



JOSHUA - DIVIDING THE LAND

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, Judah & Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh) have received their inheritance as promised by the Lord. The Levites were granted an inheritance among the rest – they received towns to live in, with pasture-lands for their flocks and herds. The remaining seven tribes had yet to receive their inheritance. Joshua had planned how the land should be divided in accordance with the Lord's instructions.

Read Joshua 18:1-10

1. What was Joshua's question to the Israelites?

2. What did he appoint men to do?

Joshua 18:11; 19:1, 10, 17, 24, 32, 40

3. Which of the remaining seven tribes were still to be given land?

Read Joshua 19:49-51

4. What inheritance did Joshua receive?

Read Joshua 21:43-45

5. What did the Lord do for the Israelites?

6. *Deuteronomy 33:26-29* List some of the things you can find out about God from this passage.

Read Joshua 20:1-9

7. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?

8. *Psalms 46:1; Proverbs 18:10* What were they a picture of?

Read Joshua 21:1-8

9. *Numbers 35:1-8* Why were the Levites not given an area of land for their own?

10. How many cities throughout the land were they given?

Read Joshua 22:1-9

11. Where was 'home' for the people of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh?

12. For what did Joshua commend these tribes?

Read Joshua 22:10-34

13. Why were the Israelites west of the Jordan prepared to go to war with the Israelites east of the Jordan?

14. What did the altar signify?

15. What does this passage teach us about 'jumping to conclusions'?

The End Bit!

For each of the tribes of Israel, there was an inheritance ordained by God, a place of blessing and rest. So, to each believer today, the same Lord offers spiritual blessings and rest.

Francis Schaeffer, in his book *Joshua and the flow of Biblical History*, sees the cities of refuge as a powerful illustration of the work of Christ.

The parallels are as follows:

- **The cities were easily accessible to all.**

Christ is within the reach of anyone who realises their need of Him.

- **The cities were open to all; to the Israelite, the stranger and the traveller.**

Christ is available to all people without discrimination.

- **The cities not only provided legal protection, but also were stocked with food to meet the needs of those who entered.**

Christ is a totally sufficient refuge. He not only saves the believer for eternity through His atoning death, He also supplies their every need.

- **If a killer did not flee to the city of refuge there was no hope for him, he was doomed.**

Those who are outside of Christ are without hope. There is no other refuge from the fearful consequences of sin.

Christ died for the ungodly, the guilty, the sinner, that they might have a sure refuge and enjoy eternal fellowship with the Lord.

Verse to remember

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1