

## “Our Inheritance” Joshua Chapter 13

Joshua had made war a long time with the Canaanite kings (Josh. 12:18). Unlike Moses (Deut. 34:7), the years in the wilderness and many battles had taken their toll on the man of God. The major battles were over so he now will fulfill God’s second major task, the division of the Promised Land as an inheritance for the people (Josh. 1:6). God in His mercy and grace bestowed upon the aged warrior a **lighter task**, as He does to seasoned saints (Ps. 92:12-15). God preserves His saints through the dangers of youth and the trials of maturity so that elders may impart their wisdom to the next generation (1Tim. 5:17; Tit. 2:3-4; 1Pet. 5:1-5).

Though the land had been conquered there still remained many pockets of resistance (v. 2-6). The children of Israel were to go in and **fully possess** the land promised and delivered to them by God (Deut. 9:1-7). Their disobedience to the revealed word of God (v. 13) will cause them great trouble in the future (Judges 1:27-36). God did not **choose** Israel on their **merit** but because He is faithful to keep His promises and because of His love (Deut. 7:6-9). Believers are likewise **chosen in Christ** (Eph. 1:4) and saved from sin and death (Eph. 2:1) because of the richness of His mercy and the great love with which He loves us (Eph. 2:4-5).

The full possession of the Land is a further picture of salvation for the believer. The Land was delivered by God yet Israel had to mop up the resistance and work the Land. We are saved by grace alone by Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-9) yet we are to work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:13). Though Christ finished the work of salvation on the Cross (John 19:30), we are to **fight** the good fight, **finish** the course, and **keep** the faith (2Tim. 4:7). Though our sufficiency is of God (2Cor. 3:5), and Christ is the Vine, we must **abide** in that Vine in order to live and produce fruit (John 15:1-5).

All the tribes have a portion of the land as an inheritance except the Levites (v. 14). Their **inheritance** was the LORD God of Israel (v. 33). So it is with all who trust in Christ. Though we have tribulation in this world (John 16:33), we also have great blessings (Matt. 19:29), and abundant life (John 10:10). But our **eternal inheritance** is in heaven (Eph. 1:11). The Levitical priesthood was limited, but all believers are priests (1Pet. 2:9) and **heirs** to all that is found in Christ (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29; James 2:5)!

