

As we look at various groups and individuals in this section, we see a contrast: All were given and actually owned certain definite lands – these were theirs as a gift. Some actually took possession of it and lived in it while others did not but owned land that they never possessed in physical fact. The difference was in faith and obedience. Faith and obedience are linked.

*Joshua 13:1 – 3: "NIV When Joshua was old and well advanced in years, the LORD said to him, "You are very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.*

*2 "This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites:*

*3 from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite (the territory of the five Philistine rulers...)*

*Joshua 13:6 & 7 "As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, that is, all the Sidonians, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you, 7 and divide it as an inheritance among the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh."*

Q A. Looking particularly at the last half of verse 6, what do you hear in this statement?

Contrast this to 13:13 *" But the Israelites did not drive out the people of Geshur and Maacah, so they continue to live among the Israelites to this day."*

Q B. What does this tell you?

*13:14 " But to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance, since the offerings made by fire to the LORD, the God of Israel, are their inheritance, as he promised them."*

Q C. Who were the Levites, why did they have no inheritance? What principle is established here that continues in the church today?

In Chapter 14 we see in Caleb a contrast to the actions and attitudes of some of the Israelites. *14:6 – 13 "Caleb ... (approached Joshua and) said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses ... at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. 7 I was forty years old when Moses ...sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, 8 but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. 9 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.' 10 "Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11 I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. 12 Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but,*

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*the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said." 13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb ... and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14 So Hebron has belonged to Caleb... ever since, because he followed the LORD... wholeheartedly."*

Q D. What does this tell you about Caleb's attitude toward a 45 year old promise from God through Moses?

*15:14 "From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites-- Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai-- descendants of Anak"*

In contrast to Caleb we see the behavior of Manasseh. Following a description of the land given to Manasseh : Joshua 17:12 – 18

*12 Yet the Manassites were not able to occupy these towns, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that region...13....they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor but did not drive them out completely. 14 The people of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people and the LORD has blessed us abundantly." 15 "If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites."*

*16 The people of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have iron chariots, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel." 17 But Joshua said to the house of Joseph-- to Ephraim and Manasseh-- "You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment 18 but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have iron chariots and though they are strong, you can drive them out."*

Q E. What were all the Israelites told to do with their allotment? What do verses 12 and 13 say Manasseh did?

What is the first solution Joshua suggests to them in verse 15? What could be the possible objection?

What seems to be their attitude toward their own importance?

Looking at verse 16, what seems to be another objection?

James Boice "Knowledge, holiness and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are clearly all ours. But we enter into them only to the extent that we come to understand and appropriate them in the Bible, draw close to and obey the Lord Jesus Christ, and actually serve others with the gifts we are given."

Dale Ralph Davis "The Christian's faith is not so much proved by his courage in a sudden crisis as by his faithfulness in daily plodding."

What do you think about these quotes from Davis and Boice? How do these lessons apply in our own lives?

The Levites meanwhile, in their patience and daily plodding wait until all the land is distributed before they approach Joshua and the rest of the leadership in confidence in the Lord and His faithfulness: 21:1 & 2 *"Now the ...Levites ...said to them, "The LORD commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock."*

*21:41 – 44 "The towns of the Levites in the territory held by the Israelites were forty-eight in all, together with their pasturelands.... surrounding (them)..."*

*43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there.*

*44 The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them.*

Chapter 21 concludes with what many consider to be the primary theme of the book of Joshua: *"not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."*

Trust leads to obedience, obedience builds faith. Those who did not trust God to drive out the Canaanites and were fearful and disobedient, never reached out to own what God gave them.