



Lesson 49: The Promised Land

Scriptural Basis:



Joshua 13-22, Deuteronomy 6

Overview:

Six hundred, eighty two years after a promise made to Abram by God, Abram's descendants – the Israelites – divide up the inherited land of Canaan among the twelve tribes of Israel (descendants of Jacob's sons). However, though thirteen, tribes, only 12 divisions are made because the Levites didn't get an inheritance of land. Instead, the Bible tells us that the Levite's inheritance was the LORD Himself (they served as His priests).

Things to consider:

The division of the land is the culmination of God's land promise to Abram (Josh 21:43-45). However, in a big way, the climax of Israel *finally* settling into the land of Canaan is *eclipsed* by the profound truth that the priests (those chosen by God to represent Him), received NO land. Their inheritance is far greater than that – the LORD Himself!

The gospel in the story:



The priests of Israel (the Levites) are connectors between God and humanity. From the very point at which sin entered the world, God was laying the groundwork for being involved in humanity via priests. Hebrews tells us that if perfection could have been attained through the line of Levi, God would have stopped there. But their priesthood points to the one true High Priest, Jesus. Through His perfect priesthood, He made atonement once and for all for sin. Those who put their faith in Him become priests (ministers of the gospel of salvation) underneath Him (1 Pet. 3).

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Joshua 13:33, 12:1-3 and 21:43-45. Consider:

- God establishes that his land promise to Abram has been fulfilled (21:43-45).
- The Levites didn't get an inheritance of land, because God was their inheritance, yet God completely provided for them by giving them towns in the lands of all the other tribes.
- The priests play the central role in humanity of the connection between the world and God

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review – Last week: the sun stands still
- B: Introduce Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Bible verse memory activity
- E. Additional activity

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

- Q: Who was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel? A: Jacob
- Q: Who was the father of Jacob? A: Isaac.
- Q: Who was the father of Isaac A: Abraham
- Q: What did God promise Abraham (who was named Abram at the time the promise was issued)? A: An inheritance of land – the Promised Land – for Abraham’s descendents.
- Q: What is another name for the promised land? A: Canaan.
- Q: Why didn’t the Levites inherit a portion of Canaan? A: Because God was their inheritance.
- Q: Did God give the Levites a place to live? A: Yes, He provided towns with pastureland for the Levites in the towns of the other tribes.

Heart : **Memory verse**

“I am your share and your inheritance.” Num 18:20

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

It’s not about the material things, it’s all about God.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

Our identity is in God. As we build our households – God desires that they be a tribute to Him, not us.

Heaven: **How can we be intentional about sharing our faith?**

God is true to His promises. God gave the Israelites the promised land just as He told Abram He would. God has made bigger promises. Beyond providing for our physical needs, He has promised salvation to all who repent and put their faith in Him.



Coloring Guide:

- Water: blue
- Asher: light green
- Naphtali: light brown
- Zebulun: purple
- Issachar: dark red
- Manessah: yellow
- Dan: dark green
- Ephraim: orange
- Benjamin: light blue
- Gad: teal
- Judah: dark brown
- Simeon: light yellow
- Reuben: pink

JOS 13:32 This is the inheritance Moses had given when he was in the plains of Moab across the Jordan east of Jericho. But to the tribe of Levi, Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as he promised them.

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Learning At Home

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