**Joshua Session 3**

**Part 3 – Possessing the land (ch13-21)**

The boring bit?

Structure

13:1-7 Introduction – An unfinished work

13:8-33 Prologue – land for the Eastern tribes

ch 14-19 Main section – land for the Western tribes

ch 20-21 Epilogue – Cities of refuge and towns for the Levites

21:43-45 Conclusion – Promises fulfilled

The theological summary in 21:43-45

v43 – summarises chapters 13 to 21

v44 – summarises chapters 1-12

v45 – summarises the whole book

**13:1-7 An unfinished work** *(introduction to the whole of chapters 13 to 21)*

(1) Realism about the land still to be taken (v2-5 specify)

(2) Realism about Joshua’s age

**Chapter 13:8ff. Prologue – land received by the Eastern tribes**

Eastern tribes – 2.5 tribes that asked for and were given land East of the river Jordan at the time of Moses

* Reubenties; Gadites and half the tribe of Manasseh

The theme is the inheritance Moses had given (v8, 15, 24, 32)

(1) Moses gave the land as ‘servant of Yahweh’

(2) A reminder of victories won by Moses

(3) A worrying concern about god’s people

(4) The greater gift for the tribe of Levi

**14:1-5 Introduction to land division west of the Jordan**

Note (v4) that Joseph’s descendants had become two tribes Manasseh and Ephraim

Also notice that this is a given as another reason for the Levites not receiving an inheritance.

Details of the land distribution follow – the most important tribes are dealt with first, Judah, then the two Joseph tribes and then the remaining 7.

**14:6-15 Caleb – an example for all God’s people**

*Read Joshua 14:6-14 and the back-story in Numbers 13:26-14:10a*

1. *What do you learn about Caleb from Joshua 14 (with the background in Numbers)?*
2. *What were the lessons from Caleb’s example for the first readers of the book?*
3. *How do these lessons apply to the church/to us today?*

**ch 15 Defining Judah’s inheritance**

**ch16-17 The land allotted to Joseph**

**ch18-19 Land for the remaining tribes**

1. Promises fulfilled

2. Cameo stories

15v13-19 Caleb again – a call to the next generation to follow-up the conquest

17v3-6 Zelophehad’s daughters – boldness in laying hold of what the Lord had promises

3. Disappointing notes

15:63 Judah fails to dislodge the Jebusites

16:10 Ephraim falls short

17:12-13 Manasseh falls short

17:14-18 The people of Joseph disappoint - lacking confidence in the Lord against a better-armed enemy

18:1-3 The rest of the tribes delay

4. The earthiness of God’s gift

**ch 20 Cities of Refuge** – provision for justice

**ch21 Towns for the Levites** – providing for the earthly needs of those with a spiritual function