

# Chronological Bible Study


Week 9:

Settling in Canaan

Joshua 13:8-24:33

# Opening Prayer

[Video Link](#)



**Give thanks to the Lord,  
for he is good  
and his loyal love endures.**

1 Chronicles 16:34 NET Bible





## **Introductions**

What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

# Questions?

# Comments?

## **Summary of This Week's Readings**

- Settlement of East Jordan
- Settlement of West Jordan
- Settlement of Religious Community
- Conditions for Continued Settlement

# Discovering the Gospel in Joshua

[Video Link](#)





# Enemies of the Israelites West of the Jordan



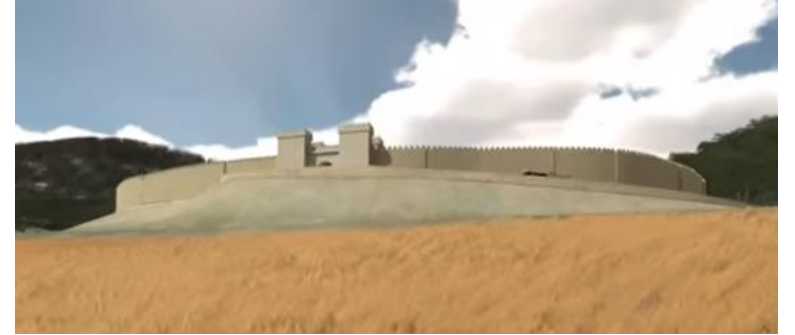
*Joshua events occur c1406-1390 BC*

- Canaanites seem to have migrated from northern Arabia (c3000 BC or later)
- Growth of cities in Canaan occurred 2900-2700 BC
  - Cities seem to have disappeared between 2300-2000 BC
- Amorites from Syria entered Canaan after 2000 BC and were likely responsible for renewed city building
- Scripture refers to several peoples living at Canaan at the time of the conquest (DT 7:1). These were all Canaanites.
  - Hittites
  - Girgashites
  - Amorites
  - Canaanites
  - Perizzites
  - Hivites
  - Jebusites

*No archeological evidence for all of the different groups. Maybe the groups were clans rather than different ethnic groups.*

# Canaanite Culture

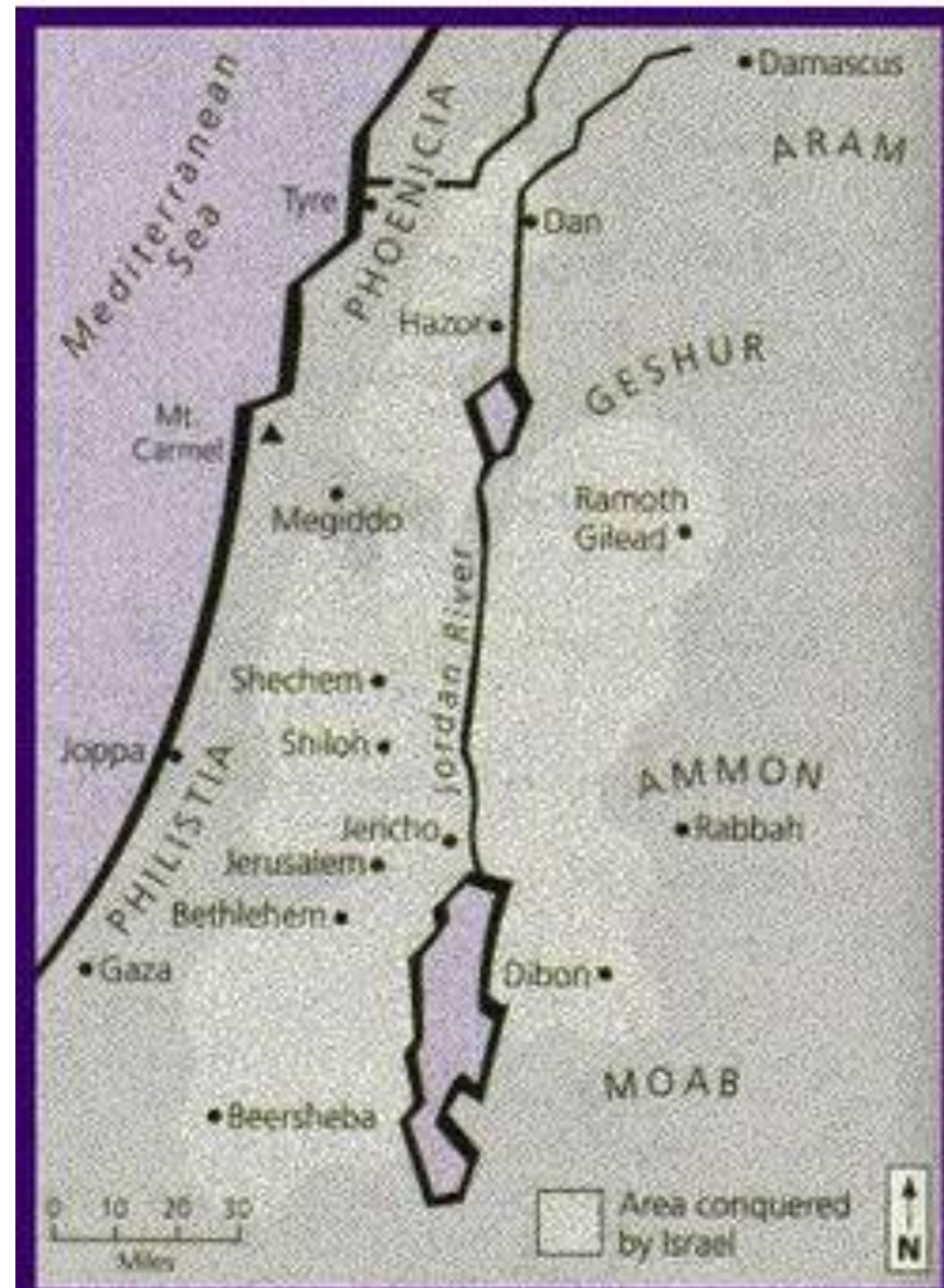
- Superiority in areas of:
  - Building
  - Art
  - Trade
  - Economics
- Strong established religion with temples and rites
- Flourishing cities with well built homes and civic structures
- Had a great deal of wealth and power
  - Made their gods look powerful



Recreated images of ancient Shechem

# Surrounded by Idol Worshippers

- With the conquest, the land became the “Land of Israel” not Canaan
- The Israelites did not defeat all the tribal city-states
- At the time of the conquest Israel controlled only the hills east and west of the Jordan.
- The Canaanites continued to hold the lowlands and Jerusalem.
- A lot of idol worship continued among the unconquered people
- These undefeated tribes will oppress the Israelites in the period of the Judges.





# DISCUSSION

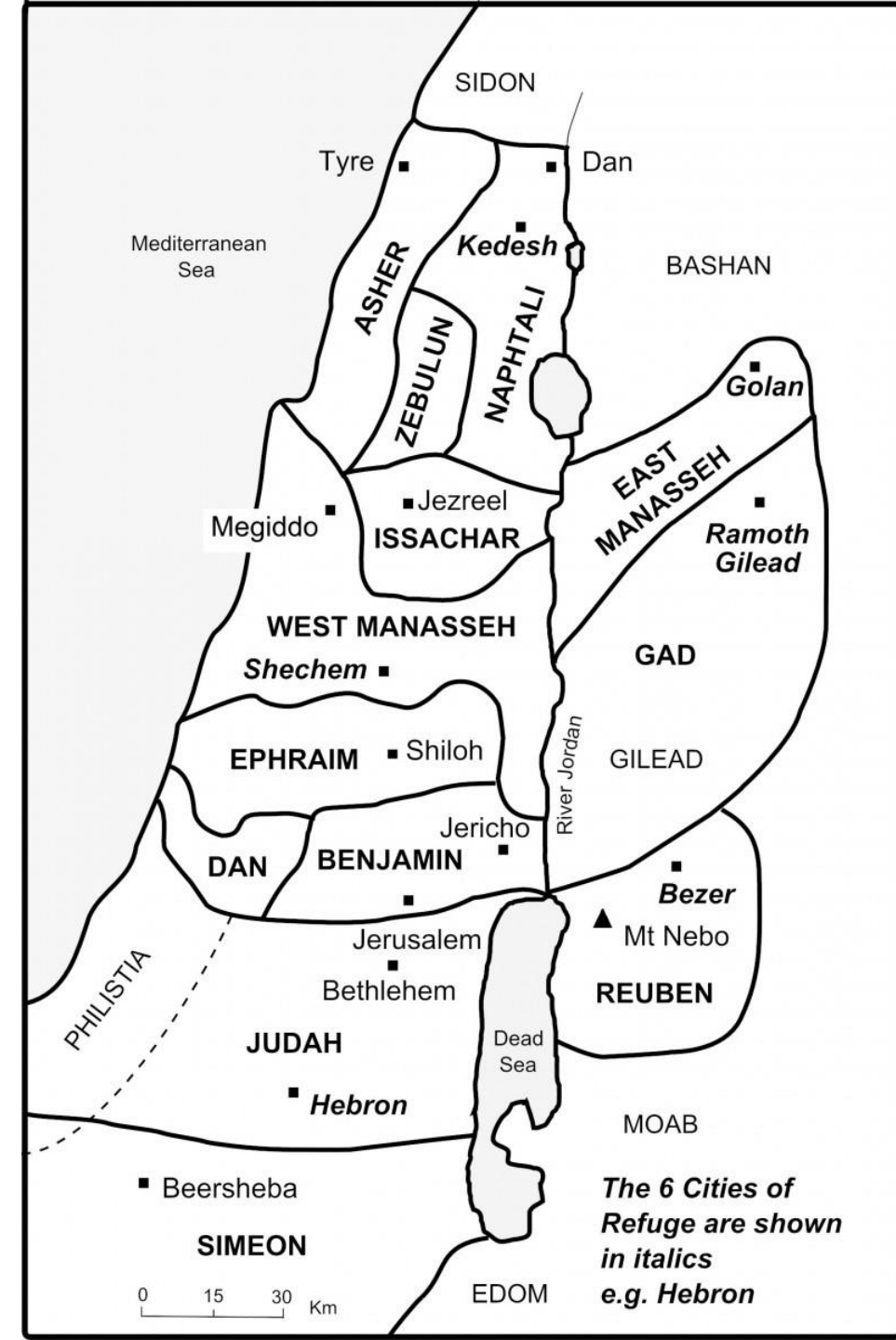
There is a cost to partial obedience to God. What are some ways our being surrounded by non-believers in our culture impact our relationship with God?

How are we called to deal with these issues differently than the Israelites were called to deal with the Canaanites?



# Division of the Land

- The Promised Land was divided between the 12 tribes of Israel (the sons of Jacob) by lot.
- Levi's portion of the land was given to the two sons of Joseph – Manasseh and Ephraim
- The Levites did not get a portion of land but were provided 48 cities throughout the land for use by the priestly tribe.
- Deuteronomy and Joshua both address “all of Israel.” Unity of the tribes important.
- The tribe of Judah was the first to receive its inheritance, with Caleb being among the first people to receive his land.
- The Transjordan tribes are the tribes on the east side of the Jordan river.
- The ark of the covenant and the tabernacle were set up at Shiloh



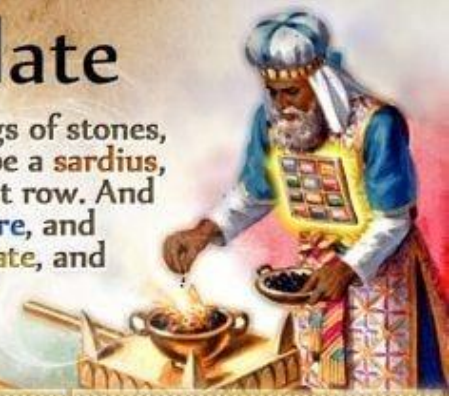


# Casting Lots

- A means of making an impartial decision
- Done before the Lord in Joshua, indicating a belief that God was involved in the decision
- The priests garments included the Ephod – a container for the stones believed to have been used to cast lots

## Ephod Breast Plate

Exodus 28:17 - And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.



1  Sardius Reuben	2  Topaz Simeon	3  Carbuncle Levi
4  Emerald Judah	5  Sapphire Issachar	6  Diamond Zebulun
7  Ligure Nephtali	8  Agate Gad	9  Amethyst Asher
10  Beryl Manassah	11  Onyx Ephram	12  Jasper Benjamin



# Descendents of the Tribes

- Levi: Aaron, Moses, Eli, Ezra, John the Baptist
- Judah: Caleb, David, Solomon, Isaiah (?), Jesus
- Dan: Samson
- Naphtali: Barak, Elijah (?)
- Asher: Anna, Joseph
- Ephraim and Manasseh: Joshua, Gideon, Samuel
- Benjamin: Saul, Esther, Saul of Tarsus (Paul)



# Government in the Period of the Conquest

- Government of Israel during the period of the conquest a *theocracy*
- Moses was leader until his death; God led the conquest of the Transjordan
- Moses approved the request of the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh to settle east of the Jordan on the condition that their fighting men would join the others in crossing the Jordan and conquering the land.
- God directed that Joshua would lead after the conquest. Joshua led as Moses led, following divine commands explicitly
- God commanded that all Israelites marry within their tribes to preserve their inheritances



# Worshipping Your Neighbor's Gods

- Israelites forbidden to worship the gods of the neighboring people in Deuteronomy (DT 6:14-15)
- Belief in the time in this region was that particular deities owned particular sections of land. When people moved from one area to another they were expected to worship the gods of their new area. They had to respect the local deity in order to be blessed by that deity.
- By worshipping the Baals and Ashtoreths of Canaan, the Israelites were following normal religious tradition of the day. Culture made it difficult to ignore the gods.
- In Hebrew Baal means Lord

***Those who had seen God work miraculously on their behalf in the Sinai, in crossing the Jordan, and in the conquest held firm to God. They had experienced too much of the power of God to turn against Him.***





# Hierarchical Order of Canaanite Gods



Baal



Asherah  
Canaanite Fertility  
Goddess



Anath



Reshef

## Highest Authorities

- El: Senior god of the Canaanite pantheon and creator of created things
- Asherah - Fertility Cult; Wife of El; Mother of all other Gods

**Powers of Nature:** Powers behind forces of nature, politics, and justice. Conflicting interests of these gods explained injustices

- Baal: Faith in the power of order over chaos. God of storms. Brought rain for crops. Defender of his people (pictured as young, fully armed warrior). Known as Hadad in Syria, Egypt and Mesopotamia.
- Anath: Daughter of El; Goddess of war; Baal's sister and/or spouse
- Reshef: God who destroyed men in mass by war or plague

**Craftsmen/Artisans to Higher Deities:** Experts in their crafts; Often mocked or argued with other Gods. Healing was considered a craft.

**Messenger Deities/Angels:** Slave labor of Canaanite heaven

# Canaanite Religious Practice

- Humans enlisted the Gods to supply daily food and propagation of the race
  - Imitative magic in rites and myths
  - Asked for blessings of crops, herds, children
  - Prostitution played a role in religious ceremonies. They considered it amoral.
- Offered whole burnt offerings of animals to the gods, as well as communion offerings in which they offered internal organs to the gods and divided rest as sacrificial meal to worshippers. Similar to Israel.
- Performed human sacrifice



Canaanite Sacrificial Altar

# Hebron



## Caleb

- The tribe of Judah was the first to receive its inheritance, with Caleb being among the first people to receive his land.
- Because of their faith when spying out the Canaanites 47 years earlier, Caleb and Joshua allowed them to enter the promised land and receive their inheritance.
- Caleb requested Hebron
- He also conquered the city of Debir.



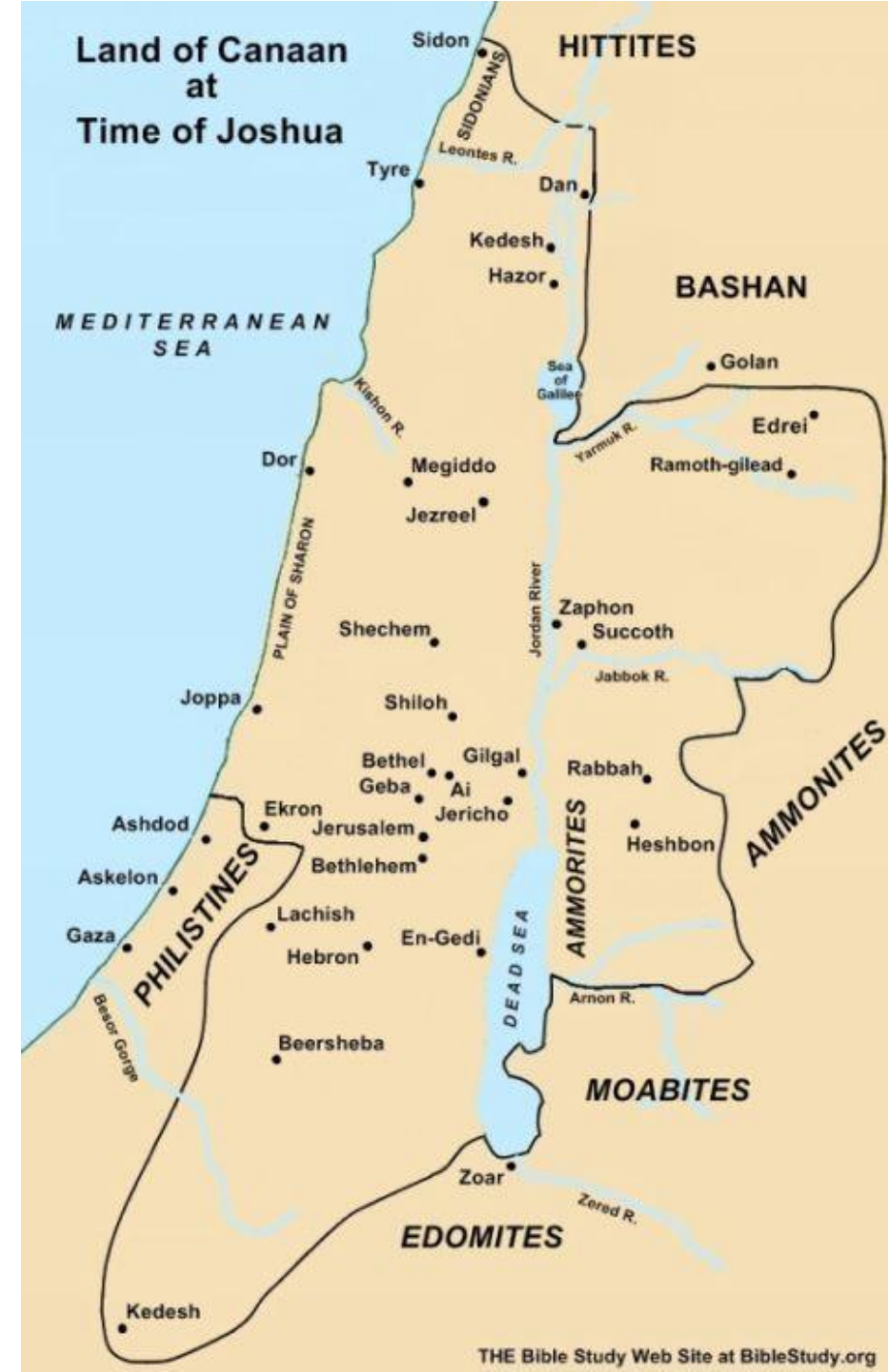
# Caleb and Judah

[Video Link](#)



# Levite Cities

- Levi's portion of the land was given to the two sons of Joseph – Manasseh and Ephraim
- The Levites did not get a portion of land but God provided 48 cities throughout the land for use by the priestly tribe.
- Located in previously Canaanite cities and border towns, the Levite cities would function as teaching centers where Levites would carry out priestly duties.



# Tribe of Levi and a Land Inheritance

[Video Link](#)





# Conflict With The Eastern Tribes

- After land distributed Joshua sent the Eastern tribes home to their allotted land.
- They were sent with blessing and much wealth (plunder).
- Misunderstanding and conflict arose when the Western tribes thought the Eastern tribes were engaged in idol worship.





# Joshua Meets With Israel's Leaders

- Joshua reminds the leaders of all God has done for them.
- God promised to fight for them and give them victory, but the Israelites needed to fight the fight – they could not ignore the Canaanite remnant.







## Joshua's Farewell Address

- He called all the people of Israel to Shechem for his farewell address.
- Joshua reminds Israel of its history with God and God's faithfulness.
- The people affirm their commitment to the Covenant.
- Joshua set up a monument to commemorate their commitment.
- Joshua dies and is buried in Ephraim.




# DISCUSSION

Joshua challenged the people to “choose whom they would serve.” What are the “loves” in our own life (favorite people, possessions, activities) that may eclipse our love for God?



# Joshua Dies

[Video Link](#)

A video frame showing a woman with long dark hair speaking. The video has a blue tint and a semi-transparent black box with white text overlaid on the center. The text reads: "GOD DID EVERYTHING TO SECURE A HOME FOR ISRAEL, EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD DISQUALIFY THEMSELVES FROM OCCUPYING IT. BUT JESUS SECURES EVEN MORE." The background shows a bookshelf with books and a plant.

**GOD DID EVERYTHING TO SECURE A HOME FOR ISRAEL,  
EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD DISQUALIFY THEMSELVES FROM  
OCCUPYING IT. BUT JESUS SECURES EVEN MORE.**

# DISCUSSION

What is relevant in this book for us living today?







**We will meet Nov 27**

Reading assignment: The Book of Judges

# Closing Hymn

[Video Link](#)



# Settling in Canaan

7– 20 NOV 2017

JOS 13:8 - 24

After the conquest of Canaan, the land was assigned to the descendants of the sons of Jacob. God’s faithfulness is evident as Israel takes possession of the land, fulfilling the ancient promises to Abraham. God is a promise keeper. In the final chapters of the book, Joshua gathers the people together for his farewell speeches. Knowing their inclination toward disobedience and idolatry, he challenges them to choose whom they will serve...an exhortation that is as fitting for us today as it was for the Israelites thousands of years ago. This book marks the end of an age for Israel; there is no commissioned leader for the nation – the age of judges begins.

## Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: JOS 13:8 – 15:63  
Day 2: JOS 16:1 – 17:18  
Day 3: JOS 18:1 – 19:51  
Day 4: JOS 20:1 – 20:9  
Day 5: JOS 21:1 – 21:45  
Day 6: JOS 22:1 – 22:34  
Day 7: JOS 23:1 – 24:33

## Outline

The Settlement West of the Jordan (Days 1-3)  
The Settlement of the Religious Community (Days 4-5)  
The Altar of Witness (Day 6)  
Joshua’s Farewell and Death (Day 7)

## Key Characters

Joshua  
Eleazar  
Caleb

## Key Locations

Canaan

## Key Terms

Allotment  
Inheritance  
Cities of Refuge

## Key Verses

“So Hebron has belonged to Caleb, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.” [JOS 14:14]

“So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them. None of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled,” [JOS 21:43-45]

“But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now.” [JOS 23:8]

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” [JOS 24:15]

EPOCH 3  
(1500 – 1200 BC)



## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jos14: Judah came to Joshua. Caleb said, "Moses promised me the mountain because I obeyed the LORD fully." So Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb.

Jos15: Judah's land bordered with Edom to the south. Caleb took Hebron, Othniel took Kiriath-sepher but Judah could not defeat Jerusalem.

Jos16: Joseph's land was from the Jordan to the sea. Ephraim's territory was within Manasseh's. Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites.

Jos17: There was a lot for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh and a lot for the rest of Manasseh. Manasseh did not drive out the Canaanites.

Jos18: Joshua sent surveyors from the remaining tribes and then divided the land. Benjamin's lot was from Kiriath-jearim to the Salt Sea.

Jos19: Simeon's lot was within Judah's. There were lots for Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan. The Israelites gave Joshua a city.

Jos20: The LORD said to Joshua, "Appoint the cities of refuge." So they set apart Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth and Golan.

Jos21: The Israelites gave cities and pasture lands to the Levites. So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had promised to their fathers.

Jos22: Reuben, Gad and Manasseh went back to their land and built an altar. They reassured Phinehas that they had not turned from the LORD.

Jos23: Joshua summoned Israel and said, "You have seen all that the LORD has done. Hold fast to the LORD or you will perish from the land."

Jos24: Joshua said to the people, "Choose this day whom you will serve," and they replied, "We will serve the LORD." Then Joshua died.

## Teachings About God

- God displays great love, provision, and kindness to His people.
- What looks like chance is the providential work of God.
- God offers rest and peace for His people.
- God demonstrates grace and mercy with His people.
- God is faithful to His covenant.
- God is a jealous God. Nominal, superficial faith is deadly to a holy god.

## Teachings About Humanity

- Mankind should respond to the love and grace of God by loving and serving God.
- Caleb is a model of how to follow God.
- God alone is the source of good in our lives.
- We must choose who we are going to serve – God or false gods. If you choose the world over God you may forego some blessings. Choose to accept your spiritual inheritance.
- We are to study and meditate on the word of God continually.

## Teachings About Salvation

- Redeemed people demonstrate their love and faith by their obedience.
- The new heaven and new earth are what God creates as an inheritance for redeemed humanity.

## Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- The land given to the Tribe of Judah is the region where Jesus is born and dies and where his ministry occurs.
- The land of Asher is where Jesus would cast a demon from the daughter of the Canaanite woman who asks Jesus for help.
- The land given to Naphtali is where Jesus performs many of his miracles.
- Jesus serves as our “city of refuge.”
- Joshua is called “servant of the Lord,” a humble and distinguished title also assigned to the Messianic figure in Isaiah.

## Literary Genres/Techniques

- Historical narrative

## Author/Date of Writing

- Joshua’s authorship is anonymous. Tradition holds that Joshua wrote it.
- Audience of Joshua was the Israelite nation.
- The division of the land occurred after at least 7 years of conquest after crossing the Jordan.

## WEEK 10 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### What did I learn about God?

- The Bible teaches that God is a being of love. Why do you think the Israelites thought God approved of the mass slaughter in Canaan?
- What is the relationship between God, Canaan and the Israelites? Why is it vital to the Israelites to live in Canaan?
- Joshua reminded Israel of God's faithfulness. After all they had been through, why were the Israelites given a choice about whom to serve (Joshua 24)? How was God faithful in His promises?

### What did I learn about human nature?

- What do Caleb's actions say about the kind of man he was in his prime of life (in these chapters of Joshua)? How was he different from the others Moses sent up with him to explore the land? Why aren't more followers of God like Caleb?
- Why did the Levites receive no land for an inheritance? Would they have felt slighted or doubly blessed by this assignment? [JOS 14:33, NU 18:20-24] Do you think the other tribes had any objections to cities from their territory being given to the Levites?
- In reviewing Joshua's farewell address (Joshua 23), how did Joshua feel about his people's future? What did he want to communicate to the next generation?
- What choice or challenge did Joshua put before the people in 24:14-15? What choice had Joshua himself made? What can we learn here about man's free will power of choice?.

### What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- If you were living in Jericho while the Israelites were marching around it, what would your reaction be?
- If you were Joshua addressing the people at Shechem, what would you have said and done? How would you remind people of their commitment to the Lord? What did Joshua do?
- In Joshua 24, Joshua challenged the people to "choose whom they would serve." What are the "loves" in our own life (favorite people, possessions, activities) that may eclipse our love for God?
- What one thing do you want people to remember about you when you die? What was Joshua remembered for?

### Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What modern principles of justice do you see in the establishment of cities of refuge? Were the placement of the cities significant?
- If Joshua took place in the present, how would the world react to his actions?