



KINGDOM PROGRESS

PART TWO

Forty Daily Devotionals
from the Book of Joshua
(Based on the NKJV)

Introduction

The opening words of Joshua, “After the death of Moses,” make for a perfect transition to the Book of Joshua. This story picks up where Deuteronomy ends and tracks the movements of the twelve tribes of Israel as they marched forward in the conquest of the lands that God had promised them. After 40 years of making repeated laps around the wilderness, Israel is finally ready to move forward! “Kingdom Progress” is an appropriate title for a devotional study from this very enlightening Joshua of the Bible.

NOTE: You will see Moses described as “the servant of the LORD” eight times in the chapters covered in this devotional on the second half of the Book of Joshua. Watch for them as you read!

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Joshua 11:18-23	7/7/20
2	Joshua 12:1-6	7/8/20
3	Joshua 12:7-24	7/9/20
4	Joshua 13:1-7	7/10/20
5	Joshua 13:8-14	7/11/20
6	Joshua 13:15-23	7/12/20
7	Joshua 13:24-33	7/13/20
8	Joshua 14:1-5	7/14/20
9	Joshua 14:6-11	7/15/20
10	Joshua 14:12-15	7/16/20
11	Joshua 15:1-12	7/17/20
12	Joshua 15:13-32	7/18/20
13	Joshua 15:33-47	7/19/20
14	Joshua 15:48-63	7/20/20
15	Joshua 16:1-10	7/21/20
16	Joshua 17:1-6	7/22/20
17	Joshua 17:7-13	7/23/20
18	Joshua 17:14-18	7/24/20
19	Joshua 18:1-4	7/25/20
20	Joshua 18:5-10	7/26/20

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Joshua 18:11-19	7/27/20
22	Joshua 18:20-28	7/28/20
23	Joshua 19:1-9	7/29/20
24	Joshua 19:10-16	7/30/20
25	Joshua 19:17-31	7/31/20
26	Joshua 19:32-39	8/1/20
27	Joshua 19:40-48	8/2/20
28	Joshua 19:49-51	8/3/20
29	Joshua 20:1-9	8/4/20
30	Joshua 21:1-18	8/5/20
31	Joshua 21:19-33	8/6/20
32	Joshua 21:34-45	8/7/20
33	Joshua 22:1-9	8/8/20
34	Joshua 22:10-23	8/9/20
35	Joshua 22:24-34	8/10/20
36	Joshua 23:1-8	8/11/20
37	Joshua 23:9-16	8/12/20
38	Joshua 24:1-12	8/13/20
39	Joshua 24:13-24	8/14/20
40	Joshua 24:25-33	8/15/20

Day 1: Joshua 11:18-23

“Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.” (Joshua 11:18)

Rest from War

Today’s reading ends with Israel at rest from war, but this rest was a long time in coming. Verse 18 clearly states that Joshua and Israel waged war against the kings of Canaan for “a long time.” Victory did not come quickly or easily to God’s people in those days and little has changed for those who choose to follow Him faithfully today. The hearts of those who did not worship the true God were hardened against Israel to wage war against them. Notice that special mention was made of the “Anakims” (KJV) or “Anakites” (NIV). You may recall that these were the “sons of Anak” who were called “giants” by the spies that were sent in to scout out the Promised Land before the invasion (Numbers 13:33). The physical stature of these people made the spies feel as if they were mere “grasshoppers” compared to them. God’s presence must have made these “giants” seem smaller than before because, with His divine help, they were utterly destroyed. Just as God had promised earlier, Joshua and Israel “took the entire land” (verse 23) and divided it accordingly. “Then,” *after being in warfare for a long time*, the land had “rest” from war. It is an old saying worth repeating: “The only time that you find “success” before “work” is in the dictionary!”

Prayer Emphasis: Review your personal walk with God. **Believe** that you can find “rest” when you **trust** Him to lead you through your spiritual battles. **Envision** Him with you as you walk your path today. **Enjoy** the time that you spend with Him!

Day 2: Joshua 12:1-6

“These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain:” (Joshua 12:1)

The Defeated Kings

When you review the list of defeated kings found in our reading today, you have to conclude that, like the Gospels, not every detail of the conquest is recorded in writing. We understand that when we read the entire list, we see there are kings and cities listed among the conquered that were not previously mentioned in Joshua. These first six verses do include the first victories won under Moses on the east side of the Jordan. These victories were just as important as the ones earned after Israel crossed over to Canaan. The battle for the land did not wait until Israel had already crossed the Jordan River. Sihon and Og ruled over large cities whose land was assigned to Reuben, Gad, and one-half of the tribe of Manasseh on the east side of Jordan. The King James Bible refers to the lands on the “east side” of Jordan as being on the “other side” and includes the phrase, “toward the rising of the sun.” It is based on these facts that some translations simplify the translation and refer to it as the “east side.” However easy we make it for our reading, what we have read today helps us understand that the conquest was actually more exhausting than we might have expected. We will learn more about this tomorrow.

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that no victory is “easy” and all of our battles require that we ask God to be fully involved in our lives! Israel first assumed the battle to be “easy” when they fought against Ai, and they were put to flight by one of the smallest of the enemies they would face. **Include** God in your plans – no matter how great or small. There is no Kingdom Progress without our King’s Presence!

Day 3: Joshua 12:7-24

“And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions,” (Joshua 12:7)

Thirty-One Kings!

As we move into the Scriptures that complete the listing of the kings and cities conquered by Israel, we will read a larger number of verses than we have been reading. When we finish these verses, we might be surprised to learn that 16 kings of the southern region of Canaan are listed along with 15 kings of the northern region. In all, 31 kings are listed as those who were defeated in Israel’s conquest of Canaan. Since the entire land measured only about 150 miles from north to south, and 50 miles from east to west, this might seem like a very crowded place. We have to remember these were “kings” of cities and not countries and each one had limited authority over small areas. This is one reason why the news of Israel’s conquests reached their future enemies so quickly. We read earlier of one confederation of kings formed by the “kings of Jerusalem” (10:1-5) and then of those who allied themselves with Hazor (11:1-5). Other than these, each victory was over smaller city-state kingdoms. However, we all know there are no “small” battles when the battle is for our God! This list also helps us to understand why what we read in only a small section of Scripture history is said to have taken “a long time!”

Prayer Emphasis: Prepare a list of some of the personal victories God has given you as you have sought to live for Him. Leave no victory out – no matter how great or small. God certainly makes note of “small” things and we would do well to do the same. **Share** your list with someone. **Brag** about God to someone today! **Post** a recent victory on your social network or find some way to **communicate** your praise for God to others.

Day 4: Joshua 13:1-7

“Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: “You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.” (Joshua 13:1)

Hang in There!

We are ready to begin reading some detailed lists of cities and boundaries as we see Joshua being transformed from a warrior to an administrator. As tedious as this may seem to us, we cannot begin to imagine how it must have been the same for God’s people and their leaders. One person commented that this section reads more “like a real estate deed” than the Bible. Well, to some extent, that is exactly what it is. Let us just say that we are going to spend some time browsing through God’s “public records” for a few chapters. In Joshua 1:6, God included the task of dividing the land in the commission that was given to Joshua. This assignment does not appear to be as clearly defined in the NIV (and some other translations) but it is clearly identified in others. Joshua 1:6 in the KJV includes a phrase that commands Joshua to “divide for an inheritance” all of the land of Canaan. It may not seem so exciting to us today, but try to imagine the excitement of the people as they are realizing God’s promises after many battles. Moments such as this come at a great price!

Prayer Emphasis: Make the reading of these verses a celebration and **ask** God to help you **share** in this victorious moment with some folks that you will eventually meet in heaven. **Thank God** for some believer, already in heaven, whose life made a difference in where you are in life right now.

Day 5: Joshua 13:8-14

“Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.” (Joshua 13:14)

A Special Assignment

The first verses of this today’s reading deal with acknowledging the lands east of Jordan that were given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and one-half of Manasseh. These “legal records” being established by Israel were to confirm what Moses already commanded before they ever crossed over Jordan. If you recall, the families who were eager to establish their homes on the east side of the river were granted that permission only after they agreed to cross over and fight alongside their brothers as they sought to capture the land west of the river. However, the last verse we read today deals with a special assignment for the tribe of Levi. We see that they received no specific assignment of land like the other tribes. Instead of owning their own land, they were to take ownership for the responsibility of the tabernacle, and eventually, the temple. Instead of farming and tending flocks, they were to grow the people in the knowledge of God and shepherd them as they grew as a nation. For this, they received some cities within the lands of the other tribes and a plan was set in place to compensate them for their dedicated work for God. Perhaps there is a reference here to their already holding a citizenship in another place, or it may be God’s way of warning those with specific spiritual callings to not be burdened down with the things of this world.

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for those who serve in full-time ministry today. I can promise you that it is much more a calling than it is a career choice! **Encourage** them and help **strengthen** them by mentioning them in your prayers to God.

Day 6: Joshua 13:15-23

“And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families.” (Joshua 13:15)

Reuben

Do you remember Reuben? He was the firstborn of Israel (Genesis 49:3). In that verse God went on to say that Reuben excelled in power and honor. Verse 4, however, mentioned that Reuben was “turbulent as the waters” and reminds us of a past sin in Reuben’s life that caused his father to change the inheritance originally planned for this son. The sin was a terrible sin against his father and here, these many years later, the penalty for this sin was to finally be assessed. Reuben was not to receive the “double portion” that normally came to the firstborn. Reuben was the brother of Joseph that overheard the plans of the other brothers to do away with him and then pleaded with his angry siblings to abandon that plan. Later, when Reuben returned to the place where Joseph’s brothers had schemed against him, he was heartbroken to find that his brothers had sold Joseph into slavery.

We often read such failure/success stories in the Bible. The Holy Spirit does not pretend that there was ever a perfect person other than Jesus. God does not hide the sins of His people anywhere but under the blood!

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to condemn and judge others. **Thank** God that your sins are hidden in Jesus and completely forgiven of God. When we stand before Him to inherit our place in heaven, there will be no “liens” pending against us on that day.

Day 7: Joshua 13:24-33

“Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad according to their families.” (Joshua 13:24)

Gad and Manasseh

Moses gave the tribe of Gad their inheritance. “Their coast was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the children of Ammon, to Aroer before Rabbah; from Heshbon to Ramath-mizph, and Betonim; from Mahanaim unto the border of Debir the valley; Succoth and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, Jordan and his border even the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth on the other side Jordan eastward” (Joshua 13:24-28). Verses 29–31 clearly describe the land that was to be given to Manasseh. Then, in verse 32, we are reminded that this was the arrangement made with Moses prior to these tribes crossing over Jordan to fight with their remaining brothers. Verse 33 serves as yet another reminder. Here, we are once again reminded that there was to be one tribe (Levi) who would not, like the others, receive a physical, land inheritance. However, do not feel sorry for them! They were given a special place of service in the tabernacle and “the LORD, the God of Israel” was to be their inheritance. I am thinking that we know who came out with the better end of this deal!

Prayer Emphasis: See all that you have as a gift from Almighty God and **thank** Him for His goodness today before you even leave your home. **Thank** Him for the vehicle in which you ride and for the workplace to which you go. **Spend** the day thanking God in every place you go and in every situation you encounter.

Day 8: Joshua 14:1-5

“Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.” (Joshua 14:2)

Go West, Young Man!

Now that the land allotments on the east side of the Jordan River are given, Joshua looks to the distribution of the land west of the river to the remaining nine and one-half tribes. In our verses, God summarizes His instructions regarding Reuben, Gad, Manasseh (half of the tribe), and the Levites. However, in today’s verses, we get an extra bit of information that is very helpful to us. We are told that the lands are to be divided “by lot.” This was done in obedience to what was recorded in Numbers 26:54-56. God instructed Moses that each tribe was to receive an allotment of land proportionate to each tribe’s population. The land on the east side had already been divided out to the two and one-half tribes that would settle there, but now Eleazar the priest, Joshua, and the leaders of the tribes would cast lots to see how the remaining land was divided. The Jews believed God directed the lots to fall as He so desired, so this left no room for arguing or bickering after the fact. Proverbs 16:33 states that, “The lot is cast...but its every decision is from the LORD.” Such faith would settle many arguments then and it would probably do the same today.

Prayer Emphasis: **Accept** God’s will about where you are to be and what you are to do. **Trust** that He is always working in your best interest in every situation. **Trust** God to provide your every need and to know exactly what you need in at all times. Amen!

Day 9: Joshua 14:6-11

“Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: ‘You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.’” (Joshua 14:6)

Caleb’s Inheritance

Before the first lot was ever cast, Caleb reminded Joshua of a promise God made to him 45 years earlier. Caleb, you may recall, was one of the 12 spies sent ahead by Moses to scout the land. He was also one of the two that believed God was able to deliver the land into their hands. Joshua was the only other believing spy (Numbers 13:6-8). While others were paralyzed by fear, Caleb and Joshua urged the people to trust God for a great victory (Numbers 14:6-9). Upon Caleb’s return from the secret mission, and after his faith-filled report to Moses and his conviction-filled stand against those who had been afraid, Moses swore to give him, “The land on which your feet have walked...because you have wholeheartedly followed the LORD.” Here, Caleb said, “That was 45 years ago, and here I am today – 85 years old and still strong and ready to claim my inheritance.” We will have more to say about Caleb tomorrow, but, for now, let him be a reminder to you that you have every right to claim every promise God has ever made to you. If God said it, He meant it. Do not ever hesitate to move forward on a promise from God.

Prayer Emphasis: Pay attention to what God says and do not live without giving careful attention to His words. **Claim** the promises that are rightfully yours and **remind others** of what God has said about certain things. Caleb’s stand was as much for *God’s integrity* as it was for *his own inheritance*!

Day 10: Joshua 14:12-15

“Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.” (Joshua 14:12)

The Hill Country

Verse 12 of today’s reading referred to the land that Caleb desired for himself as a “hill country.” At age 85, most men might have desired a path that was a little less difficult to manage. But not Caleb! He was ready to take Hebron as his homeland, and he was ready to deal with the residue of the Anakites (these were the giants we mentioned earlier) that still dwelled there. He knew that he could do anything with the help of the LORD! So, Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron for his inheritance. God once again reminds us why this special allotment was made: “Because he (Caleb) wholly followed the LORD God of Israel” (KJV). Caleb’s words did not arise out of a heart filled with pride and self-confidence. His words were born in a heart that loved and claimed the promises of God. No doubt, he had walked for 45 years with God’s promise ringing in his ears and encouraging his heart. This kind of faith would drive out any enemy – no matter the size or number! We will read later that this is exactly what happened! God sure is good at keeping His Word!

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that God still has something for you to do. It is never too late to **take Him at His Word** and **claim His promises**. **Be bold** in the LORD. **Take on a place of service** in His church and **trust** Him to empower you to get the job done!

Day 11: Joshua 15:1-12

“So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families: The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward was the extreme southern boundary.” (Joshua 15:1)

Judah’s Allotment

Now that Caleb’s request had been heard and granted, Joshua was able to return to the business of dividing the land “by lot.” All that happened with Caleb happened after the land on the east side was legally plotted and just before the land on the west side was plotted out. Caleb’s inheritance was not given “by lot” because God had made him a specific promise earlier. Judah then became the first tribe to receive a “lot” on the west side of the Jordan. It may not be obvious to those who read these documents today, but Judah’s lot was considerably larger than any other allotment given because Judah was the tribe with the greatest number of people. This land was well suited for vineyards. It was in this land (the Valley of Eshcol) that the spies had cut the giant cluster of grapes that they brought back with them after their scouting mission had been completed (Numbers 13:24). Much of this land was mountainous and not suited for planting. One thing though did grow very well there – and that was a lineage to the Messiah! Jesus would eventually be called the “Lion of the tribe of Judah!”

Prayer Emphasis: Spend some time **thanking** God for your place in His kingdom! **Acknowledge** that you have been assigned a place of salvation and service as a result of the work of the cross. The footsteps of Jesus trace back from the cross to the very land that we have seen plotted out in our passage today.

Day 12: Joshua 15:13-32

“Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).” (Joshua 15:13)

Judah, Continued...

Hebron, the land that had been given to Caleb, was located in this large allotment given to Judah. Included in these “land records” we find the story of how the “old man” claimed that inheritance with the help of a brave nephew named Othniel. This young man would later become Caleb’s son-in-law. Othniel would also later serve his people as a Judge over Israel. His story is found in the first and third chapters of the Book of Judges. What follows is a detailed listing of the towns and villages allotted to different clans in the tribe of Judah. Hang in there as you read, because the next section of Scripture is going to be more of the same! Remember, God is just as interested in the “details” of your life as He was in the inheritance of these people! Like then, He is not overlooking one tiny, little need that you have today, and He never will!

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that God is very much into details. **Know** that His Word could mean *nothing* to us if it did not first mean *everything* to Him! **Pray** with an even greater specificity today! **Pour out** the details of your needs and desires to God. **Believe** that He is interested in the details of your life. **Be willing** to share with Him. **Encourage** your own loved ones to share with you. Let them know that you are interested in every little part of their lives.

Day 13: Joshua 15:33-47

“In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,” (Joshua 15:33)

The Western Foothills

The description of Judah’s lot continues! (See, I told you it was big!) In the end, Judah’s inheritance included more than 100 cities and they seemed to have been able to conquer and occupy them with little or no resistance until they came to Jerusalem. We will read tomorrow (15:63) where Judah, “Could not dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem.” We might wonder if it was really a matter of not being *able* to drive these people out, or if it was really a matter of not being *willing* to do so. In other words, was it that they *could* not do it or that they *would* not do it? In any case, the description of Judah’s allotment ends with the understanding that they never did completely drive the Jebusites out of Jerusalem and that they eventually settled on the idea of occupying the land with them. We will later read of King David finally conquering Jerusalem when he decided to move the capital of his kingdom there from Hebron (2 Samuel 5:6-10). In those verses the Jebusites were still described as, “The inhabitants of the land.” David took the stronghold there and the city was eventually known as “The City of David.” Is there a lesson here for us? Is it possible that God did not allow this city to be completely conquered until there was an anointed king upon the throne? Can we be conquerors without an anointed King in our own lives?

Prayer Emphasis Believe that God is always at work to see that His will is accomplished. **Make** Jesus Christ your anointed king and **allow Him** to empower you to completely **obey** the will of God for your own life.

Day 14: Joshua 15:48-63

“And in the mountain country: Shamir, Jattir, Sochoh,” (Joshua 15:48)

More “Hill Country”

We are nearing the end of the long passage of Scripture that describes the allotment to the tribe of Judah. Along the way, we have learned some interesting things that have been included in this fairly long section of Scripture. Perhaps the Holy Spirit knew that we would need something to hold our interest as we read over these many “deeds” and legal documents that are recorded here. The “hill country” was the region just south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem was part of this land. Do you wonder if anyone could have had any idea how important this section of land was to become in the history of the world? Do you think that anyone who might have been “bored” by all of these details might have missed something as significant as this? The “desert” that is mentioned in verse 61 contained land that bordered the Dead Sea. En Gedi is listed in verse 62. It was on this land that, centuries later, the very scribes who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls lived. A lot of history was to be made from the story that we have read about today.

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that God promises that all Scripture is given by inspiration and it is all profitable for us. **Ask** God to show you something from these more difficult passages that we have been reading. **Search** for treasure in the Bible and you will surely find it!

Day 15: Joshua 16:1-10

“The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel,” (Joshua 16:1)

Ephraim

Ephraim and Manasseh actually made up the house of Joseph. This allotment is described in some translations as, “The lot of the children of Joseph.” These people inherited the rich land located in the central part of Canaan. If you recall, since Joseph had been responsible to keep the entire clan alive during the great famine in Egypt, Jacob ordained that Joseph’s two sons would become founders and heads of their own tribes and they would be treated as his own sons (Genesis 48:5). The territory they inherited was among the best land in Canaan. This land would include Shiloh, where the tabernacle would stay for almost 300 years. Again, we read of the failure of these people to completely drive the inhabitants out of the land. They chose to allow the Canaanites who lived in Gezer to remain among them as slaves. As it was with Jerusalem, it does not appear that the land of Gezer came under complete Israelite control until a much later time. It was not until the days of Solomon that the original inhabitants were destroyed, and then it was by the Egyptians, whose pharaoh then gave this land to his daughter, Solomon’s blushing bride, as a wedding gift (1 Kings 9:15-16). When we read phrases like “to this day” in the Bible, it means exactly that. At the time that this part of Scripture was written, the Canaanites had not been completely driven from this land. It is sad that a pharaoh had to come and complete an assignment given to one of God’s own children.

Prayer Emphasis: Know that God will see that His will is accomplished even if He has to use someone besides us! **See** your service to God as a blessing and not an entitlement. **Don’t ever think** that God is going to wait on us when we decide to follow our own plan over His.

Day 16: Joshua 17:1-6

“There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph: namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan.” (Joshua 17:1)

Manasseh

This moment served as a proud reminder to all that Manasseh, even though we find them receiving their allotment after Ephraim, had been the firstborn to Joseph. Verse 3 speaks of the daughters of Zelophehad, who reminded Joshua of a promise that had been given to their father almost 400 years earlier. Please take the extra time to read Numbers 26:33 and then Numbers 27:1-7. You will read the story of Zelophehad, who refused to join with the sons of Korah as they rebelled against Moses, and then later died in the wilderness without leaving a male heir. In response to the pleas of these women, Moses promised an inheritance with the rest of the people and his promise was now being fulfilled. To some, it might appear as just another boring record in the pages of the Bible. To these people, at that time, it was just another piece of evidence that our amazing God never forgets His promises! Manasseh’s land was second in size only to that allotted to Judah. There were 10 tracts of land awarded that day. Five went to five brothers who were descendants to Manasseh and the other five went, as previously promised, to the five granddaughters of Hephher.

Prayer Emphasis: Imagine how long these women waited for the promise to their ancestors to be fulfilled. There may have been some anxious moments as the allotments were called, but God did not let the long awaited expectations of these faithful women to go unfulfilled. **Know that God cares for you, too!**

Day 17: Joshua 17:7-13

“Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.” (Joshua 17:12)

A Sad Omission

I have often stated that the true nature of sin is not found in the bad things that we do, but rather, in the good things that we leave undone! Such is the case with one of the cities included in our reading today. Beth Shan (NIV) or Beth-Shean (KJV) was a city located in the large region that was part of the territory allotted to Manasseh. This was just one of the many towns that, “the Manassites were not able to occupy” (verse 12). We are told that the “Canaanites were determined to live in that region” and that it was not until later, “when the Israelites grew stronger,” that the Canaanites were eventually forced to live among the Israelites as servants rather than being driven from the land completely. It was, no doubt, sometime after the reign of Saul and during the reign of either David or Solomon that God’s command to drive these people out was fully obeyed. In the meantime, it was here, on the wall of this city of Beth Shan, that the Philistines would eventually fasten the dead body of Saul, King of Israel, after he had fallen in battle (1 Samuel 31:10). If our God is a God worthy to be obeyed, then He is a God worthy to be obeyed fully! Let us not have those who come after us suffer for our lack of willingness to fully obey God now.

Prayer Emphasis: Pay attention to God’s commands and seek to obey them to the fullest extent. **Realize** that the lives of those who follow us may be affected by the level of our obedience to God and His commands. **Ask** someone to pray for you today – asking God to fill your heart with a strong desire to be an obedient Christian.

Day 18: Joshua 17:14-18

“Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, ‘Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us until now?’” (Joshua 17:14)

A Complaint

The descendants of Joseph came to Joshua with a complaint about the size of their allotment. In their opinion, it was too small for their people. Rather than simply do the obvious and give them more land, Joshua offered them some sound advice about how to make the current allotment work for them. He suggested that they clear the forested hill country of the Perizzites and the Rephaites. However, the people were quick to answer that the hill country was inhabited by Canaanites who possessed iron chariots and would not be easily defeated. Joshua stated that they (the descendants of Joseph) were a numerous and very powerful people, so they should be able to drive the Canaanites out of the hill country and clear the land for themselves. This was not the answer the people wanted to hear. Perhaps they wanted an easier way. Perhaps they were truly afraid of the current inhabitants and their “iron chariots.” We do not know if they had actually seen these war chariots or if they had simply heard about them. In either case, the thought of such weapons caused their hearts to melt and sent them to Joshua seeking an easier way to possess enough land to suffice them. Joshua refused to budge. He simply stated, “You can drive them out.” Get-R-done! Amen!

Prayer Emphasis: Kingdom Progress is not supposed to be easy. **Remember**, God’s first command to Joshua and the people was for them to be courageous! **Ask** God for courage and **exhibit it** as you walk with Him.

Day 19: Joshua 18:1-4

“Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.” (Joshua 18:1)

The Tabernacle at Shiloh

Before the final allotments were assigned, Joshua and the people relocated to Shiloh. Upon arrival, they set up the tabernacle there. Even though there were still seven Israelite tribes yet to receive an allotment, perhaps it was time for a reminder that God was to be central to all that Israel believed and did. Shiloh was located in the central part of the land and was a convenient location for all of the people. The earlier murmuring of the sons of Joseph was a warning signal to Joshua and the people, and they knew that it was time to take the focus off of them and their places and refocus on God and His place. Perhaps to avoid further complaints about the divisions, Joshua sent out three men from each tribe to scout out and survey the remaining land before they continued with the division and allotments. This team of men was to return with a description of the proposed parcel of each remaining tribe. A careful reader may note that there is no “Thus saith the LORD” that prescribes this action. That does not mean that it was wrong. It simply means that this may have been an action taken by leadership to avoid further complaining from the people. We are not told how long it took this team to complete this task, nor how long the God-assigned division process was delayed. If it would bring peace among the people, I am sure that it was a wise investment of time and talents. However, this is the only tribe to not be content with the designed plan for the land division and considerable effort was put forth to accommodate them.

Prayer Emphasis: **Believe** God when He promises you something! **Accept** His challenge to live for Him and **watch** Him provide for you just as He has promised. **Claim** your inheritance and live like a citizen of Heaven today.

Day 20: Joshua 18:5-10

“Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, ‘Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh.’” (Joshua 18:8)

Specific Instructions

Verse 5 begins to detail the specific instructions given to the team of men who were to go out and survey the remaining land. These were obviously educated men, for they were skilled in mapping and writing. After the remaining land was thoughtfully divided into seven remaining parts, they were to return to Joshua and the people and they would resume the division of the land by lots. It is important to note that Joshua did not stray from God’s assigned method of allotment, but that he simply tried to be able to continue the process with as little complaining as possible. Of all that had been done, only one allotment was disputed. However, in an effort to move forward in peace, the time was spent to take every possible precaution against criticism or complaints. Note that, this time, the lots would be cast there in Shiloh, “In the presence of the LORD.” If there were to be further complaints, I guess they were to be taken up with God. We would do well to remember that all we say and do is done in the presence of God. He who is with us always is always seeing and hearing. As we walk in His presence, let us be ever mindful of the “specific instructions” He has given us.

Prayer Emphasis: **Promise** to be an obedient Christian who does not refuse to give God all that is due Him. **Be attentive** to God’s commands and be ready to **obey**. Kingdom Progress comes to those who are ready and willing to **obey** God every step of the way!

Day 21: Joshua 18:11-19

“Now the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot came out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph.” (Joshua 18:11)

Benjamin

It was no coincidence that the next allotment fell where it did. Since it was decided by the casting of the lot, then it fell where it did – when it did – because that was what God wanted to happen! Benjamin was next and his lot fell on the land that was situated between the lands given to Judah and the children of Joseph. This then, placed Benjamin’s descendants between the first and second largest tribes of Israel. One would have to understand a little about Benjamin’s life to realize that this allotment was certainly not assigned by coincidence either. Benjamin was the youngest son of Jacob (Israel) and was the only one that was actually born in the land that is today known as Israel. His mother, Rachel, died in childbirth. Some of her final, recorded words were when she named her baby, “Benoni” (Benjamin), meaning, “Son of my Sorrow.” Jacob would later change the child’s name to “Benjamin – The Son of my Right Hand.” Thus, Benjamin became the peacekeeper. More importantly, Benjamin was to become the end of the complaining and murmuring. We, too, have One who can bring peace among God’s people and fill all of us with a satisfaction that satisfies even the most complaining spirits. He, too, is a “Son” who sits on the “right hand” of His Father. If Jesus is not the central figure in the church then there is little reason to have church at all.

Prayer Emphasis: Choose not to live by your own wisdom. Elect to live by the wisdom of God. Honor him today by **expressing gratitude** for all that He gives and does. Every step toward peace and contentment is a true step toward Kingdom Progress.

Day 22: Joshua 18:20-28

“Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, according to their families, were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz,” (Joshua 18:21)

A Tough Assignment

As we read the names of the cities that are within the allotment given to Benjamin’s descendants, we should realize that this section was a small tract of land filled with mountains and ravines. It would not be an easy land to clear and farm nor would it be a land conducive to shepherding flocks. This allotment also contained some of the fiercest cities and clans. Within this allotment were cities like Jericho, Gibeon, and Jerusalem. However, there is no murmuring or complaining to be heard from the people of Benjamin. They accepted their assignment and went about their business. It was within this very allotment that the temple would someday be constructed. Read the beautiful words given by inspiration to Moses in Deuteronomy 33:12 and you will see that God had this allotment planned a long time before Israel or Benjamin came to this time and place.

Prayer Emphasis: Tune in to God and His Word and watch God go to work in your life. Believe that God has always had a plan for your life, and He is never distracted from His plan by our murmuring or complaining. Express your dissatisfactions to God. He alone can provide the peace that we so desperately need if we are to be a people of Kingdom Progress.

Day 23: Joshua 19:1-9

“The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.” (Joshua 19:1)

Simeon – A Good Example

The second lot awarded after the surveying expedition fell to the descendants of Simeon. We are told that their inheritance was “within” the inheritance of the children of Judah. It would seem that, if we were going to have another dispute about the allotments, it might be right now. Again, we see God’s mighty hand in this second allotment after the complaints that had caused the process to be delayed. Simeon was the second born to Israel and Leah. He was born between Reuben and Levi. So, he was born between the one who received the first allotment and the one who received no land allotment at all. Simeon was accustomed to being second, and was one who had lived his entire life with the knowledge that his place was not first nor last, but just where God had caused him to be. So Simeon, who at times had been a fierce man (see Genesis 49), was now forced to be a peacekeeper as he was assigned to live within the allotment of Judah. However, God had a plan and the people seemed now, more than ever, to be seeing that divine plan come to fruition. There is little that we cannot “live with” when we are committed to Him whom we “live for.”

Prayer Emphasis: Recommit everything to God today! **Make sure** you let Him know that you are submitting to *His* plan and you are not asking Him to submit to *your* plan. **Humble yourself** before the One who can empower you to a life filled with blessing and obedience.

Day 24: Joshua 19:10-16

“The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families, and the border of their inheritance was as far as Sarid.” (Joshua 19:10)

Zebulun’s Portion

The third lot awarded after the surveying fell to the children of Zebulun. Very little is said about Zebulun or his division. We are provided with the legal description for this allotment and then God simply moves on to the next order of business. This “silence” speaks volumes about Zebulun and all of the tribes. It seems that the tension between the tribes is behind them and it has been replaced with a willingness to move forward with the allotments and the ultimate settling of the land. In Genesis 49:13, Jacob prophesied that Zebulun would dwell near the sea and his future home would be a haven for ships. This lot had now fallen where this tribe was going to be allotted a piece of land that might have been considered to be “landlocked” and with very little access to the sea. If there was ever going to be more complaining, it might have been expected now. However, there was one strip of land that touched the Mediterranean Sea, and that seemed to be enough to satisfy this people. Zebulun means “dwelling” or “habitation.” Apparently, this was a people who chose to focus on what they had been graciously given and not on what had been previously given to others.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for what *you* have. Walk through your “dwelling” today and recall the many blessings that God has given to *you* and your family. Tour each room and thank God for the wonderful memories that *you* have. Share your memories with your family and friends. Take your family on the “tour” with you and express your praise and thanksgiving together.

Day 25: Joshua 19:17-31

“The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families.” (Joshua 19:17)

Issachar and Asher

It might have seemed that this process was becoming simpler as it went. Joshua and the leaders seem to be moving forward quickly with the allotments and there were no new interruptions or disputes. Issachar was given the land just east of Zebulun and south of the Sea of Galilee. Again, if a dispute was going to arise, one might have expected it now. In the minds of the descendants of Zebulun, this land might have better fulfilled the earlier prophecy of Jacob regarding their father’s inheritance. However, there is no mention of any dissatisfaction or complaint and no record of any further dispute. Asher also received coastal lands stretching along the sea from Mount Carmel north to Tyre and Sidon. Asher means “happy,” and happy seems to be a good word to describe all of Israel at this moment in time. As the tedious task of dividing the land draws nearer to completion, we see God’s people becoming more and more content with the will of God and the lands that are allotted to them. Kingdom Progress cannot come to any congregation of people until it first comes to the individual believer. Let us all seek to be content with God’s will for our lives. Such godly “satisfaction” is a powerful sermon to the people of this world.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to make you more and more comfortable with what He has so graciously provided. Express gratitude for what He has given *someone else* today. Praise Him on behalf of another and you will truly praise Him from your heart! Guard your steps and be sure to live up to your Christian commitments.

Day 26: Joshua 19:32-39

“The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali, for the children of Naphtali according to their families.” (Joshua 19:32)

Naphtali

Again, we see a short introduction and then a brief description of the land that was to be allotted to the next tribe. However, this becomes the third tribe to receive a portion with borders on water since Zebulun’s allotment and we still hear no whimpering from that people to whom their father’s prophecy, in Genesis, had mentioned their becoming “a haven to ships.” Now, they watch as Naphtali’s descendants receive an allotment that had the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee as its boundaries. Even though this tribe received 19 towns and cities as an inheritance, the listing does not read like a “Hall of Fame” and few of the names of the cities are known to the casual reader. However, we would do well to recognize that the land contained in the allotment to Naphtali’s descendants would become important in New Testament history because it would be the land upon which Jesus Himself would walk during His Galilean ministry. Matthew 4:13–16 tells us that Jesus left Nazareth and moved to Capernaum, “which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people in darkness have

seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Who wouldn’t be content with that?

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to show you the big picture! We are all a part of a much bigger plan and we are to **seek** and **accept** our roles in God’s Kingdom. **Thank God** for the place that He has given you and then, like you did yesterday, **thank Him** for what He had given to someone else, as well.

Day 27: Joshua 19:40-48

“The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.” (Joshua 19:40)

Dan

After reading of several allotments that were assigned with little or no comment, we find that the seventh allotment, given to the descendants of Dan, is followed by a parenthetical statement. In it, we are told that the Danites had difficulty taking possession of their territory. However, it must not have been a situation too difficult for God, because we are quickly told that they soon overcame their difficulties and settled the land given to them. Their boundaries are not described in detail because they were located in a section of land that was bordered on every side by earlier allotments. Therefore, her boundaries already existed and there was little reason to restate them. The legal description is limited to a listing of the towns that were contained within the land that was given to them. When Jacob blessed his sons in Genesis 49:16-18, it is stated that Dan would provide justice for his people. If ever there was a case made for considering God to be fair and just, it is made by the descendants of Dan as they accept what is a limited number of cities and are restricted to dwelling in one larger city that they eventually renamed after their forefather.

Prayer Emphasis: Look for reasons to praise and then **be careful** to **remember** to do it! It would not be difficult for any person to look at some of the situations and circumstances they are called to face and think it reasonable and fair to complain. Our contentment and peace must be based on our confidence that our God is a just God!

Day 28: Joshua 19:49-51

“When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun.” (Joshua 19:49)

Joshua

It is by no coincidence that our smallest section of Scripture is given to describe the land that was to become the final home of Joshua, the great leader of God’s people. When the dividing of the land was finished, the Israelites gave Joshua an inheritance among them. When you look closely at the division of the land west of the Jordan River, you will see that it begins with Caleb and ends with Joshua, the two spies who returned from the first scouting mission with a good report for Moses and the people of God. They became a picture of He who is “First and Last” and the “Alpha and Omega.” Joshua’s concern was obviously more for his people than for himself and his own descendants. He who would later state, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!” is here shown as one who would be willing to serve the LORD from whatever rank he held among men. In Joshua 24:30 we will see Joshua buried on this same piece of land. We are studying from a book named after a man whose life is well worth emulation. Here is a man who shares the same name with Jesus and obviously much more than that! He, like Jesus, was willing to put others before himself and to lay down his own life for the good and benefit of his people.

Prayer Emphasis: **Appreciate** those who have made a difference in your life. **Let them know** that you love them. **Live** a life that will be a blessing to others. **Enjoy** your Kingdom Progress to its fullest!

Day 29: Joshua 20:1-9

“*Speak to the children of Israel, saying: “Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ””* (Joshua 20:2)

Cities of Refuge

The final verse of last night’s reading brought closure to the dividing of the land. That being finished, God now turns His attention to how the lands can best be put to use. One of the first things to be accomplished was to establish a system of “safe havens” for people who had killed someone accidentally or unintentionally. Places where such people could flee for safety until a trial could be held. Verse 2 mentions that God had already spoken to the people about these cities through Moses. Take the time to read Numbers 35:6–34 and you will see the very detailed instructions that had been given earlier about these cities. There were to be six of the cities, three on each side of the Jordan River, geographically located so that no accused party would have difficulty in fleeing from the family members of the slain person. When an accused person arrived at the gate of one of these cities, he was to present his case to the elders of the city. If the fleeing person’s plea seemed acceptable, they were allowed refuge in the city until a full hearing could take place. If the death was indeed ruled accidental, then the fleeing person was found guilty of manslaughter and could find safety from avenging family members until the death of the high priest. Until that time, the accused killer could only safely live within the boundaries of the city to which he had fled.

Prayer Emphasis: Listen carefully to this teaching on the Cities of Refuge! **See** Jesus Christ as your own safe haven from all of your guilt and shame. **Know** that you can find safety in His comforting arms.

Day 30: Joshua 21:1-18

“*So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their common-lands:”* (Joshua 21:3)

Cities for the Levites

If you took the time to read Numbers 35 today, you read where the Levites were awarded 48 towns within the various regions inherited by the different tribes. This was to become the final action taken in the division of the land. One of the first things that the tribes were asked to do was give a portion of what they had received back so that the Levites could have towns and pasture land for their flocks. You may have also noticed, in Numbers 35, that the Levites were first ordered to make an allotment of their own land so that six of their 48 towns could serve as cities of refuge. Like a wise parent, God began very early to teach His children about giving. The first allotments were given to the descendants of the three sons of Levi: Kohath (verse 4), Gershon (verse 6), and Merari (verse 7), with 48 cities being awarded in all – just as God had commanded through Moses. What follows verse eight is a beginning of a detailed listing of who got what land and which tribes were to surrender it. The descendants of Aaron were given the city of Hebron, which was to become one of the cities of refuge discussed earlier. Joshua is a book about God giving to His obedient people and then asking those obedient people to be willing to give back to Him. Giving is one of the most basic steps taken in one’s own Kingdom Progress.

Prayer Emphasis: Become the child of God that can be entrusted with material possessions. **Give** a portion of all that God gives you back to Him and His purposes. **Experience** the joy that comes with sharing God’s blessings with others.

Day 31: Joshua 21:19-33

“And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites, the rest of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their lot from the tribe of Ephraim.” (Joshua 21:20)

Location, Location, Location!

As the distribution of the remaining priestly cities continued, some things may have been becoming evident to both those giving and receiving these inheritances. First, the priests themselves were to house some of the cities of refuge, with six of the 48 cities they received being designated as such. Second, we see that the priestly cities were located within the Southern Kingdom of Judah, which would be near to where the temple would be built in Jerusalem. Not only does our wise Father teach His children how to give back a portion of all that He gives them, He also teaches them that He will take every precaution to make their personal service to Him as simple as possible! Ten more cities were awarded to the non-priestly branches of Kohath’s descendants (verses 20–26) and one of them, Shechem, was to become a city of refuge. Thirteen more cities were given to the Gershonites. Two of these cities (Golan and Kedesh) were designated as cities of refuge. So, God kept asking for a portion of what He had given the tribes to be returned to Him for use by the Levites. Then, He kept asking the Levites to return a portion of what they received to Him for protective environments for parties fleeing from the avengers of blood.

Prayer Emphasis: Be patient and you will see that God has not led us down a path that does not bring rich blessings to all who choose it. **Praise** God for the eternal wealth that He gives you and **let go** of your grip on the things of this world. **Live** like a “Saint” and not like an “Ain’t” today!

Day 32: Joshua 21:34-45

“Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” (Joshua 21:45)

A Concluding Statement

The final distribution of cities was made to the descendants of Merari, the third son of Levi. Verse 42 reveals that each of these cities was surrounded by pasturelands. Even though there was a distinction in the services of the descendants of these three sons of Levi, there was no distinction in their rewards. Each tribe served as they were directed by God and God directed His rewards or blessings to each tribe. Having now made provision for all of the tribes, God closes this important phase in the lives of His people with an important concluding statement. God stated that He had given the land to them, as promised, and that He “handed” all of their enemies over to them. Along with the land, God gave them “rest” on every side. Not one of their enemies withstood them. Best of all, not one of all of His promises failed. Every one of them was fulfilled.

Prayer Emphasis: Count the many promises that God has made and kept in your own life. You may run out of day before you can finish this task! **Praise God** for His faithfulness! **Get specific** with God today and let Him know how much His blessings really mean to you!

Day 33: Joshua 22:1-9

“and said to them: ‘You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.’” (Joshua 22:2)

Some High Praise!

You will recall that the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and one-half of the tribe of Manasseh requested that they be allowed to settle in the land on the other side of the Jordan River. This allowance was made providing that these tribes would provide soldiers to participate in the conquering of the lands after the river was crossed. Having fought now for seven years, these men are finally being sent home to their families, and the men who remained with the families, to establish homes and help provide security. Joshua gave them an “Honorable Discharge” from service and sent them home with his blessings. They returned home with “great wealth” as a result of having received their shares of the spoils of Canaan. These spoils were to be divided with the men that had stayed home with the families. However, the greatest blessing was found in the high praise given to them for their unfailing commitment to the commands of God! Joshua provided some final instructions to them before they parted. They were admonished to: 1) be very careful to keep the commandments and law, 2) to love the LORD their God, 3) to walk in all His ways, 4) to hold fast to Him, and 5) to serve Him with all their heart and soul.

Prayer Emphasis: **Live** today as if your next step may be the one that takes you into the presence of God! Serve Him fully. **Pay** careful attention to His commands and walk in His ways. **Be** the best soldier that you can possibly be for Him today! **Ask** Him to guide your steps!

Day 34: Joshua 22:10-23

“And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan — a great, impressive altar.” (Joshua 22:10)

A Symbolic Act

You can only imagine the excitement of these eastern tribes as they are dismissed from their service and allowed to return to their homes and families. Before they crossed the Jordan River, they built an altar there on the west side to remind their brothers that what they had done for the past seven years was considered, to them, an act of worship. However, as is often the case, the act was misunderstood by the tribes who settled in Canaan. They thought that the new altar built by these homebound soldiers was a statement against the tabernacle and the altar at Shiloh. Some heated words and hasty conclusions led one part of God’s family to be ready to go to war against the other. Prior to all-out war, a delegation was sent to discuss the matter with the offenders. Phinehas, a man noted for his righteous zeal for God (Numbers 25:6–18) was chosen to lead this group. When they reached their offending brothers, they laid their charges before them and reminded them of the sad results of Achan’s disobedience and how the entire nation suffered afterwards. Instead of becoming angry with their accusers, the leaders of the eastern tribes affirmed their faith and loyalty to the one, true God and explained their intentions with the altar. They twice swore by the three names of God that their actions were not intended to be rebellious or offensive.

Prayer Emphasis: **Understand** that only God can see the intentions of your heart. **Be patient** and forgiving when accusations come your way. **Be willing** to allow God to be the deciding factor in all of your dealings with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Day 35: Joshua 22:24-34

“Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, “Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.”” (Joshua 22:28)

An Explanation

Having been charged with attempting to replace the altar of God at Shiloh with one of their own making at Jordan, the men of Reuben, Gad and one-half of Manasseh responded strongly against the allegations and swore their allegiance to God and His people. They explained that their altar was not built for sacrifices or burnt offerings, but it was built to serve as a memorial to the fact that they fought with their brothers and that they considered their tribes and families to be very much a part of the people of Israel. It was built on the west side of the river so that all would be reminded of the eastern tribes’ part in the conquest of the land. Phinehas and his delegation were satisfied with this response and returned to the remaining tribes to inform them of this good news. This news brought forth joy and praise and resulted in this newly built altar being given a name that meant “A Witness between us that the LORD is God!” There is always cause for rejoicing when God’s people work out their differences of opinion by taking the time to discuss the issues that seem to be causing the division. Division seldom solves itself or “works itself out.” Congregations that enjoy peace, harmony, and unity usually do so because they have made intentional and continual efforts to keep peace within the community. Satan would like nothing more than to turn our victories into conflict and to see us war against our own family of faith.

Prayer Emphasis: Endeavor to live in peace and harmony with your fellow saints. **Forgive** whenever possible and **seek forgiveness** whenever appropriate. **Seek** to heal any conflicts by prayerful discussion. **Refuse** to keep conflict alive by being willing to forgive.

Day 36: Joshua 23:1-8

“Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age.” (Joshua 23:1)

A Sad Farewell

We have no idea just how long the “long time” mentioned in verse 1 was, but it is estimated that it was somewhere between 10 to 20 years after Israel’s conquest of Canaan and the final distribution of the land that Joshua called for a meeting of the leaders of the people. Joshua was now an older man of about 110. He delivered a farewell speech that reminded them of all the LORD had done for them and of the work that remained to be done. There was still some land yet to be possessed. He also reminded them of their responsibility to be strong and to pay careful attention to obey all that was written in the Book of the Law of Moses. They were not to turn aside for any reason. They were not to form close associations with the peoples of Canaan and they were to take special care that they did not begin to worship the false gods of the land. They were to hold fast to the LORD. In the next verses, we will begin saying our own “goodbyes” to Joshua. His life was a blessing to all those who followed God with Him. He has also been a blessing to us and his story will continue to bless us for generations to come.

Prayer Emphasis: Think of some of the people who have been a blessing to your life. **Thank God** for them and then, if possible, take the time to **thank them** personally for what they have meant to you. **Remind** yourself that the battle is never really over until we join Joshua and all of the saints in heaven.

Day 37: Joshua 23:9-16

“*Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.*” (Joshua 23:11)

One More Thing...

As Joshua begins to close his farewell speech, he reminds his people of one more thing they need to be very careful to do. He said, “Be very careful to love the LORD your God.” You might think that Christians should not need to be reminded to love God, but you can rest assured that we do! If you look back at Joshua 1:7–8, you will see that Joshua is really just repeating much of what God had first led him to say to the people. He warned them of the consequences of “turning away” from God and turning to idolatry. They were to understand that victory was found in obedience and that disobedience could result in nothing but spiritual failure. Joshua tells the people that he knows his life will soon be over. Although his life was “failing,” he knew that none of God’s promises had ever failed him or the people. Because of this, he desired that every effort should be made to never fail the LORD or turn away from his good promises. The consequences for turning away from God were sure and severe. These were important last words for Israel and they remain important to all who are striving for Kingdom Progress today.

Prayer Emphasis: Encourage someone to remain faithful to God today. Ask God to impress upon your heart the name of someone who needs to be encouraged. Share some words of hope and inspiration.

Day 38: Joshua 24:1-12

“*Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.*” (Joshua 24:1)

The Covenant Renewed

Joshua gathered all the people together at Shechem and reminded them of their covenant with God. Through Joshua, God reviewed His past blessings on His people. They were reminded, in detail, that God brought them from the Ur of the Chaldees, out of Egypt, and into the Promised Land. He carefully recounted many of the individual blessings that accompanied each of those notable feats. Although we are not sure what the “hornet” mentioned in verse 12 was, many have offered some speculative answers. Some believe this to be a reference to the fear that God instilled into the hearts of the people. These fears were previously mentioned in Joshua 2:10 and 24 as well as in Joshua 5:1. This sounds like a good explanation, but we cannot be entirely sure of the exact meaning of this phrase. However, we can be sure, just as the Israelites were, that every victory was a gift from the hand of Almighty God! It was so then and it remains so today. Were our walk not grounded in a covenant relationship with Him, we would all be without victory in every area of our lives.

Prayer Emphasis: Renew your commitment to God, not just today, but on each and every day of your life. Ask Him to be the *center* of your every battle and you will soon see that He is the *source* of your every victory. Praise Him for some past victory today and solicit His help in some area where you are seeking victory right now. Brag on God to someone today!

Day 39: Joshua 24:13-24

““I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.”” (Joshua 24:13)

The Big “I”

In our opening verse, God employs the personal pronoun, “I,” and reminds His people of how little they would have without the aid of His divine hand. Take a moment and look back at the first 13 verses of Joshua 24 and see how many times God uses the pronoun “I” as He recounts the many deeds done for His cherished people. In these verses you will find “I” used in reference to God 18 times in the NIV and 17 times in the KJV! God is certainly driving home a point now, and I am certain that Israel is listening. As with all covenants, there were to be some stipulations. Israel was to fear the LORD and to serve Him. Israel was to avoid creating alliances with the people of Canaan or their gods. One might wonder why these people now needed to be told to “throw away” any gods that had been associated with their former lives in Egypt, but God seemed to know of good reason for doing so. God used Joshua to bring His people to a place of decision on this day. Joshua’s own personal decision had been made previously. He boldly stated, “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD!” The people pledged their allegiance, as well.

Prayer Emphasis: Be brave! Memorize Joshua 24:15 today, or at least the last part of it. **Write** it on a sheet of paper and **keep** it in your pocket. **Look** at it several times during the day and accompany each look with a prayer to God that you will be the kind of person that is fully committed to Kingdom Progress.

Day 40: Joshua 24:25-33

“Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.” (Joshua 24:29)

Nothing More to Say

Sometimes there is simply nothing more to say about a matter! Joshua renewed the covenant, in writing, and recorded it in the Book of the Law of God. He then took a large stone and set it under an oak tree near the holy place of the LORD. This final memorial became Joshua’s last act as the leader of God’s people. This stone was to be a witness of all the LORD said to His people and to the responses they made to Him. Joshua then sent the people away to continue in their own personal Kingdom Progress while he prepared to make his final walk with God on earth. He died at the age of 110. God closes the chapter on this good man’s ministry by saying, “Israel served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the LORD had done for Israel.” Upon his death, he was buried in the land of his inheritance! The very flesh and bones of the man who had given his all to God was now made one with the land that he loved and fought so hard to attain for himself and God’s people. Joshua was now absent from that body and present with the LORD! I think that I just heard someone say, “Well done!”

Prayer Emphasis: Be a doer of God’s Word! **Realize** that life is passing by quickly and **take some immediate actions** to ensure your life is well spent before death or the rapture brings your own final chapter. **Thank God** for people like Joshua and the legacy they left for us. **Commit** yourself to the task of creating a legacy for all that follow you.