

JOSHUA: *presence, courage, action.*

Receiving the Inheritance - Joshua 13:1-19:51

These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel distributed by lot at Shiloh before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land. - **Joshua 19:51**

I. THE ALLOTMENT OF LAND

- Although the Promised Land is subdued, it is not yet conquered. Nevertheless, God directs Joshua to give the tribes their inheritance (Josh. 13:1-7).
- Rueben, Gad, Judah, Ephraim and Manasseh receive their allotment, but the remaining seven tribes must first survey the land, then return to Shiloh for distribution by lot (Josh. 18:1-10).
- The Levites receive no land, only cities. Their inheritance is the honor of serving the Lord as priests (Josh. 13:14; 13:33; 18:7).
- Both Caleb and Joshua receive special allotments for their faithfulness (Josh. 14:6-15; 19:49-50).

II. CONTEMPLATING THE JOYS OF LIFE

- Israel received what God had promised. The land was good, the inheritance was good. It was intended to bring peace and joy (Ex. 3:8, 17; Lev. 20:24; Num. 13:27; 14:8; Deut. 26:15; Ezek. 20:6).
- God has promised us good, even in this life (Ps. 107:8-9; Prov. 13:21; 24:3-4; John 14:27).
- There is no shame in pursuing joy. The longing to be happy is a universal longing that we inherit as image bearers of God. It is good, not sinful (Ps. 34:8; Neh. 8:10; John 10:10).
- The deepest and most enduring happiness is found only in God. Not in stuff from God, but in God (Ps. 46:10; Phil. 3:10).
- Beware of misplaced joy (Luke 12:13-21).

KNOW: There is a time to receive from God even in this life, to enjoy all that God has provided. We are shooting for heaven as our ultimate home, but that does not mean earth has to be merely endured. It is not wrong to enjoy God here and now.

DO: Seek joy not only in heaven, but on earth as well.

Recommended Reading:

Desiring God by John Piper (LifePoint Library #248.4 PIP)

Heaven Is Not My Home by Paul Marshall (LifePoint Library #261 MAR)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Joshua 13:1-7

1. Who calls on Joshua to distribute the land? (see 13:1-7)
2. Why does God tell Joshua to distribute the land to the tribes even though the land is not yet fully conquered?
3. What were the Israelites hoping for in terms of quality of life after receiving the Promised Land?
4. We spoke Sunday about pursuing joy in life. Do you agree that doing so is a good thing? Is it good from God's perspective?
5. What are some of the cautions we must consider before seeking our own joy in life as Christ-followers?
6. What makes so many Christians believe that they are not to seek happiness in life, do you think?
7. What are some of your takeaways from Sunday's message?