

Joshua 13:1 ¶ Now Joshua was old *and* stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old *and* stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.

Joshua 13:2 This *is* the land that yet remaineth: all the borders of the Philistines, and all Geshuri,

Joshua 13:3 From Sihor, which *is* before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, *which* is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites:

Joshua 13:4 From the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that *is* beside the Sidonians, unto Aphek, to the borders of the Amorites:

Joshua 13:5 And the land of the Giblites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrising, from Baalgad under mount Hermon unto the entering into Hamath.

Joshua 13:6 All the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon unto Misrephothmaim, *and* all the Sidonians, them will I drive out from before the children of Israel: only divide thou it by lot unto the Israelites for an inheritance, as I have commanded thee.

It is noted at this point that Joshua is very old and that there is still much land that needs to be conquered. We know that the LORD will not allow Joshua to die until he has completed all that the LORD has for him to do. It seems that he has completed all except the division of the land.

Principle: There is still much we can do to serve the LORD even when we are old.

I think the Philistines stand out since they will prove to figure significantly in Israel's history. JFB notes that Philistine lands stretched about 60 miles along the Mediterranean coast.

Though these lands were yet to be conquered, the LORD commands Joshua to include these lands in the inheritances that are given to each tribe. The LORD promises to be with the children of Israel as they go to war to take possession of these lands. Sadly, the biblical record will prove that the people of Israel never completely conquered the land.

Joshua 13:7 ¶ Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh,

Joshua 13:8 With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, *even* as Moses the servant of the LORD gave them;

Joshua 13:9 From Aroer, that *is* upon the bank of the river Arnon, and the city that *is* in the midst of the river, and all the plain of Medeba unto Dibon;

Joshua 13:10 And all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, unto the border of the children of Ammon;

Joshua 13:11 And Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, and all mount Hermon, and all Bashan unto Salcah;

Joshua 13:12 All the kingdom of Og in Bashan, which reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants: for these did Moses

smite, and cast them out.

Joshua 13:13 Nevertheless the children of Israel expelled not the Geshurites, nor the Maachathites: but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

The LORD tells Joshua to divide the land west of Jordan among the nine remaining tribes and the other half of the tribe of Manasseh since the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh had already received their inheritance through Moses east of Jordan. As noted in previous chapters, the land of inheritance on the east side of Jordan for the 2.5 tribes included the kingdoms of Sihon and Og. It seems that even the tribes east of Jordan still had people to conquer as well—but they didn't.

Chuck Smith made a good application regarding the land that Israel did not conquer: "Now they came to the place where they were satisfied, they were content; they didn't press on to the full victory. Beware of spiritual plateaus. Beware of that spiritual complacency where you come to the place where you're spiritually satisfied, 'This is as far as I need to go, far as I desire to go. As far as the rest of the things in my life, I can live with them.' Whenever you can start living comfortably with your flesh, you are in danger spiritually."

Joshua 13:14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire *are* their inheritance, as he said unto them.

It is noted once again that the tribe of Levi was not to be given a land inheritance because the sacrifices made to the LORD would be their inheritance.

This chapter closes by giving more detail regarding the inheritances of the 2.5 tribes that were east of the Jordan River. Reuben was given the southern part of the land, Gad the middle and the half tribe of Manasseh the northern.

Joshua 13:15 And Moses gave unto the tribe of the children of Reuben inheritance according to their families.

Joshua 13:16 And their coast was from Aroer, that is on the bank of the river Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the river, and all the plain by Medeba;

Joshua 13:17 Heshbon, and all her cities that *are* in the plain; Dibon, and Bamothbaal, and Bethbaalmeon,

Joshua 13:18 And Jahazah, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,

Joshua 13:19 And Kirjathaim, and Sibmah, and Zarethshahar in the mount of the valley,

Joshua 13:20 And Bethpeor, and Ashdothpisgah, and Bethjeshimoth,

Joshua 13:21 And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote with the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, *which were* dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country.

Joshua 13:22 Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.

Joshua 13:23 And the border of the children of Reuben was Jordan, and the border *thereof*. This *was* the inheritance of the children of Reuben after their families, the cities and the villages thereof.

Interesting facts:

- The death of Balaam is mentioned once again.
- Heshbon, Kedemoth, Mephaath were cities that were given to the Levites.
- Sibmah was famous for its vines.
- Moses was buried in a valley near Bethpeor.

Joshua 13:24 And Moses gave *inheritance* unto the tribe of Gad, *even* unto the children of Gad according to their families.

Joshua 13:25 And their coast was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the children of Ammon, unto Aroer that *is* before Rabbah;

Joshua 13:26 And from Heshbon unto Ramathmizpeh, and Betonim; and from Mahanaim unto the border of Debir;

Joshua 13:27 And in the valley, Betharam, and Bethnimrah, and Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, Jordan and *his* border, *even* unto the edge of the sea of Chinnereth on the other side Jordan eastward.

Joshua 13:28 This *is* the inheritance of the children of Gad after their families, the cities, and their villages.

Interesting facts:

- The land of Gilead was known for its spices and aromatic gums.
- The bedstead of the giant king Og was preserved in Rabbah.
- The destruction of Rabbah was the last of David's conquests.
- Mahanaim became a city of the Levites.
- The angels of God met Jacob at Mahanaim as he journeyed back home, and it was here that he divided his camp in preparation for encountering Esau.
- Saul's son Ishbosheth was murdered in Mahanaim.
- David heard the news of Abasalom's death while sitting at the gate to Mahanaim.
- The foundries for casting the metal work for the temple were erected at Succoth.

Joshua 13:29 And Moses gave *inheritance* unto the half tribe of Manasseh: and *this was the possession* of the half tribe of the children of Manasseh by their families.

Joshua 13:30 And their coast was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which *are* in Bashan, threescore cities:

Joshua 13:31 And half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, *were pertaining* unto the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, *even* to the one half of the children of Machir by their families.

Interesting facts:

- It is noted that there were 60 cities in Bashan.
- Ashtaroth became a city of the Levites given to the Gershonites.

Joshua 13:32 These *are the countries* which Moses did distribute for inheritance in the plains of Moab, on the other side Jordan, by Jericho, eastward.

Joshua 13:33 But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not *any* inheritance: the LORD God of Israel *was* their inheritance, as he said unto them.

This completes this accounting of the inheritance of the 2.5 tribes on the east side of the Jordan River.

Again we are told that the Levites received no land inheritance.