

Settling in Canaan

21– 27 NOV 2017

JOS 13:8 - 24

Week 10 - 40 Weeks to Go

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
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.” [JOS 21:43-44]

“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.

Surrounded by Idol Worshippers

The Israelites conquered most of Canaan but they lived to regret not finishing the job. They neglected to conquer many Canaanite city-states (each with its own king) that were scattered throughout the same land that was now divided up among the 12 tribes.

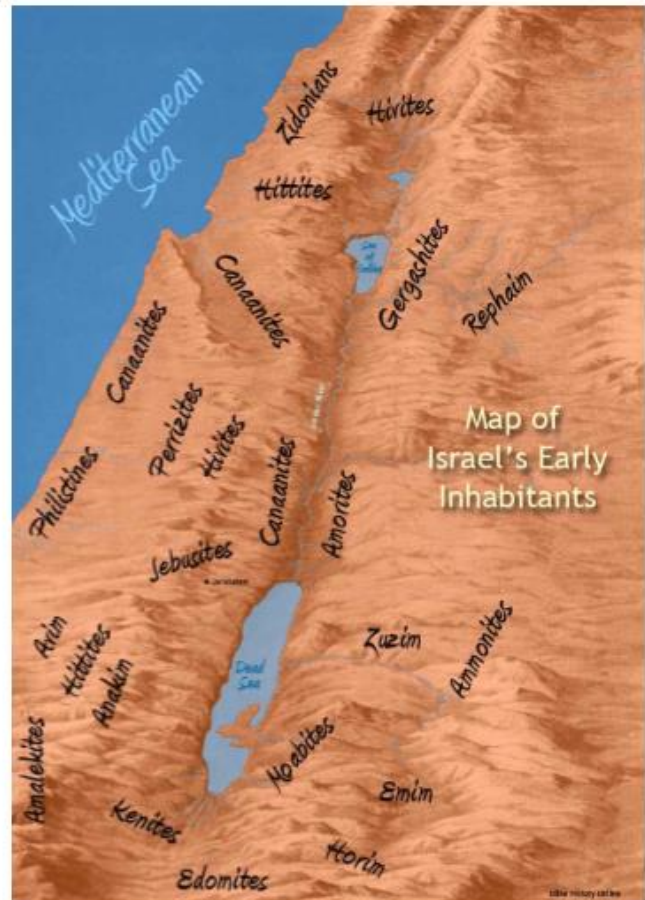
These unconquered, idol-worshipping Canaanites in their midst, openly worshipped their idols. This precipitated a HUGE amount of idol worship on the part of the Israelites who lived around them.

This was a time when the 12 scattered tribes of Israel were held together only by their common faith. Loyalty to God kept them a strong and united nation. Turning to idol worship made them a weak and divided nation.

The idol worshipping nations that surrounded the 12 tribes of Israel took turns oppressing the Israelites during the period of the Judges.

During most of the period of the Judges, the Tabernacle was in the city of Shiloh.

The Holy Land was now “The Land of Israel” instead of “Canaan”



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

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Week 10 - 40 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

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?