

Joshua 4

Chapter 18 : Tent is set up at Shiloh. The Tabernacle of Meeting. After Ephraim had received their land. This is the same Tent that went through the Wilderness. Had been at Gilgal for 7 years.

Shiloh : centrally located; within the land of Ephraim. Also because of Gen 49:10 – from Jacob's blessing over his sons. Remains there for 130 years.

Joshua wanted the Tabernacle (Tent) to be centrally located. Needed for the worship of God in the Land.

Chapter 19 : Rest of the Land had to be divided. Sends 3 representatives from the remaining tribes to survey the Land then report back. Describe the land, soil, water, towns, etc. Could not wait any longer. This was the land that the LORD had given them. Wrote it all in a book.

Joshua cast lots before the LORD at Shiloh.

Each remaining tribe got their section of land. All done before the LORD so there was no protest or complaining.

Chapter 20: Cities of refuge. Refuge for *unintended* killings. These are among the Levite cities. Avengers, eg family and friends, cannot get to the person. Stay until there is a trial or the High Priest dies. Then can go home. These were commanded to Moses by the LORD in Numbers 35 and Deuteronomy 19. NOT for murderers. 6 cities of refuge. Cities were distributed evenly throughout the Land.

Chapter 21: Cities for the Levites are given out by lots. Pasture land around them also. Obeyed the commands of the LORD to Moses. 48 cities for Levites. Half tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim did not have to give land to the Levites.

V 43-45 So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.

The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand.

Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

Promises from the time of Egypt had all come to pass. Promises to Israel since time of Abraham - Land and descendants. Promises are always kept; including those of salvation.

Chapter 22: The Tribes settling east of the Jordan, Reuben, Gad, one-half of Manasseh can go back. They had been faithful to Moses and the people. They had been away from their families for 7 years. Joshua blesses them. Tells them to keep the Law and serve Him, and walk in His ways.

They build a huge altar as a memorial. The other people want to attack because they feel it violates the Law and Joshua's command. The tent was at Shiloh. They were afraid that God would punish them all. Seemed to be a rebellion. Phinehas offers that they can settle on the east side of the Jordan if they feel the Westside is unclean. The Tabernacle is there on the eastside.

Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh answer that they are not rebelling against God. They understand that there is only one Tabernacle and Altar. They want this as a witness of the agreement. So that their descendants will not be excluded by the other tribes. It is for future generations. They want to preserve their inheritance and heritage.

Phinehas perceives the Presence of the LORD is with them.

Chapter 23: Joshua calls people together. He is old and will die soon. God has been faithful and kept all His promises. Be faithful to Him. Do not mix with the other people or worship their idols. There are snares and traps. Cannot even name their names. There will be punishment for idolatry. God fights for them. Must stay faithful to the Law.

Chapter 24: People are gathered again. God speaks through Joshua. Recounts how He called Abraham, who worshipped other gods. Gave him descendants. Delivered the people from Egypt. Cared for them in the Wilderness. Drove people out before them.

but not with your sword or with your bow.

I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Serve the LORD and turn away from false gods. They had idols among them. After all they had seen. They have to make a decision.

People say they will serve God. Joshua tells them that He is Holy and they are not; it is difficult to serve Him. He is a jealous God. He will not forgive idolatry.

We are witnesses. A covenant at Schechem. A stone memorial.

Joshua dies at age 110.

Bones of Joseph were buried at Schechem (land of Ephraim). Tomb of the Patriarchs.