

**Refuge City Church — August 15, 2021**  
**“What you do with what you’ve been given” [Joshua 12-17]**

### **Joshua 12**

- A compiled list of 33 kings/kingdoms that were defeated by Moses and Joshua.
- **Application:** What can we take away from reading a list of defeated kings??
  - When was the last time you reflected on all the victories God has given you in your life? Or even just the last 5-7 years? [Write them down]
  - **Remember to reflect on all that God has done for you. Memorialize those moments of His faithfulness to you.**

### **Joshua 13: Inheritance given**

- 1** Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.
- The inheritance is given to the 12 tribes of Israel.
  - With Joshua ‘advanced’ in years, God reminds him of his final task.
    - Divide up the land as an inheritance for God’s people.
    - **[Mosaic context] Numbers 26:52-54**, “Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list.”
    - **Verse 6b:** “I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you.” [God’s promises and faithfulness continues]
  - East of the Jordan
    - Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and one half of the tribe of Manasseh.
    - **Verse 14:** “To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.”
      - **[Special ministry of service in the tabernacle] Numbers 1:50-53**, “But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up... But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony.”
      - They would be given select cities throughout the land [Chapter 21].
      - They received financial security through the offerings the people would bring for sacrifice.
  - **Application: Priestly Inheritance**
    - We as Christians/Followers of Jesus, are ‘priests’ in the service of the Lord!
      - **1 Peter 2:5**, “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
      - **1 Corinthians 6:19**, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

- **Romans 12:1**, "...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
- Like the Levites charge over the Tabernacle:
  - How are you carrying yourself **[emotionally/spiritually]** as one who belongs to the Lord?
  - How are you taking care of yourself?
  - Are you keeping guard over your mind and heart in regards to any influences of evil?
- **Ephesians 1:11**, "In him we have obtained an inheritance..."
- **1 Peter 1:3-4**, "...According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,"
- That alone should affect your daily living!
- **You are a valued asset in God's kingdom. He has called you and set you aside to be used for His glory.** Carry yourself well. Take care of your heart and mind. Protect what He's given to you.

### Joshua 14: Dividing the land between the 12 tribes

- Caleb receives his inheritance
  - **Deuteronomy 1:36**, "[to Caleb] I will give the land on which he has trodden, because he has wholly followed the Lord!"
  - He asks for the very land that caused the people to fear and not want to enter the land **[land of the Anakim]**
  - **Verse 12**: "So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day...It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said."
  - Even in his older age, he was strengthened with God-fearing resolve to fight if need be. He knew God would go before him.
- **No matter your stage of life, you are meant to carry on in boldness and courage, and continue to 'take the land'.**
  - **QUOTE**: "Life in all its dimensions is to be lived according to the plans set forth by God, not by the greedy, selfish plans designed by man. Blessing comes ultimately to the man who totally follows God." [Trent Butler]
  - **2 Corinthians 4:16**, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."

### Joshua 15: Judah's Inheritance

**14** And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman **[pronounced Aman]** and Talmai, the descendants of Anak. **15** And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir...

- Caleb's follow through and testament to his strength, courage, and faith in God.

### Joshua 16 & 17: Ephraim and Manasseh's Inheritance

- **Verse 10**: "However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor."

- **Application:** What we allow to remain in our ‘sphere of influence’, especially if it does not align with God’s will and word, can have long lasting/detrimental affects.
- **Ch. 17, Verses 12-16:** “Yet the people of Manasseh could not take possession of those cities, but the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land. Now when the people of Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out. Then the people of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, “Why have you given me but one lot and one portion as an inheritance, although I am a numerous people, since all along the Lord has blessed me?” And Joshua said to them, “If you are a numerous people, go up by yourselves to the forest, and there clear ground for yourselves in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you.” The people of Joseph said, “The hill country is not enough for us. Yet all the Canaanites who dwell in the plain have chariots of iron, both those in Beth-shean and its villages and those in the Valley of Jezreel.”
  - Joshua provided them an opportunity to go and claim more land, but it would require them to clear the forest to settle the land.
  - Yet, they wanted more, but didn’t want to have to put in the work.
  - Maybe they felt all the battles that had taken place over the last 7 years was enough and they didn’t want to keep fighting. They gave in to what *they* wanted, versus what God promised He would do for them.
  - **Be content in what you have. Christ is your life, not your possessions.**
    - Are you content with what God has given you?
    - Are you willing to work for what He wants to give to you? [‘genie in the bottle’ mentality towards God]
    - **1 Timothy 6:6,** “But godliness with contentment is great gain,”
    - **Luke 12:15,** “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
      - **Colossians 3:1, 4a,** “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God... Christ is your life...”
  - Rich Young Ruler
    - **Matthew 19:16-22,** “And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”
      - Possessions are not bad. What God has given to you is obviously for good.
  - **Be faithful with what God has given to you. And as He sees fit, He will bless you with more.** But be ready to fight for what He provides!
    - The rich young ruler walked away in grief, because he valued his belongings more than fellowship with Christ.
    - It’s imperative that the possessions of this world don’t take precedence over God and our service to Him.

- **Matthew 6:19-21**, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”

## **CONCLUSION**

- There are **5 things** I want you to understand from today’s study:
  1. Remember to reflect on all that God has done for you. Memorialize those moments of His faithfulness to you.
  2. You are a valued asset in God’s kingdom. He has called you and set you aside to be used for His glory. Carry yourself well. Take care of your heart and mind. Protect what He’s given to you.
  3. No matter your stage of life, you are meant to carry on in boldness and courage, and continue to ‘take the land’.
  4. Be content in what you have. Christ is your life, not your possessions.
  5. Be faithful with what God has given to you. And if He sees fit for your life, He will bless you with more. But be ready to fight for what He provides!