

# Receive Your Inheritance

## The Israelites divide the promised land

### *Invitation to Promise Series – Part 8*

Joshua 13-19  
December 6-7, 2025

#### Introduction

- What God Planned for Us
  - Eph 1:3–14 – “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us,... <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance... <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”*
  - Inheritance – Biblically speaking an inheritance = 1.) something given to you from someone else after they die; 2.) something given to you by another person – like a gift. A PROMISED BLESSING
    - Gift (Promised Land) – the promise to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob of the Promised Land (Canaan). They didn’t earn it. It was a present from God. They had to fight for it with God’s help, but the legal right to it was given by God as a gift.
    - Believer’s inheritance (flowing blessing) – spiritual blessings = blessing or benefit from being close to God. It’s the outcome, ramifications of God’s presence in their life
      - What Jesus provided to Believers – the main concept in the New Testament is that because of what Jesus Christ did by coming and dying for our sins, we are ‘inheriting’, given, blessed with, a new reality where the options and quality of our life changes. Some of our blessings/inheritances are:
        - Salvation – SAVED from wrath and the consequences of sin (eternal death).
        - Forgiveness, Cleansing & Grace – Cross = This canceled the law that was condemning us because it was fulfilled by His sacrifice. Simultaneously, He cleansed us from sin, which allowed us to be in perfected state of spirit and thereby we are living in a relational grace-filled existence with Him. We are no longer under the condemnation of sin (Rom 8:1) even though we are still walking as broken people in a broken world.

- God as Father – Jesus Christ is the **Son of God** and what He has done for us in transforming us, saving us, was to **make us fellow sons and daughters of God**, and thus **sharing in the INHERITANCE** of what He experiences. Jesus was the true Heir as firstborn Son but due to His sweet grace we get to join him through faith and are counted as 'joint heirs' of all of it.
- Why call it inheritance (future) and not blessing (present)? – **some of our blessings of being a child of God are NOW and more are TO COME. = inheritance.**
- Blessings Now and even more to Come! – **Are you partaking of your inheritance? (million dollars in your bank account = let Him fill our account or accessing those funds).** But regardless of who you are, this much is true...

There's an **INHERITANCE** with your **NAME** on it.

- Fighting for the Life God Intends – **the heart of this message is that we fight for the life and blessings that God intends for us.** Instead of remaining compromised or content with partial bondage, or partial blessing, or less than, there's a challenge to rise up and go for all that God has. Let me give you some examples:
  - Fight for freedom – **freedom from addictions to all the things around us holding us down** and demanding that we bow to them. It's **more than just substances:** money, escapism, craving validation, fear, spiritual warfare oppressing us, etc.
  - Fight for closeness to God – **many of us long for a life closer to God and closer to His blessings but can't seem to find it.** The Bible says draw near to me and I will draw near to you = **press in (persistent widow).** to **battle our flesh and the distractions around us if we really want to hear God.** The closer we are the more life makes sense.
  - Fight for healthy relationships – **Marriage, family, significant others** – Relationships are a lot of work and they are prone to break, **that's why we need to learn how to repair and DO THE WORK of repairing.** We need: counseling; tough conversations; say sorry; extend grace; try again; healthy boundaries.
- Last Week – **Pastor Judah** = **brutal battles** that Israel had trying to conquer the promised land.
  - The Day the Sun Stood Still – 5 kings
  - Pastor Judah reminded and taught us that:
    - **Sometimes before God gives you the territory he gives you more tools to take it properly.**
    - **Invite God into all our battles.**
    - **Only obedience wins battles.**
    - **Finish the job.**

- By the time Joshua was done – As a whole Canaan was dominated, BUT, there were still pockets
- We are approximately 5 years into the Promised Land Campaign mission .
- Who Goes Where – Now that Israel has the majority of the land in their hands they could map out where all the tribes should settle down. Moses settled 2 ½ tribes (Manasseh, Gad and Reuben). So, we had 9 ½ tribes to settle on the West
  - Chapters 13-19 – 7 chapters of the division of the land. Boring?
  - 12 Tribes of Israel: Why? - 12 sons of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel.
    - 12 Tribe Shuffle – Levi wasn't given a territory and Joseph was given two for his sons (Ephraim & Manasseh).

### Lesson

- So Close, Yet Still So Far
  - Joshua 13:1-7 – *“Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess. <sup>2</sup>This is the land that yet remains:...I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. [Now] allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. <sup>2</sup>Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.”*
    - God called Joshua old - roughly 85 (heck he lived until 110 – so he had a good 25 years left but not sure he wanted to fight into his hundreds) = some things need to be locked down before he dies = promised land design.
    - and there remains yet very much land to possess. – there's a ton of territory to conquer still.
    - I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. – This is God's reaffirming promise that He is the one that is going to drive out the Canaanite people, because it's both His judgment on those people groups (thus the devoting everyone to destruction) as well as His gift given to the Hebrews in alignment with promises to the patriarchs. This promise is always in concert with their effort and obedience.
      - Application - Any battle of freedom is a battle WITH the Lord not against Him. He wants us healthy more than we do.
- Old News
  - Chapter 13 [PARAPHRASE] – Moses got 2 ½ settled.
    - Reuben – firstborn but never honored due to incest
    - Gad
    - Manasseh – Joseph's first boy (double portion) – massive tribe.
    - The Tribe of Levi's Allotment – We need to talk about the tribe of Levi because it's a bit complicated.
      - Levites come from Jacob's son Levi – 3<sup>rd</sup> born son (of Leah) to Jacob. He was tough.
      - Levites are God's firstborn offering
      - Priests are Aaron's line only

- No tribal land - **scattered** around throughout the whole nation **as a type of salt and light concept**. = **every tribe needed a spiritual presence in it**  
They got cities and pasturelands.
- God, a holy role & front row to miracles are their inheritance = **better than physical territory**
- Tough as Nails
  - Joshua 14:6-15 – “Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. <sup>2</sup>I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. <sup>8</sup> But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the Lord my God. <sup>9</sup> And Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’ <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. <sup>11</sup>I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. <sup>12</sup>So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.” <sup>13</sup> Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. <sup>14</sup> Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>15</sup> Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.”
    - 12 spies story
    - eighty-five years old. – **45 years since the spying incident (he was 40).**
    - I am still as strong today as I was then (for war & life) – **This is one of my favorite lines of the book of Joshua: Caleb is ready to GO! He is tough. He’s been fighting for the last 5 years in taking the country.**
    - Give me the hill country with Anakim in it and great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.” – **If you are the biggest and best you take the best. Caleb wanted the best and was willing to fight the best for it. What a guy!**
      - **Who are the Anakim** – Anak and his people were famous for being ‘giants’. Nephilim of Genesis 6. Philistine giants.
    - Caleb got it – **Caleb asked for it and he got it.**
      - Application – there are some of us in this church that are beyond ‘taking land age’ in our minds or the minds of others. I disagree. **Age is a state of**

mind. God is calling some of us older saints to dig down and take more territory. Is that you?

- Whistling Dixie
  - Chapter 15 – [Partial PARAPHRASE]
    - The Allotment for Judah: 4<sup>th</sup> born son of Jacob (via Leah) and in time became pre-eminent among all the tribes. David & Jesus tribe.
    - Judah's Territory - southernmost tribe and ran all the territory south of Jerusalem to the bottom of the Promised Land. Big = 112 cities.
    - The Problem of the Jebusites – Jerusalem = problem on/off for the next 700-800 years til David.
  - Joshua 15:13-19 – *“According to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).<sup>14</sup> And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the descendants of Anak.<sup>15</sup> And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir. Now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher.<sup>16</sup> And Caleb said, “Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter as wife.”<sup>17</sup> And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.<sup>18</sup> When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she got off her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you want?”<sup>19</sup> She said to him, “Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water.” And he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.”*
    - Caleb Takes Hebron - more giant fights
    - Othniel Takes Debir for a Wife - a reward deal for his daughter Achsah - Caleb's brother Othniel (her uncle) captured it.
    - Caleb's Daughter Gets Inheritance – Achsah was no frail flower. She was very similar to her dad it seems: tough as nails. She was not content with getting inheritance that was terrible. Lots of desert area needs springs of water as well (perhaps slightly outside her normal area of Debir) and he gave them to her.
      - Application – did you get all the right things? Good enough is not good enough. All that is necessary is what we are shooting for. Think through the quality of your life. Are we getting All that God has for us? In all areas? Are we being smart about it?
- Joseph's Team
  - Chapters 16 & 17 – [Partial PARAPHRASE]
    - Joseph's Allotment - Joseph was the favorite son (11<sup>th</sup> son, first by the favored wife Rachel). 2 Tribes for Joseph
    - Joshua 17:3-4 – *“Now Zelophehad the son of Hepher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters...<sup>4</sup> They approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the leaders*

*and said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our brothers." So according to the mouth of the LORD he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father."*

- Zelophehad's Daughters - Noah, Hoglah...– The rule was that if there were no sons, land could transfer to daughters and if no daughters it could transfer to his brothers so it stays in the family. Considering they come from a line of warriors I picture them like the girl in How to Train Your Dragon (Astrid). These same five ladies approached Moses himself with this dilemma before the fighting commenced to secure their right for inheritance. Moses brought it to GOD who affirmed them.
- Joshua Pushes a Challenge at Ephraim & Manasseh - Power play. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (brother tribes) were frustrated with their land allotment, specifically Ephraim who wanted a better location, an easier area to conquer. Joshua isn't having it. Joshua still demanded that they fight for what they were allotted and not get out because it's tough.
  - Application – just because it's difficult doesn't mean it's not worth doing. Some of the best things in life have to be worked hard for. Too often we are lazy in taking our blessings of God. Too often we whine and complain more than we pray and fight for it.
- Seven to Go
  - Joshua 18:1-10 – *"Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them. <sup>2</sup> There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned. <sup>3</sup> So Joshua said to the people of Israel, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you..."*
    - Shiloh's Tent of Meeting – holy site in the middle (located in Ephraim). Centrally located and protected in the interior so that all of Israel could access it. The tent of meeting is the mobile temple structure.
    - How long will you put it off? – Joshua is frustrated that they still had work to do after 5 years.
      - Application – Watch out for the "it's good enough, I'll do it later" attitude. This is OUR CHARGE today. How long will we not take advantage of the power that God has put within us to take the territory in our own lives for Him? How long will we put it off getting full freedom and the blessings that God intended for us?
    - The New Mapping System There were seven tribes left without detailed allotments.
      - 6 more tribes get their allotment, covering a lot of the North.
  - Oh Danny Boy, Really?
    - Joshua 19:40-51 (thru 19:51) – *"The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans. <sup>41</sup> And the territory of its inheritance*

*included....<sup>47</sup> When the territory of the people of Dan was lost to them, the people of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and after capturing it and striking it with the sword they took possession of it and settled in it, calling Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor.*"

- Dan's Allotment & Failure - They went to easy route and settled but it wasn't what God intended. They forged their own way and notice what happened to them in time (Jeroboam's golden cow & idolatry legacy).
- Application – too often we resent having to work for freedom and we come up with a different, easier way of doing life. It's not God's way but it works for us for a time. Danger = it won't stay good.

### Conclusion

- Judges period of Failure – We learn here that most tribes failed to finish the job and that's confirmed in Judges - It explains that the failures of the past led to the bondage of the present and future.
- What are we doing with our inheritance? – Are we willing to fight for it? Are we leaving too much territory untaken? Is 'good enough' winning the day in our mind?