

Joshua 13

Singapore Youth for Christ

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Outline of Joshua (generally)

1. The Conquest of Canaan - Chs 1-12
 - i. The Crossing - 1:1-5:12 - Preparations and entry into Canaan
 - ii. The Seizing - 5:13-12:24 - The initial occupation of Canaan
2. The Settlement of Canaan (and Transjordanian land) - Chs 13-24
 - i. The Dividing - 13:1-21:45 - Allocation of the territory of Canaan (and Transjordanian land) amongst the tribes of Israel
 - ii. The Serving - 22:1-24:33 - The faithful use of the land of Canaan - living in complete trust and obedience to the Lord

Background

1. The General Context
 - a. The task/deliverance not yet complete
 - b. Preparations were complete - Preparations were being made for the movement into Canaan - the “Promised Land.”
 - c. Change of leadership - There was a change in leadership about to take place - from Moses to Joshua.
2. The Geographical Setting
3. The Theological Context
 - a. A key theme in the book of Joshua - God the promise keeper - Josh 1:2-3; 23:14-15 - but what promise is being referred to?
 - b. Three important passages to note:
 - i. Genesis 12:1-9; ‘repeated’ in 17:1-8.
 - ii. Exodus 23:20-33
 - iii. Deut 11:18-32

- c. Central here - two administrations of the covenant that the Lord established with his people.
 - i. Covenant with Abraham - primary emphasis - the promise of the Lord - requiring a response of trust (that the Lord will be true to his promise)
 - ii. Covenant with Moses - primary emphasis - the law of the Lord - requiring a response of obedience

In each of these covenants see the elements of:

- i. God's promise
- ii. God's people
- iii. God's place
- iv. God's purpose
- d. The significance of the Land
- e. The principle of "inheritance"

Outline of Chapter 13

1. Joshua is old and advanced in years
 - 13:1 Joshua's leadership is coming to an end
2. The land still to be possessed West of the Jordan - 13:2-7
 - 13:2-6a Survey of the land yet to be claimed and occupied
 - 13:6b-7 Joshua to allot the land to the nine and a half tribes
3. The land already allocated East of the Jordan - 13:8-33
 - 13:8-32 The inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and half tribe of Manasseh
 - 13:14, 33 The inheritance of the Levites

Three key themes

1. Inheritance by the Lord's authority
 - a. The land as a gift - not a claim as of right
 - b. The Earth is the Lord's - Psalm 24:1-2
 - c. Allocation came through agency of the Lord's appointed person

- d. Implications of it being a gift from the Lord:
 - i. Reminder of the source of their inheritance
 - ii. Reminder of the nature and purpose of the gift
 - iii. There was to be no rival claims to the land or loyalty to anyone else
- e. Implications of the survey of the land not yet being possessed
 - i. Reminder that the job was not yet finished
 - ii. Reminder of God's promise for their final inheritance
 - iii. A call not to become complacent
 - iv. A caution of the land still being occupied by ungodly people

2. Inheritance according to the Lord's apportionment/allocation

- a. The means by which the land was apportioned
 - i. The land west of the Jordan
 - 1. Apportioned by lot
 - 2. Prov 18:18
 - ii. The land east of the Jordan
 - 1. Background to the two and a half tribes
 - 2. Numbers 32
 - 3. Apportioned as determined by Moses
- b. In each case - apportionment was as the Lord determined - but some key differences:
 - i. The land east of the Jordan
 - 1. Moses the covenant mediator
 - 2. Was land that was captured under Moses' leadership
 - 3. Was land already allocated and apportioned
 - 4. Not part of the Promised Land as set out in Numbers 24
 - 5. Moses was not permitted to enter Canaan

- ii. The land west of the Jordan
 - 1. Joshua the covenant mediator
 - 2. Was still unallocated and unapportioned
 - 3. The allocation occurred before the land had been fully possessed
 - 4. Lord promised to drive out the inhabitants before the people of Israel - Joshua 13:6
- 3. Inheritance united through the Lord's mediator
 - a. One tribe did not receive an inheritance of land - their inheritance was different - Joshua 13:14, 33
 - b. Reason - Levites had a particular role amongst the Lord's people - Numbers 18:21-24
 - c. Through the Levites - the people of Israel were identified and unified
 - d. To enable the priestly functions to be performed, the priests had to be spread out among the people, not located in a single place.