

## Conquering the Land (1400 – 1100 BCE)

### *Division of the Promised Land*

Readings: *Joshua 18:1-21:45*

#### **Reflections:**

- This section begins by pointing out that there is still more work to be done. Therefore a survey is commissioned and a process established to divide out the remaining land. It is noted again that the Levites don't get any land. This has been repeated many times now and so it is obviously very significant. Again, it points to the future parallel to the church. The descriptions of the land don't mean much today but in its context it was significant in its time. It helped the nation establish permanent physical boundaries.
- Joshua is given his own city which is remarkable. Notice that it says, "They gave him the town he asked for." God does want to give his children the desires of their hearts. It is good to ask for things and understand that God delights to give his children what they like. He invites his people into the process of shaping or determining some of the good things and blessings that come into their lives. Sometimes he does and obviously sometimes in his wisdom he doesn't. Here he did and it shows God's heart for Joshua.
- In Israel they had no prisons for offenders but they did have cities of refuge for those looking for protection and mercy. It is fascinating how God displays a certain emphasis on grace. Then again, murderers were to be killed so judgment still abounds under the law but there is still a physical expression in community offering grace in these cities of refuge.
- The Levites receive towns in the different tribes so that they could minister God's law to each tribe and also a city of refuge so that there was an expression of grace within that tribe. This may be a good parallel to a vision of having a healthy growing church in every nation of the world.
- This section concludes with Israel claiming their inheritance and the Lord giving them "rest on every side." It concludes with this statement, "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed, everyone was fulfilled." It reminds me of 2 Corinthians 1:20: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ."

