

Joshua 13-19 – Taking Possession of Our Inheritance

Joshua 1:5, *“No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.”*

Deuteronomy 6:10-11, *“The LORD your God will soon bring you into the land he swore to give you when he made a vow to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build. The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant.”*

13:1-5 *“When Joshua was an old man, the LORD said to him, ‘You are growing old, and much land remains to be conquered. This is the territory that remains....’*

6-7, *“I myself will drive these people out of the land ahead of the Israelites. So be sure to give this land to Israel as a special possession, just as I have commanded you. Include all this territory as Israel’s possession when you divide this land among the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh.”*

Leviticus 25:23, *“The land must never be sold on a permanent basis, for the land belongs to me. You are only foreigners and tenant farmers working for me.”*

Psalms 24:1, *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”*

Everything we possess really belong to the Lord and we are to be good stewards of it. This includes all my possessions, money, time talents and abilities.

1. The Levites were given no inheritance in the land.

Joshua 13:14, *“Moses did not assign any allotment of land to the tribe of Levi. Instead, as the LORD had promised them, their allotment came from the offerings burned on the altar to the LORD, the God of Israel.”*

Joshua 13:33, *“But Moses gave no allotment of land to the tribe of Levi, for the LORD, the God of Israel, had promised that he himself would be their allotment.”*

1 Peter 2:9, *“you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”*

Matthew 6:33, *“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”*

Our inheritance is the Lord and as God’s special possession we are to prioritize our lives to live for the kingdom of God, even though we live in the world.

2. God is faithful in keeping His promises. We must be patient to receive them.

14:6-13, *“A delegation from the tribe of Judah, led by Caleb, came to Joshua at Gilgal. Caleb said to Joshua, ‘Remember what the LORD said to Moses, the man of God, about you and me when we were at Kadesh-barnea. I was forty years old when Moses, the servant of the LORD, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report, but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the LORD my God. So that day Moses solemnly promised me, ‘The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the LORD my God.’ Now, as you can see, the LORD has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. So give me the hill country that the LORD promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of*

Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the LORD is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the LORD said.” So Joshua blessed Caleb and gave Hebron to him as his portion of land.”

Joshua 15:14, “Caleb drove out the three groups of Anakites—the sons of Anak.”

17:3-5 *“Zelophehad had no sons. He had only daughters. These women came to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the Israelite leaders and said, “The LORD commanded Moses to give us a grant of land along with the men of our tribe.” So Joshua gave them a grant of land along with their uncles, as the LORD had commanded.”*

Galatians 3:26-29, *“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.”*

Galatians 6:9, *“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*

We should diligently pursue receiving all that we have been given in Christ Jesus.

- 3. Some Israel did not believe God’s promises and did not act in faith to receive all their inheritance.**

17:14-18 *“descendants of Joseph came to Joshua and asked, “Why have you given us only one portion of land as our homeland when the LORD has blessed us with so many people?” Joshua replied, “If there are so many of you, and if the hill country of Ephraim is not large enough for you, clear out land for yourselves in the forest where the Perizzites and Rephaites live.” The descendants of Joseph responded, “It’s true that the hill country is not large enough for us. But all the Canaanites in the lowlands have iron chariots, both those in Beth-shan and its surrounding settlements and those in the valley of Jezreel. They are too strong for us.” Then Joshua said to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph, “Since you are so large and strong, you will be given more than one portion. The forests of the hill country will be yours as well. Clear as much of the land as you wish, and take possession of its farthest corners. And you will drive out the Canaanites from the valleys, too, even though they are strong and have iron chariots.”*

When we are not trusting God and are not walking in obedience to God we can blame God and others for our situation.

- 4. Some Israelites did not act upon the promises God had given them and were slow in receiving their inheritance.**

18:1-3 *“Now that the land was under Israelite control, the entire community of Israel gathered at Shiloh and set up the Tabernacle. But there remained seven tribes who had not yet been allotted their grants of land. Then Joshua asked them, “How long are you going to wait before taking possession of the remaining land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given to you?”*

We need to finish the task that the Lord has given us in order to receive our reward.

19:49-51, *“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.... So they finished dividing the land. So the division of the land was completed.”*

Joshua 1:9, *“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*