

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.