

Journey Through the Bible (38)

DIVIDING THE LAND

Joshua 13-22

Conquering Canaan

- We are continuing the 7th of 17 time periods of Bible history – conquering and inheriting Canaan
- Israel has crossed the Jordan and arrived.
- In our last lesson we addressed the conquest of the land. We noted the three “campaigns”, central, southern and northern.
- Now that Israel has conquered the land, they need to occupy it.

Dividing the land

- **Joshua 13:1**
- He is advanced in years. YHWH tells him there is much land yet to be possessed. Specifically mentioned is land southwest (the Philistines & Geshurites and others – **13:2-7**)
- **13:8-33**, the territory of Reuben, Gad & ½ Manasseh east of the Jordan reviewed.

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- **Joshua 14:1-5**, the remaining 9 ½ tribes need to possess their land.
- **14:6-15** – Caleb receives his inheritance within Judah.
 - It has been 45 years since the original spies rejected God. With this we can determine the conquest took 5-7 years.
 - Caleb was 40 + ~38 years wandering + ~7 years of conquest = 85 years old.

Dividing the land

- **Joshua 15:1-12**, Judah is given a larger portion of land.
- **15:13-19** – Caleb occupies his inheritance. Othniel helps him and marries his daughter.
- **16:1-17:18** – Ephraim & Manasseh receive their inheritance.
 - 1) Daughters of Zelophehad (**Num. 27:1-11**)
 - 2) They wanted more land. Told to clear a forest and subdue Canaanites in the valley

Dividing the land

- **Joshua 18:1-19:48**, the remaining 7 tribes receive their inheritance by lot
- 3 men from each tribe surveyed the land and divided it into 7 plots. By lot it was given:
 - 1) Benjamin; 2) Simeon (within Judah – cf. Genesis 49:5-7); 3) Zebulun; 4) Issachar; 5) Asher; 6) Naphtali; 7) Dan.

See a map for the divisions

Dividing the land

- **Joshua 19:49-51**, Joshua receives his inheritance, according to the word of YHWH.
 - **20:1-9** – the cities to be given to the Levites. 6 cities of refuge.
 - West – Kadesh, Shechem & Kirjath Arba
 - East – Bezor, Ramoth & Golan of Bashan
 - Cities that one who accidentally killed another could flee to.
 - All within a days distance and clearly visible.
- NOTE **Deuteronomy 19:8-10** – further promise

Dividing the land

- **21:1-42** – the cities given to the Levites throughout the land. Included was their common lands – 1500 feet in each direction (**Num. 35:1-5**).
In total, there were 48 cities (including cities of refuge)
- ***21:43-45** – *not a word failed!*
Addresses a problem with premillennialism.

Dividing the land

- **Joshua 22**, the eastern tribes return to their land.
- **22:1-9** – Reuben, Gad & Manasseh (east) are permitted to return. They have performed their promise.
 - **22:5** -They are blessed and warned to remain faithful to YHWH.
- **22:7-9** they are told to share with those who did not go with them.
- **22:10-34** – they build an altar as a memorial (NOT to replace true worship). It almost starts a war, but the matter is resolved.

Lessons to apply

While God will give what He promised, you must do your part.

- Salvation is a free gift, but you must act. It is up to you to maintain your salvation
Titus 2:14, Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:12, work out your own salvation

Before we act, take a survey

- **Proverbs 21:5**, *The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*
- **Luke 14:28-31** – count the cost
- **Nehemiah 2:11-20** - Recall Nehemiah as he surveyed Jerusalem

Cities of Refuge

- God believes in true justice.
- Consider the meaning of each city name:
 - Kadesh – *holy or righteous*
 - Shechem – *shoulder (strength)*
 - Hebron – *ally oneself, fellowship*
 - Bezer – *fortress. Lit. to make inaccessible*
 - Ramoth – *heights, to be exalted*
 - Golan – *joy*

Cities of Refuge

- Consider each city in light of Christ Jesus. He is our salvation and refuge. **Hebrews 6:17-18**
- Kadesh – *righteous* – **2 Corinthians 5:21** – He makes us righteous
- Shechem – *shoulder* – **Luke 15:5, cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9**
- Hebron – *fellowship* – **1 John 1:7**
- Bezer – *fortress* – **Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5-6**
- Ramoth – *heights, exalted* – **Philippians 2:6-9**
- Golan – *joy* – **Philippians 4:4, Romans 5:11**

God keeps His word!

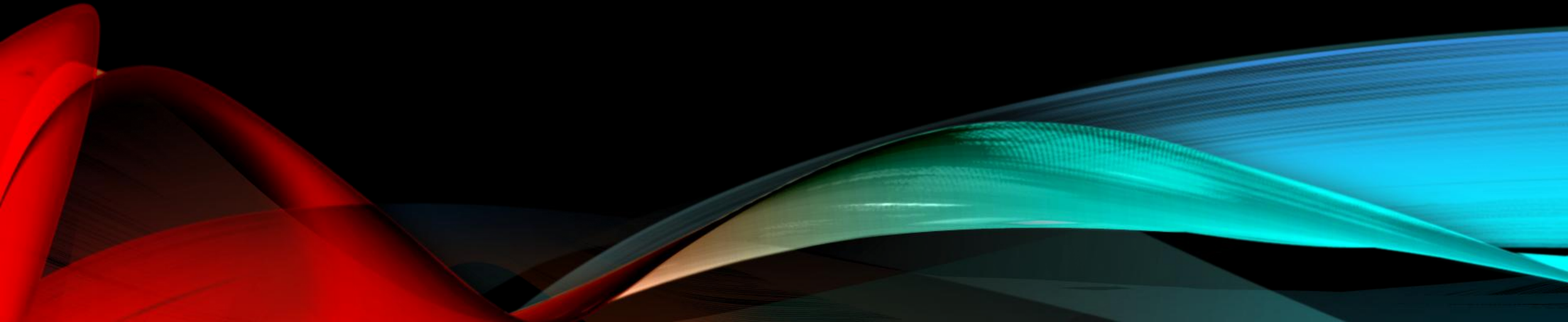
- **Joshua 21:43-45**
- A powerful passage that reminds us God can accomplish His will, and time is no obstacle (**cf. 2 Peter 3:8**)

Investigate before you act!

- **Joshua 22**
- Thankfully, Israel inquired of the eastern tribes before they took military action.
- If we have concerns about some situation, we need to get all the facts before we take actions that cannot be taken back.
Cf. James 1:19-20, Matthew 18:15, etc.

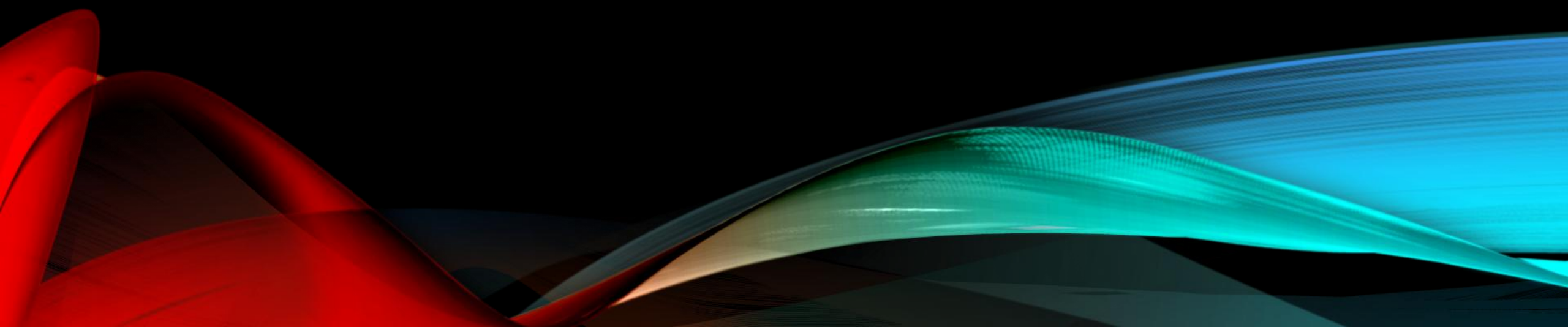
God gave Israel the land He
promised.

If He kept that promise, He can
keep His promises to us!



What are you doing to receive
your inheritance in heaven?

1 Peter 1:3-4



Let us pray!

