

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

The Promised Inheritance Joshua 13 and 14

"So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.'" Joshua 14:9

Read Joshua 13.

1. We just saw how in the previous chapters Israel conquered the major strongholds both east and west of the Jordan. What remains to be done? (13:1)

2. Who is continuing to lead them in battle (hint: it's not Joshua) (13:6; 10:42)

3. The Lord tells Joshua to "allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you" (v. 6). When did God instruct Israel on his plan for the allotment of the territories of the Promised Land? (Num. 34:13-15)

4. This chapter and those that follow contain lists of place names that are unfamiliar to us. What would these detailed lists have meant to the Israelites, given that these lands were their inheritance? (See box)

5. What term does the writer of Joshua use repeatedly for the land God is giving the Israelites? (13:6, 7, 8, 14, etc.)

6. Who ordinarily received an inheritance in ancient Israel? (Deut. 21:17)

What does this imply about Israel? (Ex. 4:22; Hos. 11:1)

7. Israel proves to be an unfaithful son. Who is God's faithful Son and true heir? (Matt. 2:14-15, 3:16-17)

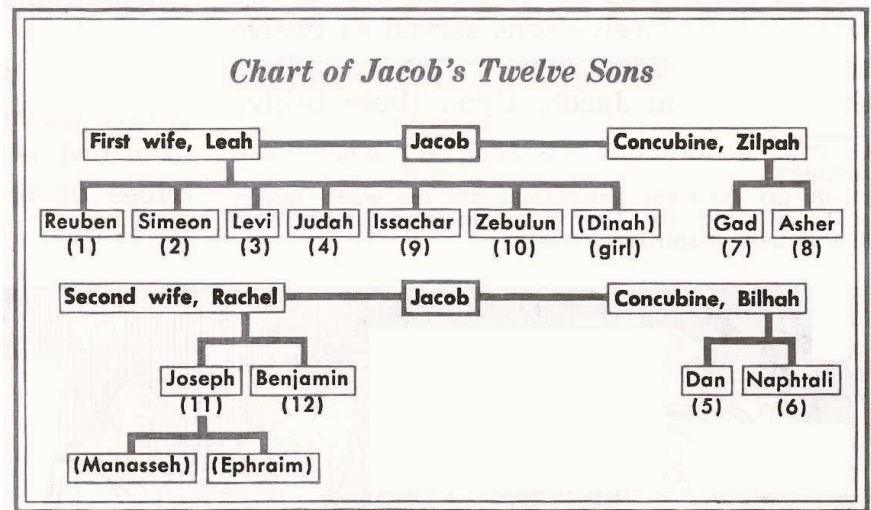
8. Paul writes, "God sent his Son to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons, and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir." (Gal. 4:4, 5, 7b). What is our inheritance as children of God?
 - a. In Rom. 8:15-17

 - b. In Rev. 21:1-4, 7 (📖 Ps. 37:1; Matt. 5:5)

In ancient Israel, the firstborn's double portion was calculated in an interesting way: if a father had three sons, his inheritance would be divided into four parts (not three), with the firstborn receiving two parts and the other sons receiving one part each.¹

Read Joshua 14:1-5.

The land is to be divided by tribes, but not strictly as one allotment for each of Jacob's twelve sons. Here is Jacob's family tree, including Joseph's sons. Use Gen. 35:22b-26 to help you fill in the names of the sons. (Josh. 14:4a)



9. The Levites do not receive an allotment of land (13:14, 33).
 - a. Why is this so? (Num. 8:14-16)
 - b. What do they receive instead? (Num. 18:24)
 - c. Since they receive no allotment of land, where are they to live? (14:4)
10. The casting of lots is not a mere throw of the dice. What does the use of the lots to divide the land mean? (Prov. 16:33; Ps. 47:4; Ps. 16:5-6)
11. Are our lives governed by chance? (Matt. 10:29-31) How does this reassure you?

Read Joshua 14:6-14.

12. What is Caleb asking Joshua for? What is the basis for his claim? (14:9, 12)
13. Why was Caleb promised this special inheritance? (14:7, 8, 14) (📖 Num. 13, 14; Deut. 1:35-36)
14. Look back at 13:6-7. In verse 6 God renews his promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land that remains to be conquered. In verse 7 he commands Joshua to divide this unconquered land among the Israelites. What does this command imply about God's character? (Num. 23:19)
15. How long has Caleb waited to be able to claim his promised inheritance? (14:10)
 - a. What does this show us about Caleb's faith?
 - b. How do these promises encourage you to be faithful as you wait on the Lord to keep His promises?

This study was adapted from a previous study on Joshua, New Life Women's Bible Study, 2000-2001.

📖 Denotes 'for further study'.

¹Boice, JM; Commentary on Joshua; FH Revell, c1989