

***Into the Promise: A Journey Through Joshua***  
**Lesson Eight: “They...possessed it and settled in it”**  
**Joshua 18-21**

**I. The Lord Strategically Placed and Settled His People (Joshua 18-19)**

The prophecy of Jacob – Genesis 49

“Simeon and Levi are brothers;  
Their swords are implements of violence.  
Let my soul not enter into their council;  
Let not my glory be united with their assembly;  
Because in their anger they slew men,  
And in their self-will they lamed oxen.  
Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;  
And their wrath, for it is cruel.  
I will disperse them in Jacob,  
And scatter them in Israel” (Genesis 49:5-7).

Jacob’s prophecy was fulfilled when the tribes took their allotments in the Promised Land. Simeon was “in the midst of Judah” (Joshua 19:1).

Francis Shaeffer has this insight:

It stood as Jacob had given it concerning Simeon, but it shifted in the case of Levi. In the midst of the orgies around the golden calf, Moses gave a call: Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will speak for God? Who will act for God against a rebellious people? Then “all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him” (Exodus 32:26) and went forward to end this revolt. Therefore, though the scattering stood, it was turned into a blessing. The Levites, along with the descendants of Aaron (who were of the tribe of Levi), were given a special closeness to the altar and to the Jewish worship. <sup>1</sup>

The tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh were given their land on the east side of the Jordan River. The Tribe of Judah was given their allotment first. The land was divided by lot which means the Lord chose who would settle where in the land.

**II. The Lord is Our Rest – Shiloh**

Shiloh became the resting place for the Tabernacle. It would be the center of Jewish worship until under King David, the tabernacle was moved to Jerusalem.

How do you define God’s rest?

“For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:8-11).

Thomas Chalmers writes, “The love of God and the love of the world, are two affections, not merely in a state of rivalry, but in a state of enmity – and that so irreconcilable, that they cannot dwell together in the same bosom.” <sup>2</sup>

We will ultimately only find rest in Christ. When we stop living for lesser things, we will find true rest in Him.

When my love for Christ surpasses my love for self, sin loses its hold.

### **III. The Lord is Our Refuge (Joshua 20:1-9)**

David M. Howard explains, “The two groups of cities were related to each other, since the cities of refuge were a subset of the Levitical cities: there were forty-eight Levitical cities, out of which the six cities of refuge were designated.”<sup>3</sup>

The person who had accidentally harmed or killed someone could flee to a city of refuge. There the elders of the city would hear his case. If it was a matter of accidental homicide, the person would be granted refuge. He would not be turned over to the man slayer (the revenge seeker). At the death of the high priest the person would be free to return to their home.

If the person was guilty of premeditated murder, that person would not be given refuge and would be handed over to the man slayer. His life would be given for the life he had taken.

The six cities were placed within the land so that anyone would be able to reach the city in a day's time.

Jesus is our refuge. He has invited all who are guilty to come to Him for forgiveness and salvation. He is our great high priest who died to set us free. But in Christ all are welcome, not just the one who accidentally or without premeditation kills someone, but the guilty are welcome as well. Jesus is our rest and our refuge!

### **IV. The Lord is Our Provision (Joshua 21)**

We are a kingdom of priests. Just as God provided for the Levites, He provides for us in Christ.

“But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Jesus said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

We are not to seek these things – food and clothing. Our Heavenly Father knows we need these things, and He has promised to provide for us if we will seek first His Kingdom. That means we must believe that He will provide. We must act on His Word and not doubt.

We find Christ as our refuge and enter His rest (salvation) by belief. We must also believe to receive His provision.

Alan Redpath gives us these challenging words:

My dear Christian friends, there is an experience of Christ for us, a share in His victory, an experience of the fullness of His blessing that is as far beyond the level of average Christian living as Canaan was beyond the wilderness...The trouble is that so many of us shrink from pressing into that land of blessing because we know it means self-denial and the sacrifice of some pet habit or sin. It means that our love of ease, our attachment to the

world, and our dread of being thought peculiar by other people, will all have to be cast aside. It is these things that keep us spiritually slack and inert, so that we don't move in to possess what God has for us. <sup>4</sup>

Are you possessing what rightfully belongs to you in Christ? All that Christ fought to purchase for you through His sinless life, vicarious death and resurrection are all for naught if you don't appropriate the blessings.

"Vance Havner once lamented that the average Christian is so subnormal that when one becomes normal everybody thinks he is abnormal." <sup>5</sup>

Just as the Israelites had to go in and possess the land, we too must go in and possess the riches of Christ as joint heirs of the Kingdom! We must drive out sin and claim our rightful inheritance.

As we read in our workbook this week, Christ came that we might have life abundant! (John 10:10b). The definition for abundant in the Greek, which is "Perisson" is: "exceedingly, very highly, beyond measure, more, superfluous, a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate." That definition reminds me of my life's verse – Ephesians 3:20.

What does the devil come to do? He comes to steal, kill and destroy. He wants to steal your testimony and impact, kill your relationships and destroy your life.

The enemy gains access through our sin or the permission of the Father.

Peter – "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded (required) *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32, emphasis mine)

Satan can only sift us if there is something to sift.

Jesus – "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;" (John 14:30).

**Choose Jesus – *Live Into the Promise* – of all that is yours in Christ!**

---

<sup>1</sup> Schaeffer, Francis A.. *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History* (pp. 174-175). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Chalmers, Thomas. *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection*. Unknown. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Howard, Jr., David M. *New America Commentary: Joshua*, Logos.

<sup>4</sup> Redpath, Alan. *Victorious Christian Living* (pp. 192-193). Unknown. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Retrieved from <https://pastorlife.com/the-normal-christian-life/>