

## Notes on Joshua 13

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### Part 3. Israel Divides Canaan (Joshua 13-24)

#### I. Division of the land among the tribes (Josh. 13-22)

##### A. Inheritance of the Tribes East of Jordan

Verses 1-6

1. What problem did God discuss with Joshua in 13:1-6?
2. What did God promise to do to this area? What was Joshua to do now?

##### *God commands Joshua to divide the land*

Israel had conquered the land, but Joshua was growing old and the land had not yet been divided among the tribes. God spoke to Joshua, described the land, and commanded him to divide it by lot among the tribes as God had commanded.

It appears that not all the inhabitants of the land had even yet been driven out. Surely the Israelites had not yet moved into their territories. Yet God had Joshua divide the territories up to the tribes based on their faith that God would yet drive out the inhabitants before them.

Verses 7-14

3. To what tribes had Moses given inheritance? What kings had formerly ruled this area?
4. What land was given to the Levites? Why?

##### *The land east of Jordan as given to the 2 ½ tribes*

The land west of Jordan was to be divided among 9 ½ of the tribes, because the territory east of Jordan had been given to the 2 ½ tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh. This included the territories captured from Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan. This territory is here described, naming cities and areas included.

The Geshurites and Maachathites had not been driven out from among Israel but remained in their territories even when this was written.

This land east of Jordan had not only been captured but had been divided among the 2 ½ tribes. However, the Levites did not inherit land as a tribe. They were given individual cities scattered throughout the territories of the other tribes. This was because their inheritance was the service they did to God among the tribes.

Verses 15-23

5. Generally describe the area given to Reuben.
6. What notorious man was killed in capturing this area? What was he known for (give **b/c/v**)?

##### *The territory assigned to Reuben*

Reuben's inheritance is described, naming cities and boundaries. As the inheritance of each tribe is described in the following chapters, the territories are difficult to know exactly today, though of course it was clear to the Israelites when it occurred.

In general, their inheritance included territory taken from Sihon king of Heshbon. It stretched from the Arnon river north along the Dead Sea till it reached the Jordan River. See MAP.

The record tells again that the Israelites had slain Balaam, son of Beor, who had been hired by Balak to prophesy against Israel. See Num. 22-25.

Verses 24-28

8. Generally describe the area given to Gad.

### ***The inheritance of Gad***

Gad's inheritance is described. It was the territory north of Reuben, including the rest of the region captured from Sihon king of Heshbon. It included much of the land of Gilead along the Jordan river as far north as the Sea of Galilee (Chinnereth). See MAP.

Verses 29-33

8. Generally describe the area given to half the tribe of Manasseh.

### ***The inheritance of the half tribe of Manasseh***

The half tribe of Manasseh also inherited east of Jordan. Their inheritance was generally the territory captured from Og king of Bashan. This was north of Gad's inheritance, including the rest of Gilead. See MAP.

Again we are told that Levi did not receive a territory, since they had received cities scattered throughout the land.

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