

JOSHUA 18-23

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



WEEK IN REVIEW

The last section of Joshua consists of dividing the land and worshipping God in the land. Joshua chapters 18-19 cover the allotment of land for the remaining seven tribes. While these few chapters might seem like a boring list of names and **inheritances**, there is so much for us to learn here! We see a good God who is faithful to fulfill His good promises. God went before His people and won the battle on their behalf. These inheritances were a gift from God. To get an inheritance means to receive a gift that is not earned. As followers of Jesus, we get an inheritance far greater than the Promised Land. Ephesians 1 tells us that in Jesus, "we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will." Every single one of God's promises were answered. Not one of them failed.

Once the land was divided, the Israelites were called to worship God in the land. They were called to enter into His rest. Joshua 22:4 says, "Now that the Lord your God has given them rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan." Rest in the Old Testament looked like resting in God's promises. It was only possible by obeying God's commands and instructions, loving Him, and serving Him with all their hearts and souls. However, the Israelites failed to do this. They turned from God and rebelled against His ways. In the New Testament, the book of Hebrews tells us to enter into God's rest unlike the hardened hearts of Israel. Jesus is ultimately where our rest comes from. He calls us to come to Him when we are weary or burdened and He will give us rest.

In chapter 23, Joshua gives his **farewell address**. These were his closing words before he passed away. Joshua spoke to the people of Israel and proclaimed the mighty works he had seen God do in his lifetime. It was God with them and fighting for them the whole time. Joshua reminded them of truths that they could hold on to as they lived in the land of Canaan. They were to be strong and continue obeying everything written in the book of the Law. They were to be loyal to the Lord and serve Him only. They were to diligently watch their ways. However, if they disobeyed, there would be consequences for their sin. Joshua lived a very successful life. He was a faithful leader who obeyed God and clung onto His promises. He saw Israel endure a lot of success as they conquered the Promised Land. His biggest failure? He did not raise up a leader to replace himself. Without strong leadership, the Israelites turned from God and did what is right in their own eyes. We will see a lot more of that throughout the book of Judges!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not one of God's promises will ever fail!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rest of land allotments ● More inheritances ● Cities of Refuge ● Levi's allotment ● Joshua's charge of Israel's leaders
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joshua 21:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." ● Joshua 23:2-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "I am very old. You yourselves have seen everything the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the Lord your God who fought for you." ● Joshua 23:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "If you violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the Lord's anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inheritance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receiving a gift that can not be earned ● Farewell address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing words from a person

Reflection Questions

1.	What is an inheritance? Do we get an inheritance as Christians?
2.	How do we enter into God's rest?
3.	What did Joshua do well as a leader in Israel?
4.	What did Joshua fail to do at the end of His life?