



## "REASONS TO REJOICE"

"Your Words were found and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

### KEEP CALM AND MARCH ON!

#### Marching through the Book of Joshua: Lesson 17

This week we will continue to examine the land divisions for the children of Israel within the Promised Land. As you read the next few chapters, ask the Holy Spirit to show you any new facts, personal application, or words of encouragement that He has for you. As always, God has much to say to us through His Word.

#### First Day

1. Read Joshua chapter 18. List any interesting facts that you find.
2. What would you consider the main theme, or point, of this chapter? Is there a key verse or phrase?
3. Gilgal had been Israel's base of operation until this point. According to 18:1, where was it now?
4. Read Deuteronomy 12:1-15. What was supposed to be done in Shiloh? Who chose this city?

Shiloh was about 10 miles northeast of Bethel and 30 miles north of Jerusalem. It was located between Bethel and Shechem, in the central hill country. Shiloh was in the land territory of the tribe of Ephraim. The name

"Shiloh" means "rest." How appropriate to set up the tabernacle of "rest" as they entered God's Promised "rest-land." Shiloh served as the religious center for the Hebrew people during the period of the judges before the kingdom was united under the leadership of David.

Some exciting things happened in Shiloh. It was here that Hannah prayed for her son. God answered her prayer and sent her Samuel. Samuel worked with Eli, the high priest, in Shiloh. Also, Shiloh is where Samuel heard the voice of the Lord in a unique way (1 Samuel 3:1-10).

The tabernacle was located in Shiloh during Samuel's early years as priest (1 Samuel 1:9; 4:3,4). The tabernacle was set up, sanctified, and dedicated at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 40:1-38). It was moved by the priests and the Levites (Numbers 4:1-49), camped at Gilgal (Joshua 5:10-11), and then set up at Shiloh. It became the Israelites' center of worship.

The Ark of the Covenant was the most sacred object in the tabernacle. It symbolized God's presence and His covenant with Israel. The army of Israel believed the ark would protect them in battle so they carried it into battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:4). It was captured because God had forsaken Shiloh as the center of worship (Psalm 78:60). The Philistines were eager to return it after they were hit with a series of plagues from God (1 Samuel 5 and 6). When it was returned it was placed in Kirjath Jearim instead of Shiloh (1 Chronicles 13:3-4). This caused Shiloh to lose its importance. In fact, in the day of Jeremiah, Shiloh was in ruin (Jeremiah 7:12-14). The Greeks and the Romans rebuilt it several centuries later.

5. What do you know about the tabernacle? What did it look like, etc.? Give Scriptures to support your answers.
  
6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does Paul mean when he says that our body is a "temple of the Holy Spirit"?
  
7. In what ways can we abuse "God's temple"? Do you abuse your temple?

The temple was the center of worship, a place where the Israelites met God. It was considered a "holy" place.

8. Is your body a "holy" place? Are you glorifying Him:
- a. In how you dress?
  - b. In what you say?
  - c. In what you eat?
  - d. In your relationships?
9. Are there any changes you need to make in the above areas?

Knowing that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit should motivate us to pursue holiness. He owns us because He bought us with the blood of His own son, Jesus Christ. This week, let's ask the Lord to show us ways that we can truly worship and glorify Him with our bodies. Let's **"Rejoice"** that we are not our own, but belong to the God of the universe. What a feeling of security that brings to our hearts!

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." **1 Corinthians 6:20**

### Second Day

**Review your memory verse. How do we glorify God in our spirit?**

1. Let's continue reading Joshua chapter 18 again, shall we?

Moses had told Israel that the day would come (Deuteronomy 12:1-15) when God would choose a place in the land where He was to be worshipped; a place where sacrifices were to be offered and sacrificial meals were to be enjoyed. Now that they were in the Promised Land, they could:

1. Worship faithfully (Deut. 12:2-5; Turn away from the many Canaanite holy spots to this one worship center.)

2. Worship joyfully (Deut. 12:12; They could rejoice before the Lord their God.)
3. Worship securely (Deut. 12:10; God would give them rest from their enemies.)

**As a believer you are also called to worship faithfully, joyfully, and securely.**

2. **What does it mean to "worship faithfully"?** Are you? Have you turned away from other idols? Have you made God first in your life? Is there anything in your life that is drawing you away from God?
3. What does 1 Chronicles 16:29 tell us about worship?
4. **What does it mean to "worship joyfully"?** Are you doing that?
5. What do these verses tell us we can rejoice in? Psalm 35:9, 63:6-8, and Philippians 2:16.
6. **What does it mean to "worship securely"?** How is Habakkuk 3:16-19 a picture of this?
7. Read Mary's prayer in Luke 1:45-55. What can we tell about her worship? Was she joyful, faithful, and secure? How do we know?
8. Read Joshua 18:2-10. Had everyone already claimed their land?
9. What attitude did the seven tribes seem to have?

10. What are some reasons they may have had this attitude?

Now was the time for Israel to **"press on to possess."** The land was "subdued" before them (vs 1). The strong Canaanite front had been broken and it was now the time to move ahead and make the most of this opportunity.

H. L. Ellison said, "They were unwilling to settle down. It was fine to have a "promised land," but the reality showed the need for learning new skills and engaging in hard work."

The Expositor's Bible makes a similar statement: "Many of them would have been content to jog on carelessly as they had been doing in the desert, in a sort of confused jumble, and to forage about, here and there, as the case may be, in pursuit of the necessities of life. Their listlessness was provoking. They knew that the divine plan was quite different; that each tribe was to have a territory of its own, and that measures ought to be taken at once to settle the boundaries of each tribe. But they were taking no steps for this purpose; they were content with social hugger-mugger."

11. Are you like these seven tribes in any way? Ask God to show you if there are any areas in your life that you aren't taking responsibility as you know you should. Are you **"dragging your feet"**?

We'll end here for today. Let's spend some time this week worshipping the Lord faithfully, joyfully, and securely. We need to put Him first, rejoice in our salvation, and rest in His everlasting arms. What are your **"Reasons to Rejoice"** this week? I'm rejoicing because He is so worthy to be praised. And remember... **"Press on to possess!"**

### Third Day

**What's your memory verse?**

1. Read Joshua 18:1-10. Briefly describe the new method that was used to set up these tribal boundaries.

2. According to verses 6, 8, and 10, in whose authority were the divisions made?

3. Read Joshua 18:11-28. Do any of these cities sound familiar?

Benjamin received the hill country south of Ephraim and north of Judah (18:11), a section 26 miles long east to west, and 12 miles wide north to south. The description of Benjamin's inheritance is about twice as long as that of any of the remaining six tribes.

4. What do you remember about Benjamin? Read Genesis 35:16-20. Who was his mother? What happened to her? Where was Benjamin born? What did his mother name him?

5. What else do you know about Benjamin and the tribe of Benjamin?

Not only was Benjamin Jacob's youngest son, but his favorite son as well (Genesis 42:4, 43:1-14). His brother Joseph also loved him very much (Genesis 43:29-34).

6. What prominent people were from the tribe of Benjamin?

- a. 1 Samuel 9:1-2
- b. Esther 2:5
- c. Philippians 3:5
- d. Judges 3:15

According to Joshua 18:28, Jerusalem was included in the territory of Benjamin, but the Jebusites had possession of it until David's time (2 Samuel 5:6).

7. Read Joshua 19:1-9. Whose boundaries do we read about next?

8. What black mark was against the tribe of Simeon? Read Genesis 34:1-31.

9. Who were Simeon's sons? Read Genesis 46:10.

Remember that Simeon was to receive only cities within the territory assigned to Judah because they shamed their family in Genesis 34. This tribe would eventually be absorbed and disappear (Genesis 49:7).

We don't hear Judah complaining because they had to share their land. What a difference from the tribe of Joseph, who complained because they didn't get enough. (Joshua 17:14) How often we complain about not having enough instead of sharing the blessings that God has given us.

10. What do 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and Hebrews 13:16 tell us about sharing?

11. What are some practical ways that we, as believers, can share with others? Can you give Scriptures to support your answers?

12. Do you consider yourself a generous person? Are you willing to share with others? Do you only share when you have an abundance or are you willing to share even in your lack?

Take some time to reflect on what it means to be generous. Sharing is something we are taught to do as children, and it's a concept that we are never supposed to let go of. Why is it so difficult to share at times? God has given us so many things, why not share them with our friends and neighbors? He has given us so many "**Reasons to Rejoice.**" Let's ask God to use us to bless others, shall we?

#### Fourth Day

Review your memory verse. How is God using this verse to speak to you?

1. Read Joshua 19:1-9 again.

2. We read about a city called Beersheba last week. God appeared to many people in this city. Read the following verses. Who did God appear to, and for what reason?

a. *Genesis 21:14, 17-19*

b. *Genesis 26:19-24*

c. *Genesis 46:1-5*

d. *1 Kings 19:1-7*

**This city was assigned to Judah in Joshua 15:20, 28,  
and later assigned to Simeon.**

3. Read Joshua 19:10-16. What tribe do we meet in these verses?

4. Choose one city in this territory to learn about. Look it up in your Concordance or Bible Dictionary and briefly describe what happened there.

5. Read Judges 6:34-35. Who did the tribe of Zebulun help out?

6. Who else did they help? Read 1 Chronicles 12:23-40.

7. Read Joshua 19:17-23.

Issachar was Jacob's fifth son. He assisted Deborah in the battle against the Canaanites (Judges 5:15). This tribe was also included in the mighty men of Hebron who came to help David (1 Chronicles 12:23-40).

8. Read another land division in Joshua 19:24-31 and answer the following questions:

a. What blessing did Asher receive from Moses? *Deuteronomy 33:24-25*

b. What blessing did he receive from Jacob? *Genesis 49:20*

- c. How many children did Asher have? Genesis 46:17
- d. How did the Asherites fail? Judges 1:31-32
- e. Who was from the tribe of Asher? Luke 2:36-38

9. Briefly describe what we know about Anna. How was she serving God? What was she thankful for?

Anna is a great example of a servant of the Lord. You'll notice that her service is not one of works, but of worship. So often we forget that we are serving God when we pray and fast. We think we have to be a Martha. We ought to take the example of Anna to heart, knowing that we first serve our God before we serve others.

10. Do you spend much time praying and fasting? Do you think of service as what you "do for others," rather than spending time with God? We can't serve others until we first spend time worshipping the Lord. What changes do you need to make so that you might be more like Anna?

That's it for today. I know that the land divisions are not the most exciting thing to study, but it's important for us to understand who goes where! Make sure you're following along on a map as we look at each tribe. I pray that you're picking up some valuable nuggets on the way.

### Fifth Day

**Write out your verse from memory. Did God show you any areas in your temple that need to be cleaned out?**

1. Let's finish up reading Joshua chapter 19:32-51.

2. Who was Naphtali's mother? Read *Genesis 30:1,8*
3. Did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants from their land? Read *Judges 1:33*.
4. Read the story of Deborah in *Judges* chapter 4. Who became famous from the tribe of Naphtali? Can you briefly describe what happened? What can we learn from Deborah?
5. What were Naphtali and Zebulun praised for in *Judges 5:18*?
6. Read *Joshua 19:40-48*. Who did the tribe of Dan fight against?
7. What did Dan become the center of later on? Read *Judges 18:1-31* and *1 Kings 12:25-30*.

In *Deuteronomy 29:18-21*, Moses says that any tribe that falls into the sin of idolatry will be separated from the other tribes. In *Revelation 7*, we find no trace of the tribe of Dan. They are reinstated as a tribe in *Ezekiel 48:1-2, 32*. God had an unconditional covenant with Israel, which He promised to uphold. God chastised the tribe because of their sin, so they will not be protected during the tribulation time. But because God's promise holds true, they will be granted their inheritance of land in the millennium. The tribe of Ephraim is also not named in *Revelation 7* because of their sin of idolatry in *Hosea 4:17*. They are also reinstated in the millennium (*Ezekiel 48:6*).

8. Now let's read *Joshua 19:49-51*. What land did Joshua ask for?

Caleb's portion began our record of allotments (*14:6*), and we end with Joshua's. "Timnath Serah," also called "**portion of the sun**," was in the southwest corner of Joshua's tribe of Ephraim, facing the sea. What an interesting name for the land which Joshua desired.

While so many of the tribes had complaints about their land, Joshua and Caleb were excited about their inheritance. This reminds us again of Numbers 13-14 where they were the only two spies who were willing to stand on the sure promises of God. They were both testimonies of God's faithfulness.

An eastern general usually took his share of the spoils first, but not our Joshua. Like the humble leader that he was, Joshua waited to take his inheritance last. This is another great example of a true, great, servant of God. Caleb and Joshua both received their "**portion of the sun.**" They both "wholly followed the Lord" and God rewarded them for it.

9. Does your attitude resemble that of Joshua and Caleb, the seven tribes who were dragging their feet, or the tribe of Joseph who complained about not having enough? Is your life a testimony of God's faithfulness, or an example of a disgruntled Christian? Spend some time with the Lord, asking Him to point out some specific areas in your heart that need to be changed.
  
10. Read Lamentations 3:23. Write a short poem or a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, blessing Him for His great faithfulness.
  
11. Have you "**pressed on to possess**" your portion "**in the Son**"? Have you been diligent this week to stand on all the promises of God and move forward in obedience?
  
12. What specifically spoke to your heart this week?
  
13. What did you learn about God this week?

14. Are there any changes you need to make as a result?

I pray that this week you will **"press on to possess."** I pray that we will be as diligent as Joshua and Caleb, who pressed on to the end. I pray that our attitude will be **"I will do it!"** rather than **"I can't!"** or **"I won't!"**

*Great is His faithfulness.*

**What a "Reason to Rejoice."**