

Sunday Night Message

May 20, 2018

Joshua 23 – *Joshua's Farewell Address*

Series – *Joshua*

Text – Joshua 23

Review

In chapter 14, we saw the general division of the Land of Israel, noting the two and one half tribes located on the eastern side of the Jordan River, and then the nine tribes plus two half tribes located on the western side of the river, with the half tribe of Manasseh receiving portions of land on both sides. Also, the Levites were dispersed throughout the Land on both sides in 48 cities, but receiving no specific land inheritance.

In chapter 15, we saw the land distribution of the tribe of Judah. (See Map) Judah was the largest of all of the tribes according to the census taken in Numbers 26. The numbers given there are for the men, twenty years of age and older who could go to war.

"These are the families of Judah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred." (Numbers 26:22)

In chapters 16 and 17, we saw the land distribution for Manasseh and Ephraim, the two half-tribes within the Tribe of Joseph.

In chapter 18 & 19, we saw the land distribution for the remaining tribes, along with a special gift of land for Joshua.

In chapter 20, we studied the six Levitical cities of refuge.

In chapter 21, we saw the distribution of the remaining Levitical cities. There were forty-eight cities that were to be given to the Levites from the inheritance of the other tribes of Israel. We also saw that God fulfilled His promise to Israel. He drove out the inhabitants, and He gave Israel their land.

In chapter 22, God sends the two and one half tribes back to their homes on the eastern side of the Jordan River. After a misunderstanding regarding an altar, the two sides (east and west) agree that even though the river separates them, they will always be one nation.

Introduction

Here in chapter three, Joshua delivers his farewell address to the people of Israel. He is well up in age (110 years old), and he wants to encourage Israel to stay on the right path.

I Joshua's Synopsis of God's Previous Works (vs. 1 – 4; 9)

Joshua addresses the leaders of Israel (v. 2) and extols the victories that God has wrought against the nations that previously inhabited the land of Israel. He emphasizes that it was the Lord that brought the victory. (v. 3, 6)

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD." (Proverbs 21:31)

God uses people who are surrendered to Him, but He gives the victory.

II Joshua's Stimulation to Win Over the Remaining Enemies (vs. 6 – 11)

Because of what God did in the past, the people of Israel could believe that God would deliver them in the future.

See 1 Samuel 17:20 – 51 – David could trust God to deliver him against Goliath because God had already given him victories in the past. The formula is the same – trust God and love God (Joshua 23:11)

As God was with Moses, so was He with Joshua. As God was with Joshua, so would He be with the next leader; as long as He followed God. (Joshua 1:5)

III Joshua's Stern Warning to Stay Separated (vs. 7; 12 – 16)

The warning is for the people stay separated from the inhabitants of the land. They will lose everything if they start running with the wrong crowd. Notice – it specifically mentions in v. 12 marriages with the people of the land.

2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18

1 Corinthians 6:15 – 20

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

1 Kings 11:1 – 13 - Solomon

God knew that if the Israelites intermarried with the women of the land, eventually they would become idolatrous.

Numbers 25:1 – 15 - Phinehas

0 15 30 Miles
0 15 30 Kilometers



LEVITICAL CITIES AND CITIES OF REFUGE

- Levitical city (Gershonite)
- Levitical city (Merarite)
- Levitical city (Kohathite)
- Levitical city (Aaronite)
- City of Refuge (*Num. 35:6; Josh. 20:7-9; 21:13, 21, 27, 32, 38; 1 Chr. 6:57,67*)