

## Notes on Joshua 17

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### E. The Inheritance of Manasseh – Chap. 17

Verses 1-6

1. What group of women inherited territory in Manasseh? Explain why and give **b/c/v**.

Half the tribe of Manasseh had already received their inheritance east of Jordan. That inheritance went to the descendants of Manasseh's firstborn Machir. This chapter records how the rest of the sons of Manasseh received their inheritance.

#### *Inheritance of the daughters of Zelophehad*

Zelophehad was a great grandson of Machir. He had no sons to inherit after him. God had arranged for his daughters to inherit in his place, as discussed in Num. 27:1-11 and chap. 36. Here these daughters came to Eleazar the high priest, Joshua, and the rulers to remind him about their inheritance.

The territory given to the descendants of Manasseh west of Jordan was then divided into ten sections, and the daughters of Zelophehad received their inheritance among the sons who inherited.

Verses 7-13

2. Describe in general terms the territory given to half the tribe of Manasseh west of Jordan.

#### *The territory given to Manasseh*

Like Ephraim's territory, Manasseh's extended from the Jordan westward, but Manasseh's territory was north of Ephraim's. They were separated by the brook Kanah. Manasseh's territory extended to the Mediterranean Sea on the west.

On the north it extended to the plain of Jezreel at Megiddo. The tribes of Issachar and Asher were north of Ephraim. Again we are told that some towns inhabited by Ephraimites were actually in Manasseh's territory. Likewise, Manasseh was given some towns that were actually in the territories of Issachar and Asher.

And again, as with Ephraim, Manasseh was unable to drive out the Canaanites from some of the cities in their territory. When Manasseh was strong, they put the Canaanites to slave labor, but never drove them out completely.

Verses 14-18

3. What complaint was raised by some descendants of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh)?  
4. How did Joshua respond to them?

#### *The complaint of the sons of Joseph*

Some people from the descendants of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) later came to Joshua and complained about the amount of territory given them. They said they were a great people and should be given more territory. Actually, they had been given a very large territory right in the midst of the land, and in addition half of the tribe of Manasseh had land east of Jordan.

Joshua responded by pointing out that, if they were such a great people, then they should be able to make room for themselves within the territory given them. He suggested first that they should clear the forests in the territory they had and make room to live there.

The people complained that this was not enough room and they could not drive out the inhabitants in the valley of Jezreel because they were strong and had chariots made of iron. This begins to show the real problem. Israel lacked room because they had not destroyed all the people of the land!

Joshua replied that a great people, as they claimed to be, could handle this situation. He claimed they had been given more than one lot, but it was their duty to clear it of forest and Canaanites. Here the failure of the people to destroy all the people of the land was already becoming a problem. The people complained about lack of room, but they lacked room because they had not obeyed God and driven out all the people of the land.

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