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Joshua 13

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Joshua 13.

Topics.

- Land of Canaan that remains to be possessed by Israel.
- Divide the land for the nine tribes and the half tribe of Manasseh.
- Inheritance of the Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh.
- Israel did not drive out all the people in the land of Canaan.
- The tribe of Levi was given no inheritance.
- The inheritance of the tribe of Reuben.
- The inheritance of the tribe of Gad.
- The inheritance of Israel beyond Jordan east side of Jericho.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the first five books of Moses anticipated the fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham concerning the Promised Land. Moses is now dead. Joshua crosses the River Jordan (about 1400 B.C.) and after a string of military victories apportioned the land according to the twelve tribes. These battles shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God fights for His people when they are faithful and courageous and put their full trust in Him. (Josh. 1:6-9). At the close of the book Joshua says that he and all his house will serve the LORD and invites the people to choose whether they will serve the gods of their fathers or the gods in whose land they dwell or the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The people choose to serve their God. (Josh. 24:15). Although anonymous the book appears to contain eyewitness testimony, some of which may have been written by Joshua himself.

NOTE: in this study I have not attempted to give detail of land areas, borders and boundaries or the locations of towns and villages etc., since I am not a master of geography or the regions of the Middle East. Added to this it is difficult and enormously time consuming to trace the exact boundaries of some sites and cities, because a number of ancient names mentioned are unknown today

JOSHUA 13:1-6

Land of Canaan that Remains to Be Possessed by Israel.

- **Joshua 13:1-6:** 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. ²This is the land that yet remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all those of the Geshurites ³(from the Shihor, which is east of Egypt, northward to the boundary of Ekron, it is counted as Canaanite; there are five rulers of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron), and those of the Avvim, ⁴in the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians, to Aphek, to the boundary of the Amorites, ⁵and the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo-hamath, ⁶all the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim, even all the Sidonians. I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

The last chapter tell us Joshua died when he was one-hundred and ten years old (Joshua 24:28) and here we are told he is old and advanced in years which means these wars have been spread over many years. Though they have had many triumphant victories and possessed much of the land of Canaan the following regions still remain to be possessed:

- The regions of the Philistines and the Geshurites.
- The land of the Canaanites in the south.
- The land of the Gebalites, and all the hill country of Lebanon.

The LORD tells Israel that He will drive the inhabitants out from before the people of Israel. Following is a list of miracles God has done for Israel so far:

- He parted the River Jordan and kept it parted while the people crossed over on dry ground (Josh. 3 and 4).
- The commander of the LORD'S army stood before Joshua with a drawn sword in his hand (symbolising God would fight for Israel and give them victory over their enemies. (Josh. 5).
- He caused Jericho's walls to fall down flat. (Josh. 6).
- He threw down great stones of hail from heaven on Israel's enemies (Josh. 10).
- He gave Israel's armies more time to put all their fleeing enemies to death by causing the sun and moon to stand still. (Josh. 10).
- He gave Joshua's single army triumphant victory over a gathering of many mighty and fierce armies whose number of warriors was as great as the number of the sand on the seashore. (Josh. 12).

Before Israel is to go and take possession of the remaining lands, they are to take time out to allot the land for the tribes of Israel for an inheritance.

JOSHUA 13:7

Divide the Land for the Nine Tribes and the Half Tribe of Manasseh.

- **Joshua 13:7:** Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

Prior to crossing the River Jordan Moses had allotted land on the east side of the Jordan River to the tribe of Reuben and the tribe of Gad one half of the tribe of Manasseh. This is why only nine and a half tribes remain for the land of Canaan to be divided amongst for an inheritance.

JOSHUA 13:8-12

Inheritance of Reubenites, Gadites and Half Tribe of Manasseh.

- **Joshua 13:8-12:** With the other half of the tribe of Manasseh the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them: ⁹from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the tableland of Medeba as far as Dibon; ¹⁰and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the boundary of the Ammonites; ¹¹and Gilead, and the region of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah; ¹²all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei (he alone was left of the remnant of the Rephaim); these Moses had struck and driven out.

The Reubenites the Gadites and the half of the tribe of Manasseh inherited the land of King Sihon and King Og who Israel conquered prior to crossing the River Jordan. Moses allotted it to them providing their men of war crossed the River Jordan and fought with the remaining nine and a half tribes until the land of Canaan was possessed and then they could return to their families which they did.

Rephaim: King Og of Bashan who Israel conquered was a Rephaim (Josh 12:1, 4). The people of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) took the land of Rephaim as an inheritance (Josh 17:14-17). It was a fertile valley which today is occupied by several Jerusalem neighbourhoods.

JOSHUA 13:13

Israel Did Not Drive out all the People in the Land of Canaan.

- **Joshua 13:13:** Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.

Israel was called to drive out all the people in the land of Canaan or they would become thorns in their flesh. In the plains of Moab by the Jordan River at Jericho, the LORD told Moses to tell the people of Israel:

- When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵²then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. (Num. 33:51-52).
- If you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. (Num. 33:55).

God had promised Abraham that He would give the land of Canaan as an inheritance to his offspring forever. Joshua's mission as the captain of God's army was to occupy the land and cleanse it from all that was an abomination before God and all that was corrupt wicked and evil and cleanse it from all traces of idols and pagan gods and their temples and all traces of occultism and their places of worship. Following are the two reasons for this:

1. All of these things are an abomination before God and have no place in His Kingdom.
2. So, there would be no opportunity for the people (especially the woman) involved in these practices to entice the people of Israel into adopting their ways of religion and their evil practises.

This is why Israel was to drive out all the inhabitants of the land. Sadly, they didn't drive out all the inhabitants and eventually they not only married pagan women who turned their hearts from the LORD their God, but also entered into gross wickedness and sacrificed to pagan gods and their idols.

JOSHUA 13:14

The Tribe of Levi was Given No Inheritance.

- **Joshua 13:14:** To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the LORD God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.

The expression, "The offerings by fire to the LORD God," refers to the sacrifices. All of Israel was to bring a tithe (10%) of their increase to the temple. The Levitical priests would sacrifice these offerings to the LORD on the altar. These sacrifices of fire (i.e., burnt offerings to the LORD)

became food for the priesthood. They are called offerings to the LORD because they provided for the priests who were serving the LORD. This is why the priesthood did not receive an inheritance of the land, their inheritance was the privilege of serving the LORD their God and all the people they served provided for them through their offerings. For further information concerning tithing see the title: Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JOSHUA 13:15-23

The inheritance of the Tribe of Reuben.

- **Joshua 13:15-23:** And Moses gave an inheritance to the tribe of the people of Reuben according to their clans. ¹⁶So their territory was from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the tableland by Medeba; ¹⁷with Heshbon, and all its cities that are in the tableland; Dibon, and Bamoth-baal, and Beth-baal-meon, ¹⁸and Jahaz, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath, ¹⁹and Kiriathaim, and Sibmah, and Zereth-shahar on the hill of the valley, ²⁰and Beth-peor, and the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth, ²¹that is, all the cities of the tableland, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses defeated with the leaders of Midian, Evi and Rekem and Zur and Hur and Reba, the princes of Sihon, who lived in the land. ²²Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword by the people of Israel among the rest of their slain. ²³And the border of the people of Reuben was the Jordan as a boundary. This was the inheritance of the people of Reuben, according to their clans with their cities and villages.

This is all the land the tribe of Reuben inherited. After the armies of Israel had conquered King Sihon and King Og and prior to crossing the River Jordan Moses allotted these lands to the tribe of Reuben providing their men of war crossed the River Jordan and fought with the remaining nine and a half tribes until the land of Canaan was possessed and then they could return to their families which they did.

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Balaam the one who practiced divination: (v22) Balak King of the Moabites three times offered Balaam silver gold and the king's great honour to curse Israel. Balaam enticed by the silver gold and the king's great honour went to curse Israel for money. Balaam attempted to prophecy a curse on Israel, but every time God turned Balaam's prophecies into a blessing. Balaam knew, if he could turn Israel from God and bring about their fall, king Balak would give him the reward he had promised. Balaam for greed of money advised the Moabite king to use the Moabite woman to seduce the men of Israel.

- Moses said to them (the men of Israel), "Have you let all the women (of Midian) live? ¹⁶Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD." (Num. 31:15-16).

The Israelites were seduced by the woman into idolatry and 24,000 Israelites perished, until they repented of their idolatry. This is the reason Balaam is held up in the New Testament as an example of self-serving and greedy religious teachers and the destructive influence of hypocritical teachers who attempt to lead God's people astray for importance and fame and their own selfish gain and greed.

The apostle Peter in his letter wrote:

- Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing ¹⁶but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (2 Peter 2:15-16).

No Bible character is more severely used, as an example of a man's offensiveness to God. The madness of Balaam was that he not only considered cursing God's people for gain, but that he also went with the

servants of Balaam fully believing he could. This is the insanity of a mind and heart that only cares about self and is fully driven by ego, pride and greed.

The full story can be found in:

- (Numbers chapter 22 and 23) (Deut. 23:3-6) (Joshua 24:9-10).

The blessings can be found in:

- (Num. 23:7-10) (Num. 23:18-24) (Num. 24:3-9) (Num. 24:15-24).

Balaam was rebuked by a donkey: the LORD'S anger was kindle against Balaam because he went to curse Israel so God sent the Angel of the LORD to act as an adversary against him, but Balaam's donkey saw the Angel and fled. Nevertheless, Balaam was determined to go so he struck his donkey and continued his journey on the road. The LORD enabled the donkey to speak and tell Balaam that there was an Angel with his sword drawn set against him. The LORD then opened the eyes of Balaam and he also saw the Angel of the LORD. The Angel told Balaam that what he was doing was perverse before God. Balaam said to the angel, "He would turn back." The angel told Balaam to go, but only speak the word that God gives him, so Balaam went (Numbers 22:22-35).

God knew Balaam's heart: God clearly knew that He would only give words of blessing to Balaam to speak upon Israel, but Balaam heart was so wickedly obsessed with silver gold and the king's great honour he thought he would still be able to curse Israel. We know Balaam's heart was grossly wicked, because when he failed to curse Israel he counselled the king to have the Moabite women seduce the men of Israel and all this for money and a pagan kings honour, such is the craving of the flesh (self, ego, pride and greed) in those who are so narcissistic, vain, egotistical and self-absorbed that to them the only person of any value to serve is self.

JOSHUA 13:24-28

The inheritance of the Tribe of Gad.

- **Joshua 13:24-28:** Moses gave an inheritance also to the tribe of Gad, to the people of Gad, according to their clans. ²⁵Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites, to Aroer, which is east of Rabbah, ²⁶and from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Debir, ²⁷and in the valley Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, having the Jordan as a boundary, to the lower end of the Sea of Chinnereth, eastward beyond the Jordan. ²⁸This is the inheritance of the people of Gad according to their clans, with their cities and villages.

This is all the land the tribe of Gad inherited. After the armies of Israel had conquered King Sihon and King Og and prior to crossing the River Jordan Moses allotted these lands to the tribe of Gad providing their men of war crossed the River Jordan and fought with the remaining nine and a half tribes until the land of Canaan was possessed and then they could return to their families which they did.

JOSHUA 13:29-31

The inheritance of the Half-Tribe of Manasseh:

- **Joshua 13:29-31:** And Moses gave an inheritance to the half-tribe of Manasseh. It was allotted to the half-tribe of the people of Manasseh according to their clans. ³⁰Their region extended from Mahanaim, through all Bashan, the whole kingdom of Og king of

Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities, ³¹and half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. These were allotted to the people of Machir the son of Manasseh for the half of the people of Machir according to their clans.

This is all the land the Half-Tribe of Manasseh inherited. After the armies of Israel had conquered King Sihon and King Og and prior to crossing the River Jordan Moses allotted these lands to the Half-Tribe of Manasseh providing their men of war crossed the River Jordan and fought with the remaining nine and a half tribes until the land of Canaan was possessed and then they could return to their families which they did.

JOSHUA 13:32-33

The inheritance of Israel Beyond Jordan East Side of Jericho.

- **Joshua 13:32-33:** These are the inheritances that Moses distributed in the plains of Moab, beyond the Jordan east of Jericho. ³³But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.

For information concerning the tribe of Levi:

See the notes following:

Verse fourteen (above) under the title:

The Tribe of Levi was Given No Inheritance.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
