

Notes on Joshua 18

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F. Division of the Land for Other Tribes

Verses 1-3

1. Where was the tabernacle set up (see MAP)? List later *passages* saying that the tabernacle was still there.
2. How many tribes had now received inheritance? How many remained to inherit?
3. What criticism did Joshua raise?

Remaining tribes admonished to choose their possession.

Israel met and set up the tabernacle at Shiloh. Shiloh was in the territory of Ephraim north of Jerusalem and even north from the city Israel had captured at Ai. The tabernacle is mentioned later as being at Shiloh. Apparently it remained there for quite some time. See Judges 18:31; 21:19; 1 Sam. 1:3; 3:21; 14:3; Jer. 7:12; Psa. 78:60.

At this point five tribes had obtained the land of their inheritance: 2½ on the east side and 2½ on the west side. The remaining seven tribes needed to receive their inheritance and settle there. The land was subdued before Israel in the sense they clearly had control of it, but still the tribes needed to move into their inheritance.

Joshua called the people together and remonstrated against them for procrastinating. They were neglecting to possess the land God had given them.

Verses 4-10

4. Describe the method used to divide the land.

Men sent to divide up the land

Joshua proposed that each of the tribes appoint three men to survey the land (this appears to me to refer to the seven tribes that remained to inherit territory, though perhaps it refers to all twelve tribes). This group would examine the land and divide it up into seven parcels of land. Then Joshua would cast lots to determine what territory would be given to which tribes.

The territories would not include the areas that had already been assigned to tribes east and west of Jordan. Nor would it include any territory for the Levites, since they would inherit cities but not a territory.

As Joshua had instructed, the men traveled through the land writing down the cities. Then they divided up the area into seven territories. Then Joshua cast lots to determine which of these territories would be assigned to which tribes.

Verses 11-28

5. What tribe received the first lot? Its land lay between what tribes?

Territory assigned to Benjamin

The first tribe whose territory is then described was Benjamin. They received a region between what had been assigned to Judah and Ephraim. It bordered at the Jordan north of the Dead Sea and stretched to the west between Judah and Ephraim's territories.

Again, we will not attempt to determine specific boundaries, but this was the general area they received.

The account then names the above cities as being given to Benjamin.

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