

Joshua 18

Read Joshua 18.1-2

V1 - **What is the nation of Israel called?** A *congregation* (this word is first used in *Exodus 12.3*)

-In the Septuagint (LXX), the word that is used here is *ekklesia* – Greek word for *congregation, church*

-The LXX was a translation carried out in Alexandria, Egypt, in about 200 BC (280-180 BC) by 72 Jewish scholars in the Greek language

-It was a great evangelistic tool, since many potential converts to Judaism could not speak Hebrew, but spoke Koine Greek (the Greek of the common people and businessmen – not classical Greek, which was used by the great philosophers and writers)

-Several of the NT writers used the LXX (this is the abbreviation for the Septuagint)

-Most notably, the book of *Hebrews* (this makes Apollos a good candidate as the author of *Hebrews*, since he was from Alexandria, Egypt) - it is also quoted by James at the council in Jerusalem (*Acts 15.16-17*)

-The use of "congregation" here shows that God was preparing the world for the concept of people set apart (or called out) for the New Covenant

-**Where did Joshua order that the Tabernacle be set up?** In Shiloh – a central location in the tribe of Ephraim

-**Was the Tabernacle always located in Shiloh?** No – David moved it to Jerusalem, and Solomon replaced it with the Temple

V2 – **How many tribes were left in the dividing up of the land? 7 tribes left**

Read Joshua 18.3-7

V3-4 – **What did Joshua order done?** – To have a survey done of the land, so that the remaining land could be divided up

ILL: In Lansing, Michigan, there is the Museum of Surveying, and it has many quotations from the Old Testament illustrating the principles of surveying (try to get to see it, if you can)

-The Old Testament has a lot to say about not moving the ancient boundaries and markers

-Joshua sent surveyors out to assess the situation and to continue to divide up the land

V5-6 – **What other instructions did Joshua give to the surveyors?** To divide the land up into 7 sections

V7 – Again, the Levites were not going to have their own tribal land, but would be scattered throughout the land

Read Joshua 18.8-10

-**What was the result of the survey?** The men came back with recommendations about 7 divisions of the remaining land

V10 – Joshua cast lots

Joshua 18.11-28 (Do not read) – a description of the land given to the tribe of Benjamin

-The order thus far for the tribes' allotment: Judah, Ephraim, Manasseh (Ephraim and Manasseh were the sons of Joseph – the son of Jacob and Rachel – his favorite wife)

-So Benjamin came next (also the son of Jacob and Rachel – he was the younger brother of Joseph)

-**Why did Benjamin come next?** - Jacob was still playing favorites with his sons

-Saul in the Old Testament and Apostle Paul in the New Testament both came from the tribe of Benjamin

Judges 20.16 – They were famous for left-handed warriors who take a sling and hit a hair and not miss it

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