tribes on the West Side of the Jordan – CANAAN</p> <p>2 ½ Tribes on the East Side of the Jordan – TRANSJORDAN</p>																							

**Author:** Joshua

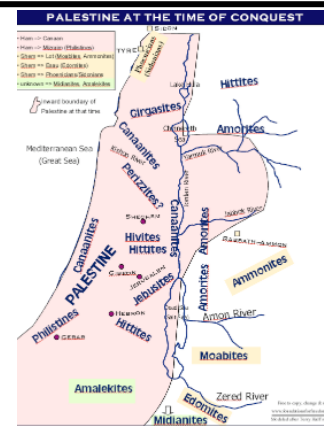
**Date:** between 1400 & 1350BC

**Key Verses:** 1:2-3; 11:23; 24:14-15

**Key Words:** possess(-ion) [27x], land (158x), inheritance (57x), king(s) [115x]

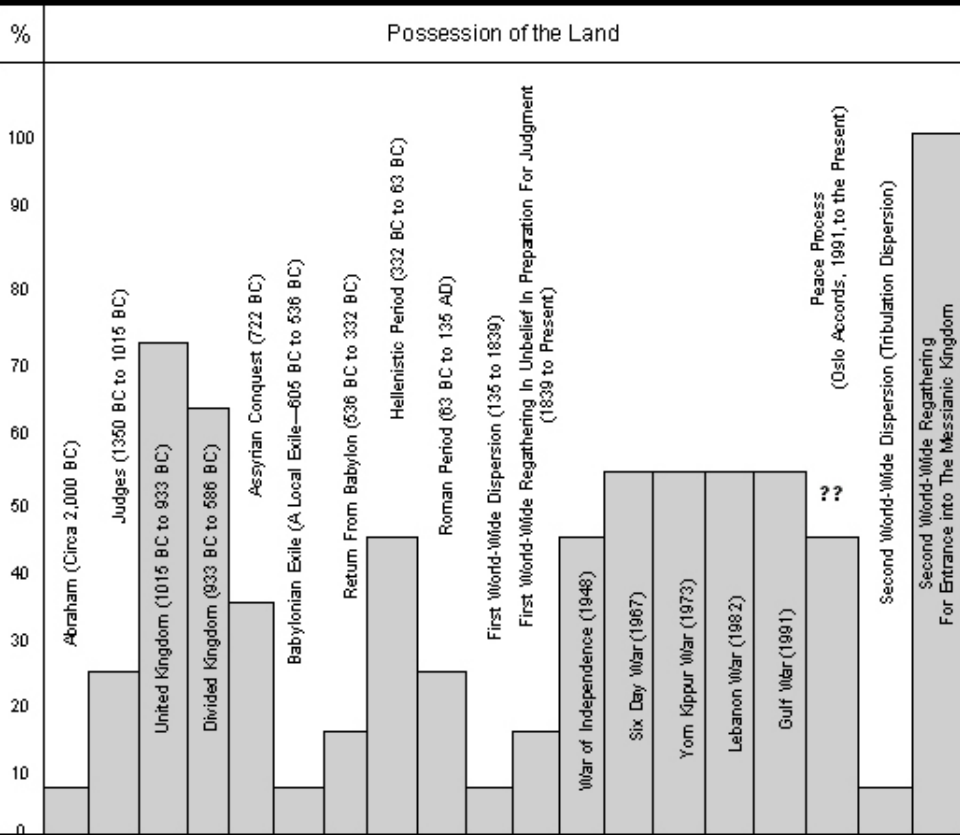
## Purpose of Writing:

- 1) To show how God fulfilled His promises by giving Israel the land promised to the forefathers.
- 2) To show how Joshua faithfully performed the work which had been entrusted to him by God.



**Three Altars**  
**Altar Memorial 4:7**  
**Altar Offering 8:30**  
**Altar Witness 22:34**





### Empires of David and Solomon

This map is a broad view of the extent of the domain which God had promised to give to David and his seed (1 Kgs. 4:20).

**EMPIRES OF DAVID AND SOLOMON**

- David's Kingdom
- Area under Solomon's control
- Solomon's Kingdom

# The Book of Joshua

## Conquest of the Promised Land

- I. The Invasion of Canaan (1:1-5:12)
- II. The Conquest of Canaan (5:13-12:24)
- III. The Division of Canaan (13:1-21:45)
  - A. The portions for the two and one-half tribes (chap. 13)
    - B. The portion for Caleb (chap. 14)
    - C. The Allotment for Judah (chap. 15)
  - D. The Allotment for the Sons of Joseph (chap. 16-17)
  - E. The Allotments for the Other Tribes (chap 18-19)

tabernacle set up at Shiloh & will remain until Samuel

## The Land Surveyed and Divided (18:1-10)

<sup>1</sup>Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled themselves at **Shiloh**, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them. <sup>2</sup>And there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance. <sup>3</sup>So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?"

**BKC - 18:1-3** Before the final divisions of the land were made the Israelites moved en masse from Gilgal to **Shiloh**, about 20 miles northwest, from the Jordan Valley to the hill country. Why? Probably because Shiloh, located in the center of the land, was a convenient location where the tabernacle (**the Tent of Meeting**) could remind the people that the key to prosperity and blessing in the land was worshiping and serving Yahweh. The dissatisfaction of the sons of Joseph with their allotment (Jos. 17:14-18) was an ominous foreshadowing of the future disintegration of the nation because of self-interest. To counteract this tendency the tabernacle was **set up** in Shiloh to promote a sense of national unity.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

## The Land Surveyed and Divided (18:1-10)

<sup>1</sup>Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled themselves at **Shiloh**, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them. <sup>2</sup>And there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance. <sup>3</sup>So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?"

**BKC** - Further, when the Israelites were thus assembled for erecting the tabernacle and celebrating the new worship center Joshua sensed that a feeling of war-weariness had overtaken them. They were exhausted in the struggle for the conquest of Canaan, so they stopped in the middle of the task of allocating the tribes. Seven were still without homes, apparently content to continue a nomadic and purposeless existence such as they had experienced in the wilderness. Their listlessness provoked Joshua who took steps to prod them into action. He reproached them sharply: How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?

**Clarke** - 18:3 **How long are ye slack to go to possess the land** - We find an unaccountable backwardness in this people to enter on the inheritance which God had given them! They had so long been supported by miracle, without any exertions of their own, that they found it difficult to shake themselves from their inactivity. When it was necessary that all the people should go out to battle, they went with a measure of confidence, expecting miraculous help from God, and confiding in their numbers, but when each tribe found it necessary to fight for itself, in order to its establishment and the extension of its borders, it was discouraged, and chose rather a life of inglorious ease than the possession of an inheritance which would cost it much labor to conquer.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

## The Land Surveyed and Divided (18:1-10)

<sup>4</sup>“Provide for yourselves three men from each tribe that I may send them, and that they may arise and walk through the land and write a description of it according to their inheritance; then they shall return to me. <sup>5</sup>And they shall divide it into seven portions; Judah shall stay in its territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall stay in their territory on the north. <sup>6</sup>And you shall describe the land in seven divisions, and bring the description here to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. <sup>7</sup>**For the Levites have no portion among you, because the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance.** Gad and Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh also have received their inheritance eastward beyond the Jordan, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.”

**BKC – 18:4-7** Joshua was for action but not before careful preparations were made. Directing the appointment of a commission of 21 men, 3 from each of the seven unassigned tribes, he sent them to **make a topographical survey of the remaining land.** How long this complex task took is not stated, but it was obviously a job that required time and skill. Josephus wrote that these men were experts in geometry. Probably their parents had mastered the science of land surveying in Egypt. Who among them dreamed that their children would ever put that knowledge to use so strategically in their land of promise?

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

<sup>8</sup>Then the men arose and went, and Joshua commanded those who went to describe the land, saying, "Go and walk through the land and describe it, and return to me; then I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh." <sup>9</sup>So the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities in seven divisions in a book; and they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh. <sup>10</sup>And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the sons of Israel according to their divisions.



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

## The Allotment to Benjamin (18:11-28)

<sup>11</sup>**Now** the lot of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin came up according to their families, and **the territory of their lot lay between the sons of Judah and the sons of Joseph.** <sup>12</sup>And **their border on the north side** was from the Jordan, **then the border** went up to the side of Jericho on **the north**, and went up through the hill country **westward**; and it ended at the wilderness of Beth-aven. <sup>13</sup>And from there **the border** continued to Luz, to the side of Luz (that is, Bethel) **southward**; and **the border** went down to Ataroth-addar, near the hill which *lies* on the south of lower Beth-horon. <sup>14</sup>And the border extended *from there*, and turned round on the west side **southward**, from the hill which *lies* before Beth-horon **southward**; and it ended at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city of the sons of Judah. **This was the west side.** <sup>15</sup>**Then the south side** was from the edge of Kiriath-jearim, and **the border** went **westward** and went to the fountain of the waters of Nephtoah. <sup>16</sup>And **the border** went down to the edge of the hill which is in the valley of Ben-hinnom, which is in the valley of Rephaim **northward**; and it went down to the valley of Hinnom, to the slope of the Jebusite **southward**, and went down to En-rogel. <sup>17</sup>And **it** extended northward and went to En-shemesh and went to Geliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, and it went down to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. <sup>18</sup>And it continued to the side in front of the Arabah **northward**, and went down to the Arabah.



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

<sup>19</sup>And **the border** continued to the side of Beth-hoglah **northward**; and **the border** ended at the **north** bay of the Salt Sea, at the **south** end of the Jordan. This was the south border.

<sup>20</sup>Moreover, the Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the sons of Benjamin, according to their families *and* according to **its borders** all around.

<sup>21</sup>Now the cities of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin according to their families were **Jericho** and Beth-hoglah and Emek-keziz, <sup>22</sup>and Beth-arabah and Zemaraim and **Bethel**, <sup>23</sup>and Avvim and Parah and Ophrah, <sup>24</sup>and Chephar-ammoni and Ophni and Geba; twelve cities with their villages. <sup>25</sup>**Gibeon** and **Ramah** and Beeroth, <sup>26</sup>and **Mizpeh** and Chephirah and Mozah, <sup>27</sup>and Rekem and Irpeel and Taralah, <sup>28</sup>and Zelah, Haeleph and the Jebusite (that is, **Jerusalem**), Gibeah, Kiriath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the sons of Benjamin according to their families.

**BKC - 18:11-28 - Benjamin** was assigned the land that lay between **Judah and Joseph**, a reference to Ephraim, thus minimizing the incipient rivalry between these leading tribes. Though their area was covered by mountains and ravines, extending only 25 miles from east to west and 15 miles at its widest point from north to south, it included many cities that were important in biblical history - **Jericho...Bethel... Gibeon, Ramah... Mizpah, and the Jebusite city... Jerusalem** (Jos\_18:21-28). So the site of the future temple in Jerusalem was in the tribe of Benjamin, a fulfillment of Moses' prophecy (Deu\_33:12 - Of Benjamin he said, "May the beloved of the LORD dwell in security by Him, Who shields him all the day, And he dwells between His shoulders.")



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

The tribe of Benjamin received a stretch of land in a depression, or "saddle", which stretched from Bethel south to Jerusalem. It merged with the boundary of Dan to the west, and the Jordan River to the east. It was a well watered land except for on the eastern ridge portion. The land was fertile, located on the central plateau which topped the Western Mountains of central Palestine. The eastern side plunged sharply into the Jordan Valley below. This portion of Benjamin was less hospitable.

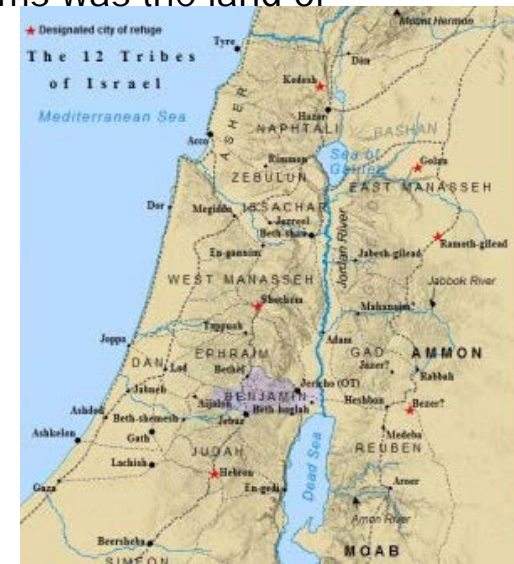
The boundaries placed the tribe of Benjamin between the powerful tribe of Ephraim to the north, and the equally powerful tribe of Judah in the south. The valley of Hinnom, or Gehinnom, or Gehenna, was the boundary between the tribe of Benjamin and the tribe of Judah.

This placed Jerusalem as a city within the original allotment of the tribe of Benjamin. The city would quickly become absorbed and adopted by the tribe of Judah, and indeed listed as a Judahite city in another town list.

The shifting allegiances and boundaries are common throughout Benjamite history. Indeed the tribe of Benjamin would accommodate both Israel of the north and Judah of the south throughout the Old Testament.

Despite its small size, only twenty-five miles in length and twelve in width, the tribe of Benjamin enjoyed a very strategic land. The Central Ridge Route, the main artery of north-south traffic through the Western Mountains, ran through Benjamin, as did important east-west routes, connecting Benjamin to the Transjordan in the east, and the coast in the west. Trade and caravans traveled continuously along these routes.

The links of communication from the north to the south of Israel passed directly through the tribe of Benjamin. Thus, in effect, the tribe of Benjamin connected Israel and Judah. Indeed, the frontier between the two kingdoms was the land of Benjamin. Jews moved freely through this area, ...despite the constant political strife and upheaval.

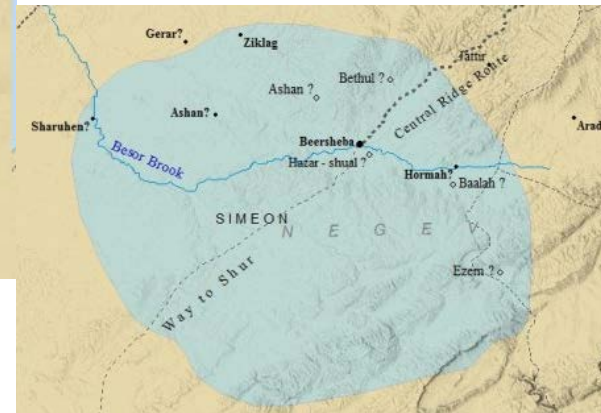
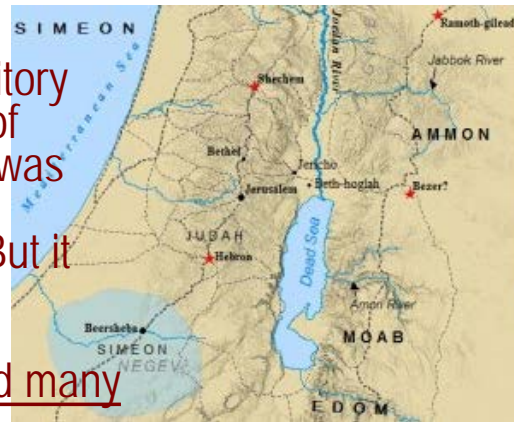


<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/tribe-of-benjamin.html#Benjamin%20Land%20Allotment>

# The Allotment to Simeon (19:1-9)

<sup>1</sup>Then the second lot fell to Simeon, to the tribe of the sons of Simeon according to their families, and their inheritance was in the midst of the inheritance of the sons of Judah. <sup>2</sup>So they had as their inheritance **Beersheba** or Sheba and Moladah, <sup>3</sup>and Hazar-shual and Balah and Ezem, <sup>4</sup>and Eltolad and Bethul and Hormah, <sup>5</sup>and **Ziklag** and Beth-marcaboth and Hazar-susah, <sup>6</sup>and Beth-lebaoth and Sharuhem, thirteen cities with their villages; <sup>7</sup>Ain, Rimmon and Ether and Ashan, four cities with their villages; <sup>8</sup>and all the villages which were around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the Negev. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Simeon according to their families. <sup>9</sup>The inheritance of the sons of Simeon was taken from the portion of the sons of Judah, for the share of the sons of Judah was too large for them; so the sons of Simeon received an inheritance in the midst of Judah's inheritance.

**BKC - 19:1-9** Because Judah had more territory than it needed (Jos\_19:9), and in fulfillment of Jacob's prophecy (cf. Gen\_49:5-7), Simeon was given land in the southern section of Judah's territory with 17 towns and their villages. But it was not long before Simeon was to lose her individuality as a tribe, for her territory was incorporated eventually into that of Judah and many of her citizens migrated north to Ephraim and Manasseh (cf. 2Ch\_15:9; 34:6). This explains why after the division of the kingdom following Solomon there were 10 tribes in the north and only 2 in the south (Judah and Benjamin).



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

## The Allotment to Zebulun (19:10-16)

<sup>10</sup>Now the third lot came up for the sons of Zebulun according to their families. And the territory of their inheritance was as far as Sarid. <sup>11</sup>Then their border went up to the west and to Maralah, it then touched Dabbesheth, and reached to the brook that is before Jokneam. <sup>12</sup>Then it turned from Sarid to the east toward the sunrise as far as the border of Chisloth-tabor, and it proceeded to Daberath and up to Japhia. <sup>13</sup>And from there it continued eastward toward the sunrise to Gath-hepher, to Ethkazin, and it proceeded to Rimmon which stretches to Neah. <sup>14</sup>And the border circled around it on the north to Hannathon, and it ended at the valley of Iphtahel. <sup>15</sup>Included also were Kattah and Nahalal and Shimron and Idalah and **Bethlehem**; twelve cities with their villages. <sup>16</sup>This was the inheritance of the sons of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

Not the Bethlehem where Yeshua was born

**BKC - 19:10-16** According to Jacob's prophecy Zebulun would "live by the seashore and become a haven for ships" (Gen\_49:13). She was assigned a portion in lower Galilee which many consider to have been landlocked. However, it is possible to understand that a strip of land extended to the Mediterranean Sea forming an enclave in Issachar's territory. Strangely omitted is the city of Nazareth which was within the borders of Zebulun's allotment.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

**Sepphoris** was an important city of Zebulun in the Old Testament. In fact, some scholars regard Sepphoris as being the tribe's first city. Sepphoris in the New Testament was most notable for its proximity to Nazareth.

Though not mentioned in the city list, and indeed looked down upon by the Jews of the New Testament, Jesus Christ would make **Nazareth** the most famous city on earth.

**Aijalon** was the burial place of Elon, one of the Judges of Israel from the tribe of Zebulun. Josephus made a heroic defense at Jotapata, another city of Zebulun.

**Mount Tabor** was a very significant mountain in antiquity. It was a holy mountain. It is quite likely that the tribes of Zebulun, Naphtali and Issachar shared a place of worship on Mount Tabor. These tribes cooperated with each other and are mentioned in conjunction throughout the Old Testament.

The **Via Maris** was an ancient trade route which connected Egypt and Syria, running along the Mediterranean coastline of Palestine. At Dor, the Via Maris cut through the Jezreel Valley en route to Damascus.

This cut through the tribe's land, thus opening them up to a number of outside influences and threats. These influences seemingly played a role in the Israelites losing focus of God's call, and mingling with the foreign gods and pagan religious practices and lifestyles of their neighbors.

The soil produced an abundance of olive groves and vineyards. Rich harvests were gathered off the slopes. The land was well watered by multiple sources.

Zebulun's land itself was diverse, ranging from rugged mountainous terrain, to forests and lush valleys. Most of the cities were located in the highlands, as the Canaanites occupied the cities of the valleys.

The Plain of Aschosis, which Josephus connects with Cana, was very fertile and productive. It was in **Cana** which Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding feast.



<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/zebulun.html#Land%20Allotment>

## The Allotment to Issachar (19:17-23)

<sup>17</sup>The fourth lot fell to Issachar, to the sons of Issachar according to their families. <sup>18</sup>And their territory was to **Jezeel** and *included* Chesulloth and Shunem, <sup>19</sup>and Hapharaim and Shion and Anaharath, <sup>20</sup>and Rabbith and Kishion and Ebez, <sup>21</sup>and Remeth and En-gannim and En-haddah and Beth-pazzez. <sup>22</sup>And **the border** reached to Tabor and Shahazumah and Beth-shemesh, and their border ended at the Jordan; sixteen cities with their villages. <sup>23</sup>This *was* the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Issachar according to their families, the cities with their villages.

BKC - 19:17-23 Lying east of Zebulun and south of the Sea of Galilee Issachar was to occupy the fertile and beautiful valley of Jezreel, also a noted battlefield. Until the time of David, however, its people remained in the mountainous district at the eastern end of the valley.



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

Their allotment was one of the most agriculturally desirable. However, it was also one of the most precarious.

The Jezreel Valley was ideal for an agricultural people. It possessed fertile, flat plains which were well suited for cattle.

Canaanite strongholds throughout the area prevented Issachar from gaining primary control of the Valley. The ancient city of Megiddo, one of five Canaanite strongholds in the region, rested within the tribal boundaries of Issachar.

Megiddo has been a site of bloodshed for thousands of years, and was vital in controlling the Jezreel Valley.

Megiddo is also the site of the future Battle of Armageddon, spoken of in the book of Revelation by John.

Mount Moreh is located in the Jezreel Valley. It stands almost in the center of the tribe's allotment as looked at on a map.

Issachar's prime location was also a contributor to its eventual downfall. The land was interconnected by a series of oriental highways and road systems, indicated by dotted lines on the Issachar City Map.

It was upon these roads the ancient armies of foreign invaders marched, and oftentimes converged for battle. The vulnerability of the tribe to these armies made it difficult to maintain law and order.

It would not be until the time of David and Solomon that Israel would exert a majority control of the area. Solomon is said to have strengthened the city of Megiddo by building up its gates.



<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/issachar.html#%3Cb%3EThe%20Land%20Allotment%3C/b%3E>



# The Allotment to Asher (19:24-31)

<sup>24</sup>Now the fifth lot fell to the tribe of the sons of Asher according to their families. <sup>25</sup>And their territory was Helkath and Hali and Beten and Achshaph, <sup>26</sup>and Allammelech and Amad and Mishal; and it reached to Carmel on the west and to Shihor-libnath. <sup>27</sup>And it turned toward the east to Beth-dagon, and reached to Zebulun, and to the valley of Iphtahel northward to Beth-emek and Neiel; then it proceeded on north to Cabul, <sup>28</sup>and Ebron and Rehob and Hammon and Kanah, as far as Great Sidon. <sup>29</sup>And the border turned to Ramah, and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and it ended at the sea by the region of Achzib. <sup>30</sup>Included also were Ummah, and Aphek and Rehob; twenty-two cities with their villages. <sup>31</sup>This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.

**BKC - 19:24-31** Asher was assigned the Mediterranean coastal lands from Mount Carmel north to Sidon and Tyre. By virtue of her vital position she was to protect Israel from northern coastal enemies such as the Phoenicians. By David's time Asher had faded into insignificance though her tribal identity was not lost. Anna the prophetess, who along with Simeon gave thanks for the birth of Jesus, was from the tribe of Asher (cf. Luk\_2:36-38).



It was a fertile land, especially in the interior of Lower Galilee. However, the land was dissected by roadways. These roadways were used by invading foreign armies, thus placing the tribe of Asher in the line of fire.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

The Phoenician empire, thus, stretched approximately two hundred miles along the Mediterranean. The tribe of Asher, consequently, was limited in settlement to those cities further inland.

Indeed, the Israelites struggled to control the Plain of Acco throughout its history. The Philistines controlled the coastal areas in the south.

Thus, with Philistine and Phoenician control of the coastal strip of Canaan, the Israelites occupied the highlands, and the settlements on the slopes of the western mountains and hills which merged with the coastal strip.

The expansion of Philistine and Canaanite settlements along the coast, and Israelite settlements descending from the interior highlands, created numerous conflicts between the Israelites and their Canaanite neighbors.

Despite the presence of such foreign threats, the land belonging to the tribe of Asher was some of the most fertile in the region. Jacob foresaw the prosperity of the Asherites because of the richness of their land in his blessing.

He prophesied Asher's food "*shall be rich*", and he shall "*yield royal dainties*". Moses makes reference to oil in his blessing of Asher. He stated; "*may he dip his foot in oil*".

The land of Asher was known for its olive orchards. Asher produced such large amounts of oil that it became exceedingly wealthy. A big reason for Asher's wealth, coupled with its natural production of olive oil, was its proximity to the markets of Phoenicia. The tribe of Asher became a leader in the olive oil trade in Canaan.

Rabbinical Literature, as pointed out by the Jewish Encyclopedia, supports this notion. It is believed that in times of scarcity and during the Rabbinical year, Asher supplied all of Israel with oil.

It was this wealth, however, which many scholars feel attributed to its aloofness.



<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/tribe-of-asher.html#%3Cb%3EThe%20Land%20Allotment%3C/b%3E>

## The Allotment to Naphtali (19:32-39)

<sup>32</sup>The sixth lot fell to the sons of Naphtali; to the sons of Naphtali according to their families. <sup>33</sup>And **their border** was from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim and Adami-nekeb and Jabneel, **as far as** Lakkum; and **it ended at the Jordan**. <sup>34</sup>**Then** the border turned westward to Aznoth-tabor, and proceeded from there to Hukkok; and it reached to Zebulun on **the south** and touched Asher on **the west**, and to Judah at the Jordan toward **the east**. <sup>35</sup>And the fortified cities *were* Ziddim, Zer and Hammath, Rakkath and Chinnereth, <sup>36</sup>and Adamah and Ramah and Hazor, <sup>37</sup>and Kedesh and Edrei and En-hazor, <sup>38</sup>and Yiron and Migdal-el, Horem and Beth-anath and Beth-shemesh; nineteen cities with their villages. <sup>39</sup>This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali according to their families, the cities with their villages.



Of the 12 tribes of Israel, none received land more beautiful than this tribe. Their land has been called the "Garden of Palestine".

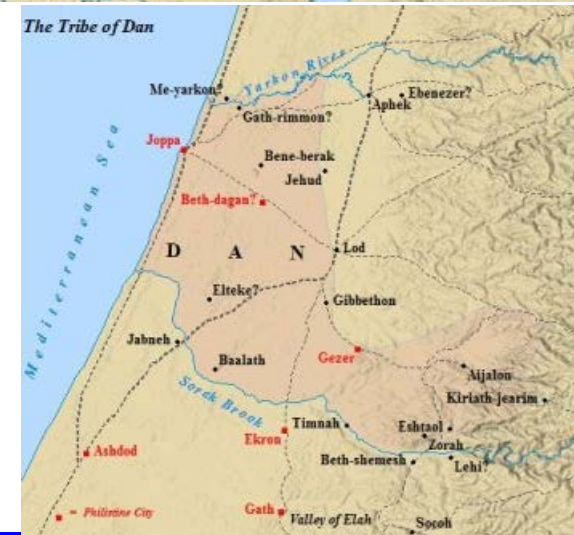
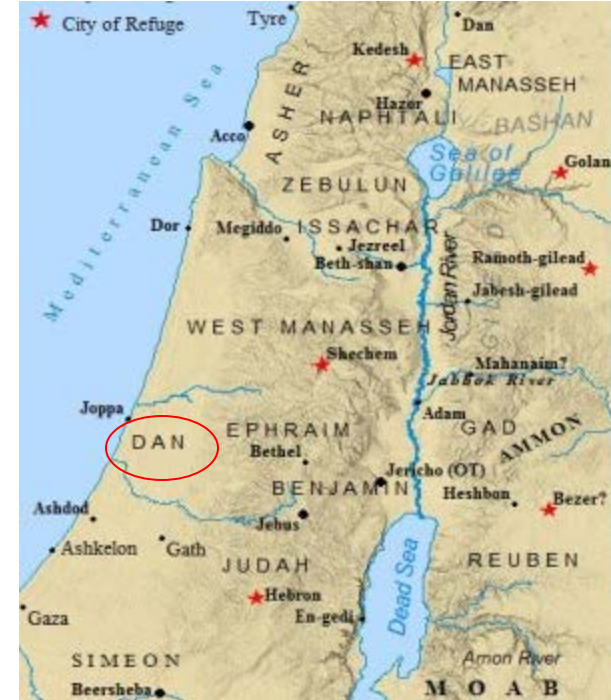
Their inheritance fell in the region of Galilee. Centered around the shores of the Sea of Galilee, this tribe possessed the most fertile and productive region in all of Canaan. Shepherds and farmers alike found the soil and vegetation of this area extremely fertile, and able to support large flocks and herds. The whole of the land is fed by hidden springs emanating from Mount Herman. This area is well watered by multiple sources; principally the Jordan River, the springs of Mt. Herman, and the Sea of Galilee.

Mount Herman is just 39 miles northeast of where the Jordan River runs into the Sea of Galilee. In antiquity, the mountains of Galilee bore the name the Mountains of Naphtali.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

## The Allotment to Dan (19:40-48)

<sup>40</sup>The seventh lot fell to the tribe of the sons of Dan according to their families. <sup>41</sup>And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah and Eshtaol and Irshemesh, <sup>42</sup>and Shaalabbin and Aijalon and Ithlah, <sup>43</sup>and Elon and Timnah and **Ekron**, <sup>44</sup>and Eltekeh and Gibbethon and Baalath, <sup>45</sup>and Jehud and Beneberak and Gath-rimmon, <sup>46</sup>and Me-jarkon and Rakkon, with the territory over against Joppa. <sup>47</sup>And the territory of the sons of Dan proceeded beyond them; **for** the sons of Dan went up and fought with Leshem and captured it. **Then** they struck it with the edge of the sword and possessed it and settled in it; and they called **Leshem Dan** after the name of Dan their father. <sup>48</sup>This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.



## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)

The ancient city of Ekron was destroyed in the mid-tenth century B.C. This period of decline lasted nearly 250 years, until the seventh century, when Ekron experienced a resurgence. Ekron's archaeological record follows the Biblical account of the conquest, and subsequent events involving this geographical region in regards to the Assyrian invasions of the Old Testament....

The tribe of Dan, though situated amongst the southern kingdom of Judah, was considered part of the much larger northern kingdom of Israel. The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrian invaders, while the southern kingdom of Judah lasted nearly two hundred more years.

Much of the population in this region was exiled to Assyria, and many cities were burned and destroyed. The king of Ekron took advantage of the weakened situation and rapidly expanded to the east. Ekron may have enjoyed access to the port in Joppa, and the city prospered under Assyrian rule in the seventh century.

The significance is found in the apparent fact the kingdom of Ekron overlapped into the tribal allotment of Dan in the seventh century B.C....It would seem the southern border of Dan reflected that of the kingdom of Ekron, and the western portion of Ekron and Dan overlapped.

The tribe of Dan, thus, maintained some sort of presence in the area despite their much earlier migration. Even before the Assyrian push into the Shephelah, the Danites experienced intense pressure from nearby enemies.

The tribe of Dan found themselves settling on the very battle ground involving the Israelite disputes with the powerful and dreaded Philistines. Thus, in **Joshua 19:47-48**, the tribe of Dan is depicted as searching for a new homeland.

<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/tribe-of-dan.html>



**Leshem** is also Laish, also known as Dan. The ancient city, which has been identified as Tell el-Quadi, north of Lake Huleh, which itself lies north of the Sea of Galilee, lies amidst the three principal sources of water for the Jordan River. Nearby Mount Herman towers above the landscape.

It is likely the nearby ancient shrine of Pan was located within the ancient city of Dan. *It is near these "waters of Dan", and nearby Mount Herman, that much of the book of Enoch is concerned with. The fallen Watchers of Enoch are said to have descended to the earth from the heavens, touching down on the peak of Mt. Herman.*

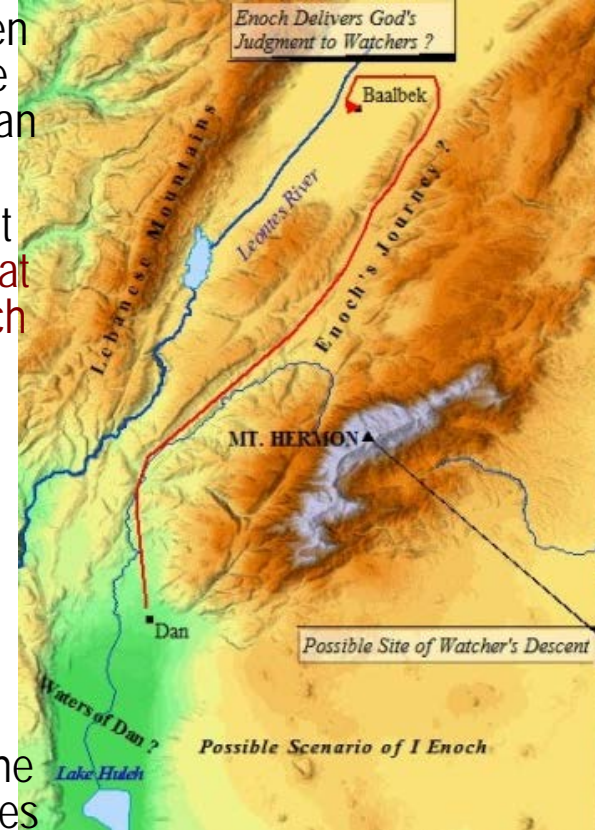
Regardless, the land has ancient ties to Israel and other cultures. This land, however, was not part of Dan's original allotment.

*The tribe of Dan originally settled between the Brook of Sorek and the Yarkon River.* However, Philistine cities sliced through the tribal allotment. This pressure would prove too much for the tribe of Dan.

The Philistines were a fierce group of warriors, part of a migratory group known only as the Sea Peoples. They were thought to have originated in the Aegean Sea region. They were the fiercest enemies of Israel. The Philistines terrorized Israel up until the time of David. They captured Samson, as well as the Ark of the Covenant.

Beginning around the eleventh century B.C., the Philistines began to seek expansion from the coastal plain. They sought control of the Hill Country.

This inevitably brought them into conflict with Israel. This period is characterized by the Judges of the Old Testament. Samson was a Judge of the tribe of Dan. His enemies were the Philistines.



<http://www.israel-a-history-of.com/tribe-of-dan.html>

## The Allotment to Joshua (19:49-51)

<sup>49</sup>**When** they finished apportioning the land for inheritance by **its borders**, **the sons of Israel gave an inheritance in their midst to Joshua the son of Nun.** <sup>50</sup>In accordance with the command of the LORD they gave him the city for which he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. **So** he built the city and settled in it. <sup>51</sup>These are the inheritances which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the households of the tribes of the sons of Israel distributed by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the doorway of the tent of meeting. **So they finished dividing the land.**

**BKC – Whereas Caleb's inheritance** was determined first (Jos\_14:6-15), Joshua's was last. Only after all the tribes had received their allotments did **Joshua** ask for his. What a selfless spirit he possessed, and how his behavior contrasts with many political leaders who use their positions and influence to enrich themselves and their families

**19:50-51** Joshua's choice of land further reveals his humility. He asked for **Timnath Serah**, a city in the rugged, infertile, mountainous district of his own tribe (**Ephraim**), when he could have appropriated land in the fairest and most productive area of Canaan. With deep appreciation for his godly leadership the sons of Israel granted Joshua his modest request, and **he built up the town and settled there.** In one of the final pictures of this stalwart leader, Joshua is seen as a builder (in addition to his being a general and an administrator). The combination is rare among God's servants.

## The Allotments for the Remaining Tribes (ch 18-19)



## I. The Invasion of Canaan (1:1-5:12)

- A. The commissioning of Joshua (chap. 1)
  - 1. Joshua's listening to the Lord (1:1-9)
  - 2. Joshua's commanding the officers (1:10-15)
  - 3. Joshua's receiving support from the people (1:16-18)
- B. The spying out of Jericho (chap. 2)
  - 1. The spies' commission to Jericho (2:1)
  - 2. The spies' shielding by Rahab (2:2-7)
  - 3. The spies' intelligence information from Rahab (2:8-11)
  - 4. The spies' promise to Rahab (2:12-21)
  - 5. The spies' return to Joshua (2:22-24)
- C. The crossing of the Jordan (chap. 3)
  - 1. Preparation for the crossing (3:1-4)
  - 2. Consecration for the crossing (3:5-13)
  - 3. Completion of the crossing (3:14-17)
- D. The erecting of memorials (chap. 4)
- E. The consecration of the Israelites (5:1-12)
  - 1. The renewal of circumcision (5:1-9)
  - 2. The celebration of the Passover (5:10)
  - 3. The appropriation of the land's produce (5:11-12)

## II. The Conquest of Canaan (5:13-12:24)

- A. Introduction: The divine Commander (5:13-15)
- B. The central campaign (chaps. 6-8)
  - 1. The conquest of Jericho (chap. 6)
  - 2. The defeat at Ai (chap. 7)
  - 3. The victory at Ai (chap. 8)
- C. The southern campaign (chaps. 9-10)
  - 1. The alliance with the Gibeonites (chap. 9)
  - 2. The defense of the Gibeonites (chap. 10)
- D. The northern campaign (11:1-15)
  - 1. The confederation (11:1-5)
  - 2. The conflict (11:6-15)
- E. The review of the victories (11:16-12:24)
  - 1. The conquered areas (11:16-23)
  - 2. The conquered kings (chap. 12)

## III. The Division of Canaan (chaps. 13-21)

- A. The portions for the two and one-half tribes (chap. 13)
  - 1. The divine command to divide the land (13:1-7)
  - 2. The special grant to the Eastern tribes (13:8-33)
- B. The portion for Caleb (chap. 14)
  - 1. Introduction (14:1-5)
  - 2. Caleb at Kadesh Barnea (14:6-9)
  - 3. Caleb during the wilderness wanderings and the Conquest (14:10-11)
  - 4. Caleb at Hebron (14:12-15)
- C. The portions for the nine and one-half tribes (15:1-19:48)
  - 1. The allotment for the tribe of Judah (chap. 15)
  - 2. The allotments for the Joseph tribes (chaps. 16-17)
  - 3. The allotments for the remaining tribes (18:1-19:48)
- D. The portions for Joshua, manslayers, and Levites (19:49-21:45)
  - 1. The special provision for Joshua (19:49-51)
  - 2. The assignment of cities of refuge (chap. 20)
  - 3. The appointment of Levitical cities (21:1-42)
  - 4. Summary of the Conquest and distribution (21:43-45)

## IV. Conclusion (chaps. 22-24)

- A. A border dispute (chap. 22)
  - 1. The admonition of Joshua (22:1-8)
  - 2. The symbolic action of the Eastern tribes (22:9-11)
  - 3. The threat of war (22:12-20)
  - 4. The defense of the Eastern tribes (22:21-29)
  - 5. The reconciliation of the tribes (22:30-34)
- B. The last days of Joshua (23:1-24:28)
  - 1. Joshua's final challenge to the leaders (chap. 23)
  - 2. Joshua's final charge to the people (24:1-28)
- C. The appendix (24:29-33)

