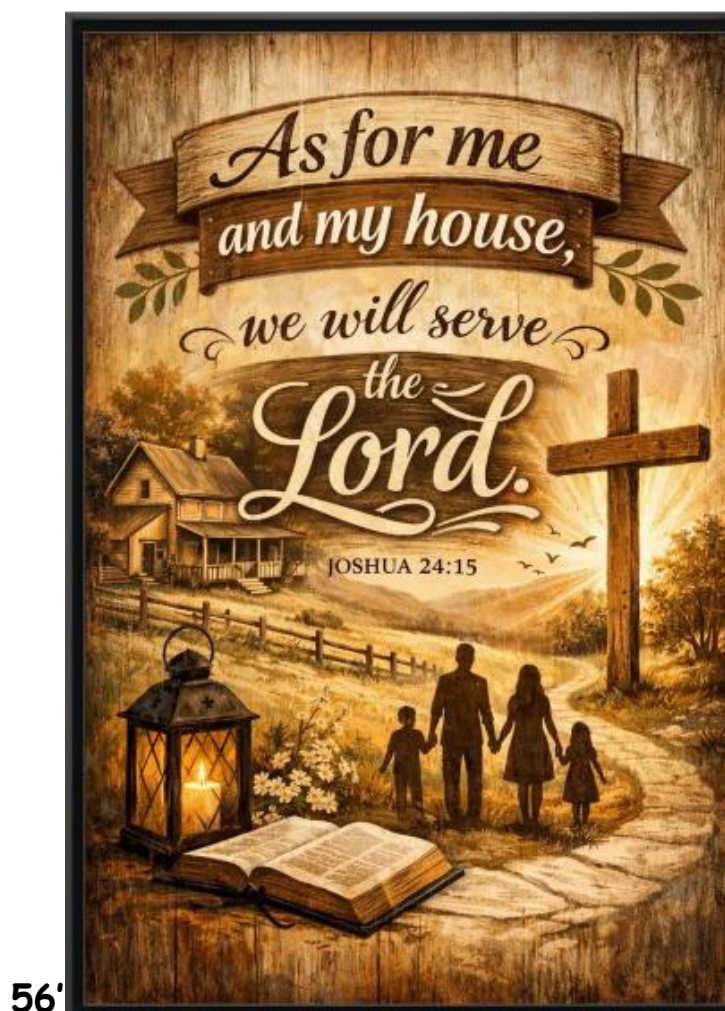




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Joshua Chapters 21 to 24 – 5 more Studies – Part 5

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL** and **NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

Study 1 – God’s Promises Never Fail

Joshua 21:1-45

(Sermon on 2nd August 2026)

Before we begin...

Who are the Levites?

The Levites are members of the tribe of Levi, one of the tribes of Israel. Levi was one of Jacob’s twelve sons!

God set them apart to look after the Tabernacle (mobile Temple) and to assist the Priests, and lead the people in worship.

Moses and Aaron both come from the tribe of Levi. Hence Aaron was the first High Priest of Israel.

There duties and roles

- **Tabernacle Care:** Packed, moved, and set up the portable sanctuary during the wilderness travels.
- **Assisting Priests:** Helped Aaron's descendants, who performed the direct animal sacrifices.
- **Temple Support:** Served as musicians, gatekeepers, guards, and judges for the community

Read Joshua 21:1-45

1. Why is Shiloh important? (v1)

*Shiloh means “**a place of rest**”.*

The city was situated in Ephraim and it was a temporary home of the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

It was later the place where Hannah prayed deeply for a child (1 Samuel) and where her son, the prophet Samuel grew up.

It’s also the place where the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant during a battle due to the corruption of Eli’s sons.

2. Why were the Levites not given a tribal territory like other tribes? (Numbers 18:20-24; Joshua 13:33)

Back in Genesis 34 – Simeon and Levi – had taken revenge on the man who had raped their sister, Dinah.

*So in Genesis 49, as Jacob died, he gave blessings to all his sons, but to Simeon and Levi, he said this: ⁵ “Simeon and Levi are brothers— their swords are weapons of violence.⁶ Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased. ⁷ Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! **I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.***

*By the time we get to Joshua’s time and beyond – **Simeon’s land is swallowed up by Judah (Joshua 19:1, 9)** and the Levites are scattered throughout Israel.*

*Numbers 18:20-24 – ²⁰ The Lord said to Aaron, “**You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.** ²¹ “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting. ²² From now on the Israelites must not go near the tent of meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die. ²³ **It is the Levites who are to do the work at the tent of meeting and bear the responsibility for any offenses they commit against it.** This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites.** ²⁴ Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord. That is why I said concerning them: ‘**They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.**’”*

*Joshua 13:33 – But to the tribe of Levi, Moses had **given no inheritance; the Lord, the God of Israel, is their inheritance**, as he promised them.*

*See also Joshua 13:14 – But to the tribe of Levi **he gave no inheritance, since the food offerings presented to the Lord, the God of Israel, are their inheritance**, as he promised them.*

3. What are the family heads of the Levites proposing and what is the basis of their proposal? (vv1-2)

They came to Eleazar the priest and Joshua and the heads of the tribes and remind them that “The Lord commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock” (Numbers 35:2-3) and so the Israelites did as God commanded and gave the Levites the towns and pasturelands listed in the rest of this chapter.

John Calvin’s view on the Lord’s Prayer is that God sets forth a table that allows us to seek of Him, all that is of benefit to us, all that we need ask... We are asking almost in God’s own words.

James 1:5 assures us that if we lack wisdom to know how to respond to and act in our trials (vv2-4), we should ask God for it in faith, and the giving God will give it to us. Perhaps the Levites can teach us to pray.

4. What were the outcomes of this proposal? (vv3-40)

*Joshua 21:3-4 shows the towns given to the Levites into **three main family groups** (with the priests as a subset of one of them):*

1. **The Kohathites (Priests – descendants of Aaron)** (vv. 4, 9–19). They received **13 towns** from the tribes of **Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin**. As Aaron’s descendants, they served as the priests who offered sacrifices and ministered at the tabernacle.
2. **The Remaining Kohathites** (vv. 5, 20–26) The other Kohathite clans received **10 towns** from the tribes of **Ephraim, Dan, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (west of the Jordan)**. They assisted the priests with the care and transport of the tabernacle and its furnishings.
3. **The Gershonites and Merarites** (vv. 6–7, 27–40)
 - The **Gershonites** received **13 towns** from **Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half-tribe of Manasseh (east of the Jordan)** (vv. 27–33).
 - The **Merarites** received **12 towns** from **Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun** (vv. 34–40). These clans also had important responsibilities in transporting, maintaining, and serving the tabernacle.

The Israelites obeyed the Lord and gave the Levites towns and surrounding pasturelands from their own tribal inheritances, just as God had commanded through

Moses. In total, the Levites received 48 towns, ensuring they were dispersed throughout Israel to teach God's law and lead His worship (Joshua 21:3–40).



5. Why do you think God scattered the Levites throughout all Israel rather than placing them in one area?
 - *Placing Levites in every region ensured that every tribe had teachers to guide them in God's laws and worship.*
 - *The Cities of Refuge were also Levite towns and as these were spaced out, it made it easy for anyone accused of accidental manslaughter to quickly reach a safe place for a fair trial.*
 - *Keeping the Levites separate with no land of their own, prevented them from forming a strong, greedy, or unified political state that could control the other tribes.*
 - *It also fulfilled Jacob's prophecy and blessing from Genesis 49:5-7*
6. **Ponder:** What does the arrangement of the Levites teach us about the importance of worship, teaching God's Word, and spiritual leadership among His people?

- God's Word and worship was central to Israel's life
- God intended His Word was to be taught everywhere
- God intended His people to influence one another spiritually. Iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17)
- He showed the Levites and the other tribes, that their greatest inheritance is God!

For Christians today, these arrangements for the Levites highlight the importance of:

- Making worship and God's Word central to church life.
- Supporting ministers, missionaries, and other gospel workers.
- Ensuring faithful biblical teaching is available to all God's people.
- Recognizing that our greatest inheritance is not earthly possessions but the Lord Himself through Jesus Christ.

7 What has God done for Israel? (vv43-45)

*V43 – He has given them all the **land** He swore to their ancestors and they have taken possession of it and settle in it*

*V44 – He has given them **rest** on all sides. Not one enemy has stood against them; the Lord has given them **victory** over all their enemies.*

*V45 – Not one of God's promises to Israel has failed! **Every promise has been fulfilled.***

7. What does verse 44 tell us about Israel's enemies and God's protection?

V44 – tells us that the battle belongs to the Lord, so every enemy was defeated because they had God's protection all the way through!

*This is the same pattern in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul comforts believers suffering persecution by promising that **God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)***

8. What promises has God made earlier in the Old Testament? (cf. Genesis 12:7; Genesis 15:18-21; Exodus 3:8; Deuteronomy 7:7-9)

*Genesis 12:7 – The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring **I will give this land.**” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.*

*Genesis 15:18-21 – ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “**To your descendants I give this land**, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”*

*Exodus 3:8 – So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into **a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.*

*Deuteronomy 7:7-9 - ⁷ The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ **But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery**, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

9. **Reflection:** Which promise of God has encouraged you in difficult times in your life?

*Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?***

*Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, **for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**”*

*Micah 7:7 - But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; **my God will hear me.***

10. **Reflection:** Are there areas in your life where you struggle to trust God's promises?

The main area is although I know God is in the miracle business and He has performed many miracles in my life and answered my prayers for others with miracles; I still struggle that He is going to answer this time. So I find myself saying "I do believe, help me overcome unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

The other area is connected; and that is waiting for God to answer even though I know I am praying according to His will and His promises in His Word.

11. How is remembering God's past promises and faithfulness helpful?

Remembering God's past promises and faithfulness can be helpful:

- *It strengthens our faith as we face uncertainty and trials*
- *It encourages us to obedient knowing God always keeps His promises*
- *It gives us gratitude for the past and hope for the future*
- *If we think about, if God has done the BIG thing – and sent His Son to save us – is He then going to leave us and not care about the details in our lives also.*

12. How can we/our church be like the Levites?

Just like the Levites were scattered through the Israelite community, we as a church are to be scattered throughout the community; we are to be:

- *Like the Levites, we can be **care-takers for God's Word***
- *Teaching God's Word faithfully – helping others to have a saving knowledge of Jesus and to grow in their knowledge of God*
- *Leading people in prayer and worship*
- *Providing spiritual care – praying for and encourage one another*
- *Fulfilling the Great Commission – and being Jesus' witnesses at work, at school, and neighbourhoods*
- *As we said last week, the Church is a place of refuge like the cities of refuge!*
- *The Levites were servants of the rest of Israel, just as the Church leaders are meant to be servants to the wider church and community*

- *The Levites were responsible for the sacrifices in the Temple; as Christians we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1)*

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 21:1-45**?

- *Just like the Levites are the priestly tribe fulfilling the duties of worship and sacrifices for sin on behalf of the people – **Jesus is not only the Great High Priest but He is the sacrifice (once and for all) for sin***
- *The name Shiloh [Place of Rest] is a **prophetic title for the Messiah**, Jesus. He bring us true refuge and rest for our souls as we discovered last week.*
- *The Levites received no land as inheritance – the Lord was their inheritance. Likewise is our greater inheritance. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we have an eternal inheritance*
- *The Levites were scattered to ensure they were a spiritual influence on all of Israel; Jesus send His disciples and us to all nations, to be a spiritual influence and share the Good News of the Gospel and to make God/Jesus known.*
- *The chapter ends with "Not one of all the Lord's promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled". This points to its fulfilment in Jesus, because all of God's promises find their "Yes" in Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20)*
- *The Israelites experience rest in v44. When Jesus returns we will have the ultimate eternal rest*

13. How do the following passages relate to **Joshua 21:1-45**?

Isaiah 55: 8-13

In Isaiah 55 God promises that His word will not return to Him void but will always accomplish His purposes because His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts.

In Joshua 21 all the promises of land inheritance and blessings to the Israelites, even though made centuries earlier, still were fulfilled in God's own perfect higher way and in God's own perfect higher timing!

Isaiah 55 says the land will flourish and that's precisely what is happening in Joshua 21.

Numbers 35:1-8

In Numbers 35:1-8 God commanded Moses that the Levites should receive towns among the other tribes because they would have no tribal territory of their own. In Joshua 21 this promise/command was fulfilled. It also shows that God thinks of everything and always provides for His people!

2 Corinthians 1:12-24

*In 2 Corinthians 1:12-24, Paul explains that God is faithful and that His promises are certain, because **“all the promises of God find their Yes in Him [Christ]”** (v.20). Joshua 21:45 declares that not one of God’s promises failed. This points forward to Jesus, in whom every promise of God finds its ultimate fulfilment.*

Ephesians 1:13-14

*In Ephesians 1, Paul says believers receive the Holy Spirit as **a guarantee of their inheritance** until we receive the full possession of what God has promised. Likewise the Levites received their inheritance as the Lord, rather than a large piece of land (Joshua 13:33). For us, we have an inheritance in Jesus, guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.*

Hebrews 10:19-25 (especially verse 23)

*In Joshua 21, the Israelites could trust God because He faithfully fulfilled all His promises. Christians can have even greater confidence because Jesus has opened the way to God and God remains faithful. Therefore in Hebrews 10:23 the writer says **““hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”***

The Levites were scattered throughout the Land, so there is no excuse for not gathering together in worship; just like Hebrews tells us we have no excuse for not gathering together in worship.

1 Peter 2: 4-10

In Joshua 21, the Levites were set apart for God’s service and worship among Israel. This points forward to where Peter describes all Christians as living stones being built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, and God’s chosen people. We

are to be His priests, called to serve God, proclaim His goodness, share the Good News and represent Him in the world.

2 Peter 1:3-4

Peter says God has given believers everything needed for life and godliness and has given us His precious promises so we may share in His divine nature. In Joshua 21, God provided everything Israel needed — land, rest, and spiritual leadership through the Levites. In Christ, God has provided everything needed for our spiritual life and growth; so that we can live a Godly life for God's glory!

Revelation 1:4-6

Revelation 1:4-6 says Jesus has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. The Levites were a priestly tribe serving God among His people. Jesus fulfils and expands this idea by making all His people a kingdom of priests who worship and serve Him.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Joshua 21:1-45?

God keeps His promises and provides all His people need.



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

⁴⁵ **Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.**

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for your faithfulness in all your promises. Thank you for your specific promises and arrangements for the Levites which foreshadow our role as a holy priesthood under our great High Priest, Jesus. Help us to be faithful priests in sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus. Thank you that all your promises are Yes in our Lord Jesus. In His Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 2 – Joshua’s Five Challenges

Joshua 22:1-34

(Sermon on 9th August 2026)

Before we begin, read Numbers 32:1-32...

This passage gives **background** to the **Eastern Tribes**. Summarize what is going on. *Numbers 32 tells how the tribes of Reuben and Gad asked Moses for land east of the Jordan River because they had large numbers of livestock and saw that the land of Gilead was ideal for their animals.*

1. Reuben and Gad make their request (vv. 1–5)

Reuben and Gad approached Moses and said that the land east of the Jordan was excellent for livestock. They asked to settle there rather than receive their inheritance in Canaan.

2. Moses is concerned (vv. 6–15)

Moses initially reacted strongly. He feared that Reuben and Gad were discouraging the other Israelites from entering the Promised Land. He reminded them of what happened when the spies returned from Kadesh-Barnea: Israel became afraid and refused to enter Canaan. Moses warned that their actions could bring God's anger upon the whole nation.

3. They offer to fight with Israel (vv. 16–27)

Reuben and Gad clarified that they were not refusing to fight.

They promised: Their families and livestock would remain in the fortified towns east of the Jordan. Their fighting men would cross the Jordan with the other tribes. They would fight until Israel had taken possession of its inheritance. Only after the other tribes had received their land would they return to their own territory.

This reassured Moses.

4. Moses agrees — with a condition (vv. 28–32)

Moses agreed to give them the land of Gilead provided they kept their promise to fight alongside Israel.

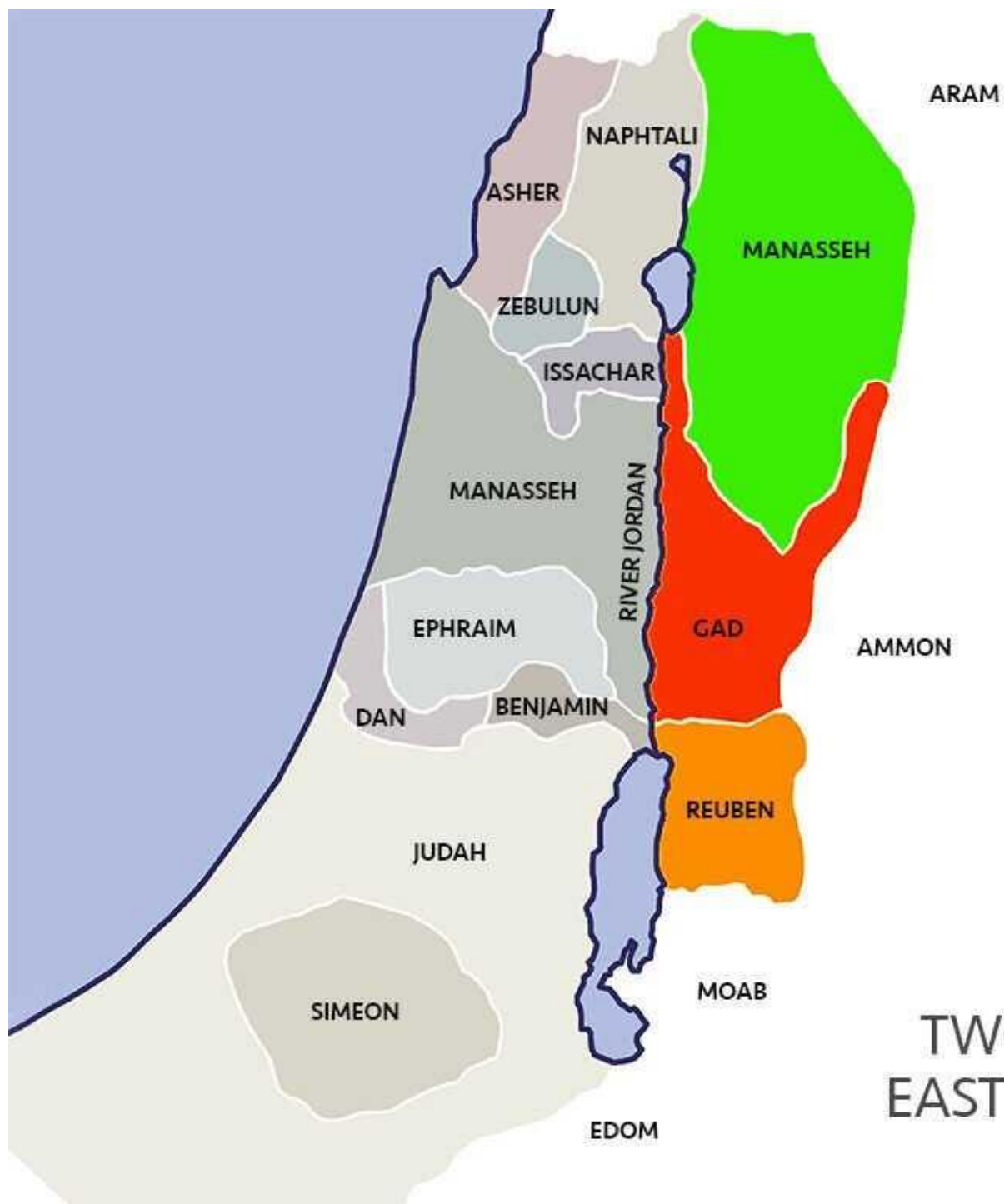
Their inheritance would therefore be conditional upon their faithfulness and obedience.

5. The land is divided (vv. 33–42)

*Moses gave the territory east of the Jordan to: **Reuben; Gad and Half the tribe of Manasseh***

They built or fortified towns and settled the land.

Numbers 32 raises an important question about God's people putting the interests of others before their own.



TWO-AND-A-HALF TRIBES
EAST OF THE RIVER JORDAN

Read Joshua 22:1-5

1. What does Joshua commend the Eastern tribes for? (vv1-3)

Joshua commends the faithfulness of the Eastern tribes. He tells them: “You have done all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded. For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your fellow Israelites but have carried out the mission the Lord your God gave you”

In the seven years they had been with Joshua, helping the tribes west of the Jordan to conquer their enemies, they had been completely obedient and helpful to Joshua (Guzik)

2. What instructions does Joshua give the Eastern tribes? (v4)

Joshua tells them to “return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan”

3. In verse 5, Joshua gives the Eastern tribes five challenges; list them.

- i) *To be very careful to **keep the commandment and the law** that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you*
- ii) *to **love the Lord your God***
- iii) *to **walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands***
- iv) *to **hold fast to the Lord***
- v) *to **serve God with all your heart and with all your soul.***

We should not miss the order here. First, we should take care to hear God. Then we give Him our love. Next comes a walk of obedience. To mix this order up is to drift into heresy (loving without hearing) or legalism (obeying before loving). [Guzik]

Read Joshua 22:6-9

4. Summarize what Joshua and the Eastern tribes do in these verses.

Joshua blessed them and sent them away (v6)

Half of tribe of Manasseh had land given to them on the Eastern side from Moses and the other half of tribe of Manasseh had land given to them on the Western side from Joshua (v7)

Joshua blessed them saying: “Return to your homes with your great wealth—with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing—and divide the plunder from your enemies with your fellow Israelites” (vv7-8)

Joshua would not send them away without a blessing. He knew that they could not do or be what God wanted them to be without His blessing among them.

Perhaps he used the blessing from Numbers 6:23-27: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”’ So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them. [Guzik]

The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land – given to them by Moses.

We might imagine that this was a somewhat emotional departure of brothers who had known the closeness of fighting side-by-side. These were true veterans of the army of Israel. [Guzik]

Read Joshua 22:10-34

5. What did the Eastern tribes build? (v10)

They built an imposing altar there by the River Jordan!

This was significant not only because of its size, but because of the meaning of an altar. An altar was a place of sacrifice, and both the Israelites and pagans had altars they used for sacrifice. [Guzik]

6. How did the rest of the Israelites (Western tribes) react? (vv11-12)

The whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against the Eastern tribes (v11).

When the news came to the rest of Israel, there was no discussion, there was a simple reaction. They gathered to make war against their own brothers who built this altar. Notice that Joshua did not need to gather them, they gathered of their own accord. It was an automatic reaction. Why did they do this? Because they feared that this altar was a sign of allegiance to the pagan gods of the region. Their readiness to fight this

battle shows great courage to confront on behalf of God's truth and holiness. This was a healthy "body," able to purge itself of poisons. [Guzik]

7. Whom do they send to handle this situation? (vv13-14)

*The Israelites sent **Phinehas** son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. With him they sent **ten of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel**, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.*

***Phinehas** led the group because he had the authority. He was high priest over the whole nation, including the two and one-half tribes on the east side of the Jordan. He not only had the authority, but he also had the heart of a wise shepherd. He wanted to correct the erring, to protect the nation, and to drive out the dangerous. [Guzik]*

8. What might the Western Tribes have been concerned about regarding this altar? What previous sins do they recall? (vv15-20) (cf. Deuteronomy 12:5-14; Leviticus 17:8-9; Numbers 25:1-9; Joshua 7:1)

Clearly, they thought that the altar at the Jordan represented a rival place of sacrifice and worship, to compete with God's tabernacle, presently at Shiloh.

God had clearly commanded that there was one place of sacrifice and burnt offerings for Israel: Also you shall say to them: Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to offer it to the Lord, that man shall be cut off from among his people. (Leviticus 17:8-9)

We understand from this that we cannot worship God any way we please, or justify a manner of worship just because we like it. First and always, our worship must be pleasing to God. We must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24) [Guzik]

Phinehas reminds the Eastern tribes that Israel had been punished for rebellion against God before. He cites the rebellion at Peor (Numbers 25) and the sin of Achan (Joshua 7)

The incident at Peor would be especially meaningful to Phinehas because he was the one who stopped the plague by making a dramatic stand for righteousness on an occasion of gross sin.

Phinehas offers that the Eastern tribes taken possession of some of the land on the Western side, rather than defile themselves by turning away from false gods and worshipping the one true God!

This was an invitation made at great cost. It would have meant a much smaller area of land for the western tribes. But it didn't matter, because they were willing to sacrifice to see their brothers free from this sin. Too many of us lack this willingness; we tell people to stop sinning, but are not willing to help them if it costs us something. [Guzik]

Deuteronomy 12:5-14

⁵ But you are to **seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling**. To that place you must go; ⁶ there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. ⁷ There, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you.

⁸ **You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit,** ⁹ since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety. ¹¹ **Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name**—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord. ¹² And there rejoice before the Lord your God—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites from your towns who have no allotment or inheritance of their own. ¹³ **Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please.** ¹⁴ **Offer them only at the place the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.**

Leviticus 17:8-9

⁸ “Say to them: ‘**Any Israelite or any foreigner residing among them who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice ⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance to the tent of meeting to sacrifice it to the Lord must be cut off from the people of Israel.**

Numbers 25:1-9

While Israel was staying in Shittim, **the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, ² who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. ³ So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them.**

⁴ The Lord said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord’s fierce anger may turn away from Israel.”

⁵ So Moses said to Israel’s judges, “**Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor.**”

⁶ Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, **saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand ⁸ and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear into both of them, right through the Israelite man and into the woman’s stomach.** Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; ⁹ but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.

Joshua 7:1

But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; **Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.**

9. How do Reuben, Gad and Manasseh respond to the accusation? (vv21-29)
They explain that if they had built this altar out of rebellion or disobedience to the Lord and turn offer burnt offerings and sacrifices, then they don’t deserve to be spared and the Lord Himself should call them to account.

They explain they built the altar out of fear that one day in the future, their descendants will ask “what do you have to do with the Lord, the God of Israel”. They also recognize that the River Jordan is like a boundary between them and the other tribes; even though they are all part of Israel.

They explain they didn’t build an altar for burnt offerings or sacrifices (v26). On the contrary, the altar was to be a witness between the Eastern tribes and the Western tribes and the generations that follow, that they will worship the Lord at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no share in the Lord’.

*If future generations ever say this to the Eastern tribes, or to their descendants, they will answer: Look at **the replica of the Lord’s altar**, which our ancestors built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but **as a witness between us and you.**’*

10. What do Phinehas and the leaders discover after hearing the explanation from Reuben, Gad and Manasseh? What is the outcome? (vv30-33)

Phinehas and the leaders on hearing the explanation were very pleased (v30).

Phinehas realizes they were not being unfaithful to the Lord in building the altar and the Eastern tribes explanation has rescued the Israelites from the sort of punishment that they received in sinful incident at Peor or after Achan’s sin. (v31)

So Phinehas and the leaders returned to Canaan to report the good news to the rest of the Israelites (v32) and there was no more mention of going to war against the Eastern tribes (v33)

*Phinehas could see that the **Lord was among us**, because unity had been restored among the people of Israel. This fulfilled the passage from Psalm 133:1: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! [Guzik]*

11. What is significant about the name of the altar? (v34)

*The altar was given the name **Witness Between Us** – because it was a witness to the tribes on both the Eastern and Western side of the Jordan - **that the Lord is God.***

12. **Ponder:** From question 3 (on verse 5), which of Joshua’s five challenges resonate with you most? Why?

The challenge “Love the Lord your God” resonates with me most – because if we Love the Lord our God properly – we will automatically fulfil the other four challenges!

13. **Ponder:** From question 3 (on verse 5), which of Joshua’s five challenges is the most difficult for you? Why?

The challenge “Walk in obedience to God” is difficult because we always fall short of God’s perfect standards; which is why we need Jesus!

Also to the challenge to “hold fast to the Lord” – is easy to start doubting when undergoing severe trials.

14. **Ponder:** What dangers do we see in this chapter?

- ***Danger of Non-Communicating** – we can bring about misunderstandings and confusion, if we don’t seek God’s wisdom first – and communicate our plans first before acting*
- ***Danger of Misunderstandings** – we can easily mistake someone’s actions when we don’t know their motives*
- ***Danger of Jumping to conclusions** – a wrong assumption can quickly become a serious conflict*
- ***Danger of allowing sin to spread** – sin isn’t merely an individual matter; it can often affect the whole community/family/church family*
- ***Danger of confusing symbols as reality** – perception is a tricky thing. The altar was not for sacrifices. The very thing that was made to preserve unity had almost caused a war. Good intentions can be totally misunderstood.*
- ***Danger of breaking fellowship without dialogue** – if there had been no dialogue in this incident – it would have been a complete disaster!*

15. How can churches today protect **unity** while remaining faithful to God’s truth? *Churches can protect unity by **speaking truth in love, listening before judging, addressing disagreements directly, and keeping Christ—not personal preferences—at the centre.** Unity must never mean compromising God’s truth, but truth should always be upheld with **humility, grace and a desire for reconciliation.** The process in Matthew 18:15-20 is helpful:*

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

We should respond to misunderstanding in the same manner, according to these same principles.

- *Respond with a concern for God’s holiness.*
- *Respond with the courage to confront in love.*
- *Respond with an attempt to reconcile before you fight.*
- *Determine that you are willing to sacrifice to help them; don’t confront unless you are willing to help.*
- *Determine that you will see the situation from the perspective of the other person.*
- *Determine that you will believe the best of one another.*

[Guzik]

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 22:1-34**?

- *Just like the two and half tribes of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh were understood, Jesus was grossly misunderstood throughout His life*
- *Just like the nine and half tribes on the Western side of the Jordan were prepared to stand up for truth and confront possible error; Jesus continually confronted people and always stood for God’s truth. Phinehas stands for God’s truth and is a type of Christ; as Jesus is the TRUTH.*

- *Just like the nine and half tribes on the Western side of the Jordan were prepared to sacrifice some of their land to prevent the two and half tribes from sin; Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for sin.*
- *The Jordan was perceived as a barrier. Jesus removes all barriers and gives us access to the Father*
- *Joshua gives a blessing. Jesus is our ultimate blessing*
- *The Tabernacle is the presence of God and the only place of sacrifice. Jesus is God with us and the ultimate sacrifice for our sins!*

16. How do the following passages relate to **Joshua 22:1-34**?

Psalm 133

Psalm 133 tell us that God loves it when His people live together in unity. Joshua 22 is a picture of that unity.

John 17:20-23

In John 17:20-23 – Jesus prays for ALL believers in Him. He prays that “all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you”. In other words He wants believers to be “one” (unified) just like the Father and the Son are “one”. Jesus also prays that they “may also be in us (Father and Son)” – so this unity is in the fact that we are “God’s people” that’s where “complete unity” comes. This is again, the picture of unity in Joshua 22

Romans 12:9-21

This section of Romans 12 shows “love in action”. It is this love in action which brings people together in unity. For example – v18 “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” And V21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”. Again, just like the unity in Joshua 22.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul describes the Church as one body in Christ with many parts. And he urges that there be no division in the body (v25) and that each part of the body should have equal concern for each other. In Joshua 22, Phinehas and the Western tribes had great concern for the Eastern tribes. As 1 Cor 12:26 says “if one part suffers, every parts suffers with it” – that’s how Phinehas and the Western tribes felt about the Eastern tribes.

Ephesians 2:11-22

In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul describes how Jesus has removed the barrier/wall between Jews and Gentiles and has created one new humanity out of two (v15). He describes how believers are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by the Spirit (v22). It’s like we are spiritual temple with Jesus as the cornerstone (v20). Again this picture of unity – seen in Joshua 22.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Here Paul describes unity in the Body of Christ. It means being completely humble and gentle, being patient, bearing with one another in love. Keeping unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace (we have in Jesus). Paul says there is ONE body (Jesus) and ONE Spirit, ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE Baptism, ONE God and Father of all. All this binds us together. That’s what Phinehas realized in Joshua 22 that ALL the Israelites tribes (East or West) were ONE BODY under ONE God!

What’s the **BIG IDEA** of Joshua 22:1-34?

Truth protects the unity of God’s people!



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Joshua 22:5 (NIV) “But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Joshua 22:22 (NIV) “The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the LORD, do not spare us this day.”

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to read and keep your Word; to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; to walk in obedience to your Word by keeping your commands; help us to hold fast to you; and to serve you wholeheartedly. In doing so, we pray that they would be in unity with our brothers and sisters, as we are the body of Christ. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 3 – Finishing Well

Joshua 23:1-16

(Sermon on 16th August 2026)

Before we begin, how would you like to finish your life spiritually? What spiritual legacy would you like to leave?

*I would like my family and friends to remember me as someone who followed Jesus and who had **FOMO – a fear of people missing out on Heaven**. I want them to remember that I sought to show the love of Jesus to everyone, praying and hoping that through my words and actions they too might come to know Jesus and follow Him.*

*Most of all, I want my family to remember that the **most important thing in life is to believe in Jesus** – that His death brings forgiveness for our sins, and that His resurrection gives eternal life in Heaven to all who put their trust in Him.*

I would also like my family to understand how important it is to raise their children to know, love and follow Jesus, so that each generation may hear the good news of the Gospel and place their faith in Him.

Answers from Bible Study Group:

- *That all our children and grandchildren are saved*
- *That we are a Christian witness and example to our family.*
- *That our family see how important prayer is*

Read Joshua 23:1-16

1. What is the situation in verses 1 & 2?

Some time has passed now since the Israelites had occupied the land and Joshua is now a very old man [110 years old according to Joshua 24:29]. Therefore, he summoned all Israel – their elders, leaders, judges and officials (representing all of the tribes) to talk to them...

*Joshua can't, as a practical matter, speak to the whole nation, so he speaks to the leaders: **elders, heads, judges, and officers**. He can reach the entire nation by communicating well to the leaders. (Guzik)*

2. Why do you think Joshua has summoned all Israel to him? (v2)

Joshua is now very old and he wants to pass on some spiritual wisdom to the whole of Israel before he dies.

3. What is Israel to take stock of in verse 3?

They have seen everything that the Lord their God did to all the surrounding nations for their sake (as His people). And to realize it was the Lord their God who fought for them!

4. What is Israel to remember in verse 4?

*They are to remember that **God has given them the land as an inheritance. God fought for them** (see v3). **God has fulfilled His promises** [made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob]. **There is still work to do** – some nations still remain, so they must continue to trust God and remember that He is with them and has promised them the land.*

5. What encouragement and promise is there in verse 5?

God Himself will push out/drive out the nations that still remain in the land and they will take possession of their land, as the Lord God promised.

6. What instructions does Joshua give in verse 6? Have we heard these instructions before? Why are these instructions important? (Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Joshua 1:7)

V6 – “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or the left”.

Obedience is a major theme in Joshua – and the leader of the people is to set the standard/example required!

*Deuteronomy 17:18-20 – these verses were directed towards any future King of Israel – When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and **follow carefully all the words of this law** and these decrees and not consider himself*

better than his fellow Israelites and **turn from the law to the right or to the left**. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel..

*Joshua 1:7 – these words directed towards Joshua as the leader of the people - **Be strong and very courageous**. Be careful to **obey all the law** my servant Moses gave you; **do not turn from it to the right or to the left**, that you may be successful wherever you go.*

Satan doesn't care which extreme he pushes us towards. Either legalism or licentiousness among God's people pleases Satan [Guzik]

7. What instructions does Joshua give in verse 7? Why are these instructions important?

*The Israelites are **not to associate with the nations that remain among them**. Because these nations worship false gods and idols, and **the Israelites could be influenced by their pagan worship**. Therefore **they are not to invoke the names of their gods or swear by them; nor are they to serve or bow down to them**.*

*Joshua tells Israel to not even make mention of these false gods of the Canaanites. Instead of learning about them, they should **hold fast to the Lord** their God. [Guzik]*

8. What does it mean to "hold fast to the LORD"? (v8) (cf. Deuteronomy 10:20; 11:22; Joshua 22:5)

*The phrase "hold fast to the Lord" has a strong sense of **staying closely attached to God**. It is more than simply believing in God—it means making Him **the centre of our life and remaining loyal to Him**.*

The Hebrew word [דָּבַק] Dabaq – means to stick closely, cleave. The same word used in Genesis 2:24 – "A man is to leave his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh"

***Deuteronomy 10:20** – "Fear the LORD your God and serve him. **Hold fast to him...**" Holding fast means **worshipping, serving and trusting God alone**.*

Deuteronomy 11:22 – “...walk in all his ways and **hold fast to him.**”

It involves **obedience**—living God's way rather than our own.

Joshua 22:5 – “...love the LORD your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, **hold fast to him** and serve him with all your heart and soul.”

Hold fast here means: **to love God, walk in His ways, obey Him, serve Him wholeheartedly, and remain close to Him.**

An old saying concerning criminal enterprises says something to the effect of, “Keep your friends close, but your enemies even closer” but this is exactly what Christians are not to do. The normal Christian, by and large, is not called to become an expert in the cults or in heresy, but to become an expert in Jesus Christ — to hold fast to Him. [Guzik]

9. What do we discover about Israel’s battle, even “to this day”? How is that possible? (vv9-11)

V9 – Even to this day, the Lord has driven out before the Israelites great and powerful nations – such that no one can withstand them.

V10 – Even just one of the Israelites is able to drive out and rout a thousand of the enemy. Why? Because the Lord their God fights on their behalf.

This is only possible if – v11 – they are very careful to love the Lord their God. The implication is – if they love the Lord their God, they will OBEY Him!

Love the Lord your God: This is what they must be careful to do. They must, as Jude puts it, keep yourselves in the love of God (Jude 1:21).

i. Continually loving the Lord takes diligence. There are many things both within us and outside of us to draw us away from that love.

ii. This call to love God is an appeal to the will. We must decide to love God, even if the feelings of love for Him don’t come immediately. **[Guzik]**

10. What danger does Joshua warn against? What imagery does he use? (vv12-13)
Joshua warns against turning away from the Lord God and allying themselves with the remaining nations. And Joshua also warns against intermarrying with these remaining nations. If they do, then the Lord God will no longer drive out these nations

– and instead, **they will become a trap or a snare to them – they will be like whips to their backs and thorns in their eyes**, until they perish from this good land, which the Lord God has given them.

If they do not separate themselves from the ungodly influences around them, those influences will become to them instruments of torture, leading to their destruction.

i. What today is only an “innocent Canaanite” in our lives may become a torture and a snare tomorrow.

ii. “How often we see that the temptation we have pampered and encouraged and indulged in has become a scourge and a thorn in our side. The compromising Christian is not a happy man. Let the enemy remain in a Christian life, let him have one foothold, and he soon becomes a scourge.” (Redpath)

iii. These ungodly influences never advertise themselves as instruments of torture; they present themselves as wonderful things — but we must see past all this.

11. As Joshua is about to die, what does he remind the Israelites about? (v14)
Joshua reminds the Israelites of a golden truth: “not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed”

12. What warning does Joshua give about God’s covenant with Israel? (v16) From what you know of Israel’s behaviour in the following centuries, how does this warning ring true?

Joshua gives a severe warning to the Israelites: If they violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded them, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the Lord’s anger will burn against them, and they will quickly perish from the good land he has given you.”

It should remind us of the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience mentioned in Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28-29 and Joshua 8.

In the following centuries – The Israelites didn’t heed these warnings. The 12 tribes split into two kingdoms – the Southern Kingdom of 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) and the Northern Kingdom of the other 10 tribes. Both kingdoms descended into the

worship of false gods and idols. Both Kingdoms had wicked idolatrous kings who led the people astray. In 722 the Northern Kingdom was exiled to Assyria, and never returned. In 586, the Southern Kingdom was exiled to Babylon for 70 years and then a remnant returned.

13. In this chapter, what spiritual legacy does Joshua leave?

Joshua leaves Israel a spiritual legacy of **wholehearted faithfulness to the LORD**. He calls them:

- To remember all that God has done
- Trust God's promises
- Obey God's Word
- Hold fast to God, and reject the temptation to follow other gods
- He also warns them that disobedience has serious consequences.

In summary, Joshua's spiritual legacy is: Remember God's faithfulness, remain faithful to Him, and pass that faith on to the next generation.

14. What lessons can we learn from this chapter? What help do we have?
(Hebrews 12:1-3; John 15:4-5; Philippians 1:6)

Here are some **lessons** we can learn from this chapter:

- **Remember God's faithfulness to us** – from our past and from God's Word
- **Hold fast to God** – remain loyal to Him; love Him; obey Him and not allow the influences of this world to draw us away from Him. **CLING TO HIM!**
- **Take sin and compromise with the world seriously**
- **Ensure we pass on our faith to the next generation**
- **Continue to trust in God's promises**

The help we have...

Hebrews 12:1-3 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And **let us run with perseverance** the race marked out for us, ²**fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne

of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

John 15:4-5 - ⁴ **Remain in me, as I also remain in you.** No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. **Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**

Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.

We relate to God under a different covenant, a new and better covenant (Hebrews 8:6-7), by which Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:10-14).
i. Therefore, in Jesus we no longer can experience God’s “faithfulness to curse us” as Israel knew it. Yet we do experience God’s faithfulness to correct us as a loving Father (Hebrews 12:7), and we do experience a lack of appropriated blessing if we do not abide in Jesus. [Guzik]

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 23:1-16**?

- Joshua says “not one of God’s promise fail”. This points forward to Jesus who is YES and AMEN to All of God’s promises (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- Joshua says “hold fast to God”. This points forward to Jesus whom we are to hold fast to. As Jesus says in John 15:4: **“Remain in me, as I also remain in you”** and in John 15:5 **“Apart from me, you can do nothing”**
- As we can say throughout the book of Joshua – Joshua’s name and Jesus’ name are from the same root word and mean “The Lord Saves!”
- Joshua gives a farewell address to the people. Jesus did the same with His disciples in John 14-15 – where He tells them not to be troubled about His pending death; and that He is going ahead to prepare a place for them; and then He prays that they would remain (abide) in Him.
- Joshua calls the Israelites to obey the law and not deviate to the left or right; Jesus is the only ONE who can completely and fully obey the law perfectly.

15. How do the following passages relate to **Joshua 23:1-16**?

John 15:1-10

*Jesus calls His disciples to **remain in Him** and bear fruit. This parallels Joshua's command to "**hold fast to the LORD**" (v.8). We remain faithful by staying closely connected to Christ. Joshua was fruitful; we are to be fruitful and that is only possible in Jesus!*

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

*Paul warns against being **unequally yoked** with unbelief and calls God's people to separation from idolatry. This echoes Joshua's warning not to associate with or worship the gods of the surrounding nations (vv.7, 12-13).*

Ephesians 6:10-18

*Joshua warns Israel about spiritual enemies and the danger of being drawn away from the one true God. As Christians, we also face **spiritual opposition**, so we must be strong in the Lord and put on the **armour of God** for spiritual protection.*

Colossians 2:6-8

*Just as Israel was commanded to **continue walking faithfully with the LORD**, Christians are told to **continue to live in Christ**, rooted and established in Him, rather than being taken captive by deceptive thoughts and ideas.*

Hebrews 3:12-14

*Joshua warns Israel not to turn away from God. Hebrews 3 gives the same warning to Christians: "**See to it... that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.**" We must encourage one another to remain faithful.*

James 4:4-8

*Joshua warns against spiritual adultery by following false gods and idols. In a similar way, James warns against **friendship with the world** and calls believers to "**resist the devil**" and to "**submit yourselves... to God**" and "**come near to God.**"*

1 Peter 5:8-10

*Joshua warns that Israel's enemies could become a **snare and trap** (v.13). Peter warns that the devil is actively prowling around seeking someone to devour. As Christians, we must be **alert, watchful and steadfast in faith**, trusting God to strengthen us against the dangers.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of Joshua 23:1-16?

Remember God's Faithfulness, hold fast to Him and remain faithful to Him



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V6 - Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the lessons and legacy of Joshua. Help us to think through, what spiritual legacy we would like to leave; and enable us through your Word and Spirit, to leave a legacy of a true disciple of Jesus, who shows the love of Jesus in all of our life. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 4 – Whom will you serve?**Joshua 24:1-28*****(Sermon on 23rd August 2026)***

Before we begin, what is a covenant, and have we come across covenant in the book of Joshua before?

Read Joshua 24:1-13

1. Where did Joshua assemble the tribes of Israel? Why is this an appropriate place?
2. What blessings does Joshua list from vv2-13?

3. Which of these blessings were gifts of grace rather than rewards for Israel's achievements?

Read Joshua 24:14-24

4. What commands does Joshua give the people? (vv14-15)
5. **Ponder:** How does verse 15 relate to you and your household?
6. What reasons do the people give for serving the Lord? (vv16-18)
7. What is the gist of the candid dialogue that takes place between Joshua and the people? (vv19-24)

Read Joshua 24:25-28

8. What covenant does Joshua establish? (vv25-26) What covenant are we under as Christians?

9. Why does Joshua set up the large stone? (vv26–27) As Christians, what memorials do we have?
10. **Ponder:** As we reflect on this chapter; whom or what are we serving other than God/Jesus? What might we have to let go of?
11. If someone were to describe your life in one sentence, what would you hope they would say? {Ask your group members what they would say, if you are comfortable with this?} How can you live now so that your life points to Jesus?

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 24:1-28**?

12. How do the following passages relate to **Joshua 24:1-28**?

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 22:37-40

Luke 22:19–20

John 4:23-24

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Philippians 3:7-14

Colossians 3:23-24

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of Joshua 24:1-28?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to make Jesus our first priority in our lives; and put off anything that hinders us from following Jesus. Help us to be able to join Joshua and say “as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Study 5 – God Servants Die but God’s Work Continues

Joshua 24:29-33

(Sermon on 30th August 2026)

Background Reading...Read Genesis 50:22-26, Exodus 13:19 and Hebrews 11:22

1. Why did Joseph insist that his bones not remain in Egypt? What does that reveal about his faith?
2. How many years passed between Joseph's death and the burial of his bones at Shechem? What does this teach us about God's timing and faithfulness?

Background Reading...Read Numbers 20:22-29 and Numbers 27:18-23.

3. How did Eleazar become High Priest, and what important role did he play alongside Joshua?

Read Joshua 24:29-33

4. What three deaths/burials are recorded here?

5. Why do you think the book ends by recording Joshua, Joseph and Eleazar rather than ending at verse 28?
6. How is Joshua described? (v29) Why is 'servant of the Lord' such an honourable title? Who else in the Old Testament is described like that?
7. What encouragement is found in verse 31? What made this generation different?
8. Why is the burial of Joseph's bones so significant? (v32) (cf. Hebrews 11:22)
9. Why is Shechem an appropriate place for Joseph's burial? (cf. Genesis 12:6-7; 33:18-20; Joshua 24:1)
10. Why is Eleazar's death an appropriate way to conclude Joshua's account of the conquest and settlement of the land? (v33) (cf. Joshua 14:1 and Joshua 19:51)

11. Looking back over the whole book of Joshua, what promises of God have now been fulfilled? (cf. Joshua 21:43-45)
12. What qualities helped Joshua finish well?
13. Joshua, Joseph and Eleazar are all gone, yet God's work continued. What does that teach us about our Christian walk and about Christian ministry today?
14. **Ponder:** Think of someone(s) in the next generation that you can pass the baton on to? (2 Timothy 2:2) What will you do about that?
15. **Ponder:** Is there some ministry in church you could serve in that would help God's work to continue into the future?

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 24:29-33**?

16. How do the following passages relate to **Joshua 24:29-33**?

1 Corinthians 3:5-10

Philippians 1:3-6 (especially verse 6)

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Hebrews 12:1-3

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Joshua 24:29-33**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that even though your faithful servants die, your work and your promises continue. Please help us to be faithful in teaching the next generation about Jesus and passing the baton on to them. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

