

Joshua 13

Joshua 13.1-7 (We will not be reading all of the verses in this chapter)

-V 1-7 – much land in eastern Palestine (along the Mediterranean Sea) remained to be conquered

Read v 1-2

V1 – Any lessons from Joshua in his old age? He didn't "retire" from the Lord's work

-At most congregations there will be people who retire and move south to spend their remaining days fishing, or playing golf, or just living in a cabin by the lake

-Many congregations in the Upper Midwest have been trashed by that kind of behavior, as if we can just retire and "coast" on out of this life (more on this in *Joshua 14*)

-Saying in Victorian England: *A man's reach should exceed his grasp*

-In other words, we are to always be striving for a new talent or a new skill or a new challenge

-Michael Jordan: *What is there left to prove?* – a bad attitude!

Read v 7 – What new assignment did God give to Joshua? In charge of apportioning the land for the 12 tribes

-In other words, Joshua might not have been the mighty warrior he was in his youth, but God still had work for him to do

-And again, it is shameful to see skilled people in the Lord's church "retire" and move south and take it easy for many years

-One congregation this writer knows about used to have 3 elders

-all 3 retired and moved south and died there – it really damaged the church in THE area, and it has never recovered

But Joshua was helpful to the Children of Israel, even in his old age

Joshua 13.8-14 – we will not be reading every verse in this section

-We begin to see the boundaries that Joshua laid out for the 12 Tribes

-**What was this material put into the Bible?** There would be fewer disputes among the people of God, since the boundaries were clearly laid out

-today, even in agreements among Christians, it is good to put everything down on paper

Read 2 Corinthians 8.21 (concerning the money Paul had raised for the Christians in Jerusalem)
Today, under the New Testament, how are legal disputes between two Christians to be handled? Read 1 Cor. 6.1-7

-Note v 5 – we are to find a wise man among the members of the church to arbitrate

-**Lesson?** God does not want his people to be divided over disputes

-**Note:** When this writer was growing up, there was a used car salesman in our congregation, and another man in the church bought a car from him, which turned out to be a real lemon – I remember that the selling price was \$500 (a lot of money in late 1950's)

-One of the elders arbitrated and listened to both sides and then turned to the used car salesman and said: "Write him a check for \$500" – which is what he did, and the dispute was settled

Read Joshua 13.14 – There were actually 13 tribes – **Read Rev. 7.4-8**

-Omitted: Dan and Ephraim, added: Joseph

-**Meaning?** Not a literal passage (Jehovah's Witnesses: Only 144,000 will be in heaven, but that is not a literal passage)

-Tribe of Dan – last mentioned in *1 Chronicles 5.26* – **Why?** Because it was the first tribe to go into idolatry

-**Explain** – there was no tribe of Joseph, but his two sons (Ephraim and Manasseh were fathers of two tribes) – **Read Genesis 48.2**

-But there was no land for the tribe of Levi – **Why?** They were to disperse themselves throughout the 12 tribes – so there were actually 13 tribes

Joshua 13.15-23

-a recounting of the death of Balaam

Read Joshua 13.22 – very interesting

-Punishment eventually came for the evil people/this goes back to *Numbers 22-25*

-Balaam tried to curse the Israelites – then he tried to get them to compromise the truth

Lessons from Balaam (according to *Beacon Bible Commentary*, II, 69):

1. Bribery is a terrible sin.
2. The love of money yields spiritual disasters.
3. Punishment surely comes, although not always by our timetable.
4. The enjoyment of sin is short-lived.

Joshua 13.24-28

-more boundaries east of the Jordan River

Joshua 13.29-33

V 33 – Another mention of the tribe of Levi

-If the tribe of Levi was so great, why didn't Jesus come through that tribe (instead of through the tribe of Judah)? To show the superiority of Jesus over the Law of Moses (book of *Hebrews*)

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