

## 49 The Promised Land

### MEMORY VERSE:

"I am your share and your inheritance." Num 18:20

SCRIPTURES: Joshua 13-24

AIM: It's all about God (not the land)

The Israelites fought many more battles, with God as their King and their strength. And eventually, there came a day when they were ready to settle in the Promised Land. Though there were still battles to be fought, the land had rest from war, and was divided for the Israelites. Of the twelve tribes, eleven received inheritances of land.

Then Joshua said to all the Israelites:

"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: `Long ago your father Abraham lived beyond the River with his father Terah and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. Then I brought your nation out of Egypt, and you saw with your own eyes the strength and protection I provided when I redeemed you from slavery in Egypt.

Then, after many years in the desert, you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did the other nations in Canaan, but I fought your battles for you.

The Bible tells us that as the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, it was the completion of God's promise to Abraham. Joshua 14:43-45 says:

"So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled."

**But the Levites didn't get any land; their inheritance was the LORD.**

Although this sounds like God was being unkind to the Levites by not giving them a land inheritance, it is actually a beautiful picture of His provision for His Priests, and the Nation of Israel. You see, instead of settling in one area of the Promised Land, God created 48 cities spread throughout all of Canaan. God did this so that His Priests could minister to the people, and always point them back to Him.

And God established laws of tithing so that the Priests would be provided for with both food and money. But what about the land? That is the most amazing part; after all the wandering, and after all the battles, the truth of the matter is that the Promised Land **isn't about the land!** While the Israelites were still wandering in the desert, God told the Priests and Levites "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; **I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.** And as we continue to see God's Story unfold in future lessons, we'll see with more and more clarity that God isn't concerned with His people living in a certain place on earth, what He really intends is for His chosen people to live **in His Presence** Forever.