

# **Joshua 21**

## **Joshua 21.1-40** – Do not read

### The Levites asked for their cities

-They were given 48 cities scattered throughout the 12 tribes

Notice: The list of the 48 cities in *Joshua 21* does not exactly match the list of the 48 cities in *1 Chronicles 6.54-81*

**-What is the reason for the differences?** The names of some towns changed over the centuries (date for Joshua: c. 1400-1350 B.C.; date for *1-2 Chronicles*: about 536 B.C. – the return from the Babylon Captivity), and some towns were probably abandoned

Crystal Lake, Illinois, originally came from two towns: Crystal Ville and Nunda

-Crystal Ville changed the name to Crystal Lake, and Nunda changed its name to North Crystal Lake, and finally in 1914 it was all combined into a new town called Crystal Lake

**If the lists in *Joshua 21* and *1 Chronicles 6* were exactly identical, what would people say today about the Bible?** It was all made up, because you would never find a list of 48 cities with identical names after 700-800 years

-Many times people who know very little about the Bible make really stupid statements that it is just another man-made book

Like the guy who said that the Old Testament is false, because there is no way that the Israelites would have dragged Noah's ark across the Jordan River when they crossed into the Promised Land in 1405 BC (Noah's ark is not the same as the Ark of the Covenant)

So in *Joshua 21*, we have the Levites assigned 48 cities among the Israelites

-In the census at the end of the Exodus, in *Numbers 26.62* the population of the tribe of Levi was put at about 23,000 – so there would be enough Levites in these 48 cities to teach the people the Word of God

## **Joshua 21.41-45**

**-What was the purpose of this passage?** God had kept his side of the covenant

1. He was faithful and gave Israel the land (*Joshua 20.43*)

2. He gave Israel victory over all their enemies and then gave them rest from war (*Joshua 20.44*, see *Joshua 1.13, 15, 11.23*)

3. God had kept all his promises (repeated by Joshua in *Joshua 23.14* and by Solomon in *1 Kings 8.56* when he dedicated the Temple)

Also: God's timetable may be different from ours

-The promise was made to Abraham in *Gen. 12.1* (about 1900BC)

-This was about 1400 BC (500 years later) – but it was fulfilled

-The land had been given to the descendants of Abraham

**Is it good or bad that God keeps his promises?** – It all depends on us

-Remember *Joshua 6.26* – whoever reset the gates of Jericho would lose his firstborn son and his youngest son – God kept his promise: *1 Kings 16.34*