

Joshua 18:2- 10, 19:49-51

Contented

vs.

Complacent

Time to get moving.

The country was brought under their control, v2

Borders of the land

The broken line shows the border based on Numbers 34. It included present-day Lebanon and part of Syria. The southern Negev was not included.



Not all the areas and towns were taken but the powerful groupings had been defeated.

but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received (taken?) their inheritance. v2

Why not ?

Were they comfortable with their situation?

These are people who had not lived in permanent dwellings for more than a generation. Perhaps they were afraid of something new, even if it was good.



Appoint three men from each tribe. I will send them out to make a survey of the land and to write a description of it, according to the inheritance of each. v4

Time for action - A new survey

Write the report – to me! No issues this time!

The written record was a great safeguard against the disputes that might have arisen if the report was only verbal.



So Joshua said to the Israelites.. "How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you? " v3



Joshua is not happy. He is an old man now but his word still carries authority

How about God's promises to us?

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

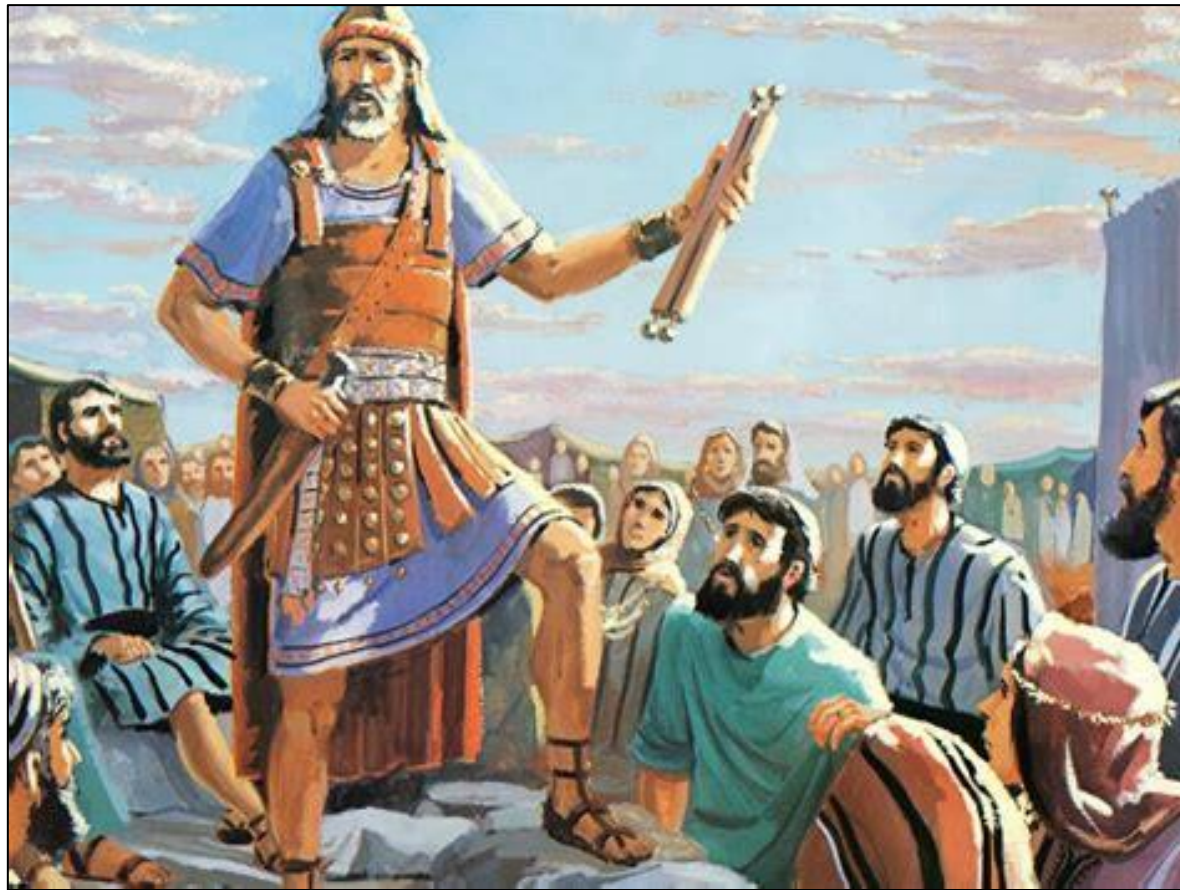
Theory versus reality?

God's gift - your response!



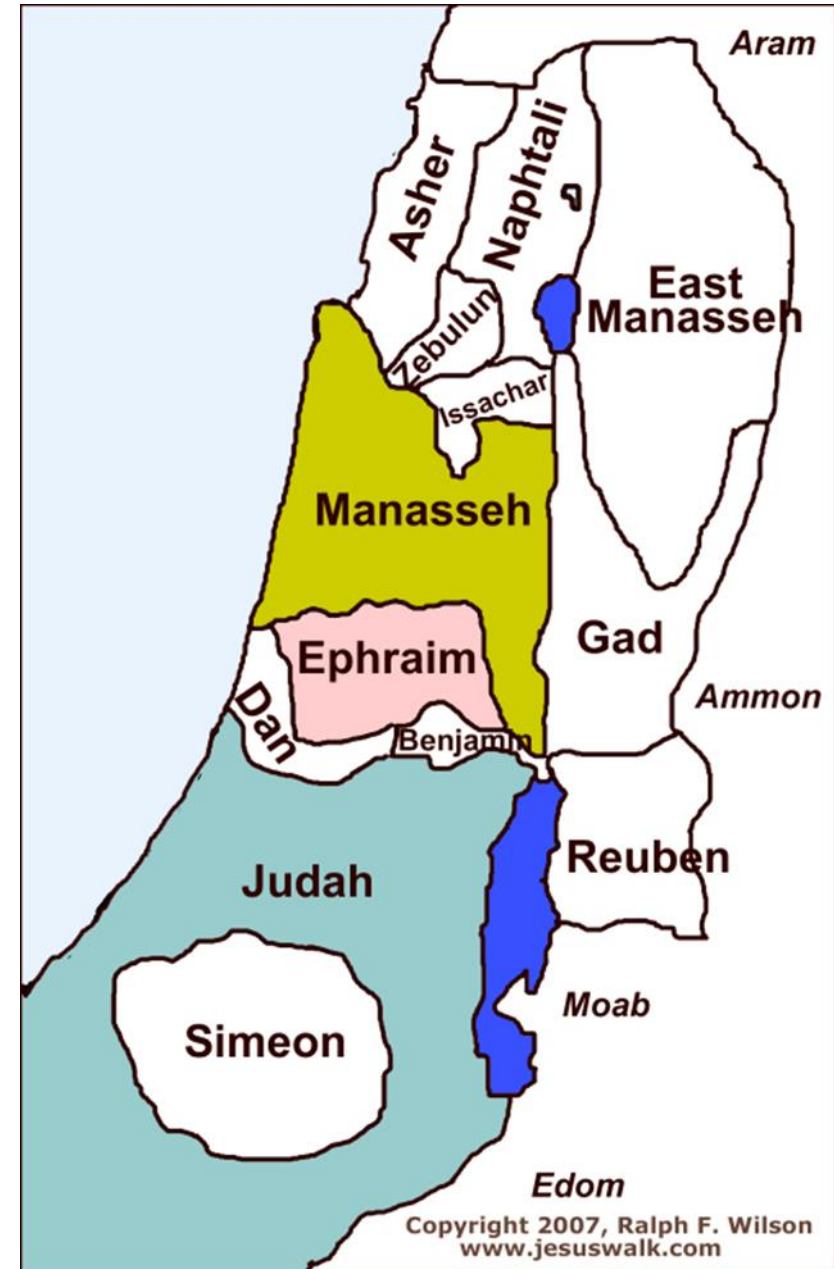
Then they will return to me. You are to divide the land into seven parts. v5

Look at it and decide how it breaks down into 7 parts



Judah is to remain in its territory on the south and the house of Joseph in its territory on the north. v5

These previous allocations were already fixed for Judah, Ephraim & Manasseh in Canaan



After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. v6

We will know what there is but then let God decide who goes where.



How do we make decisions?

The Levites, however, do not get a portion among you, because the priestly service of the LORD is their inheritance. v7

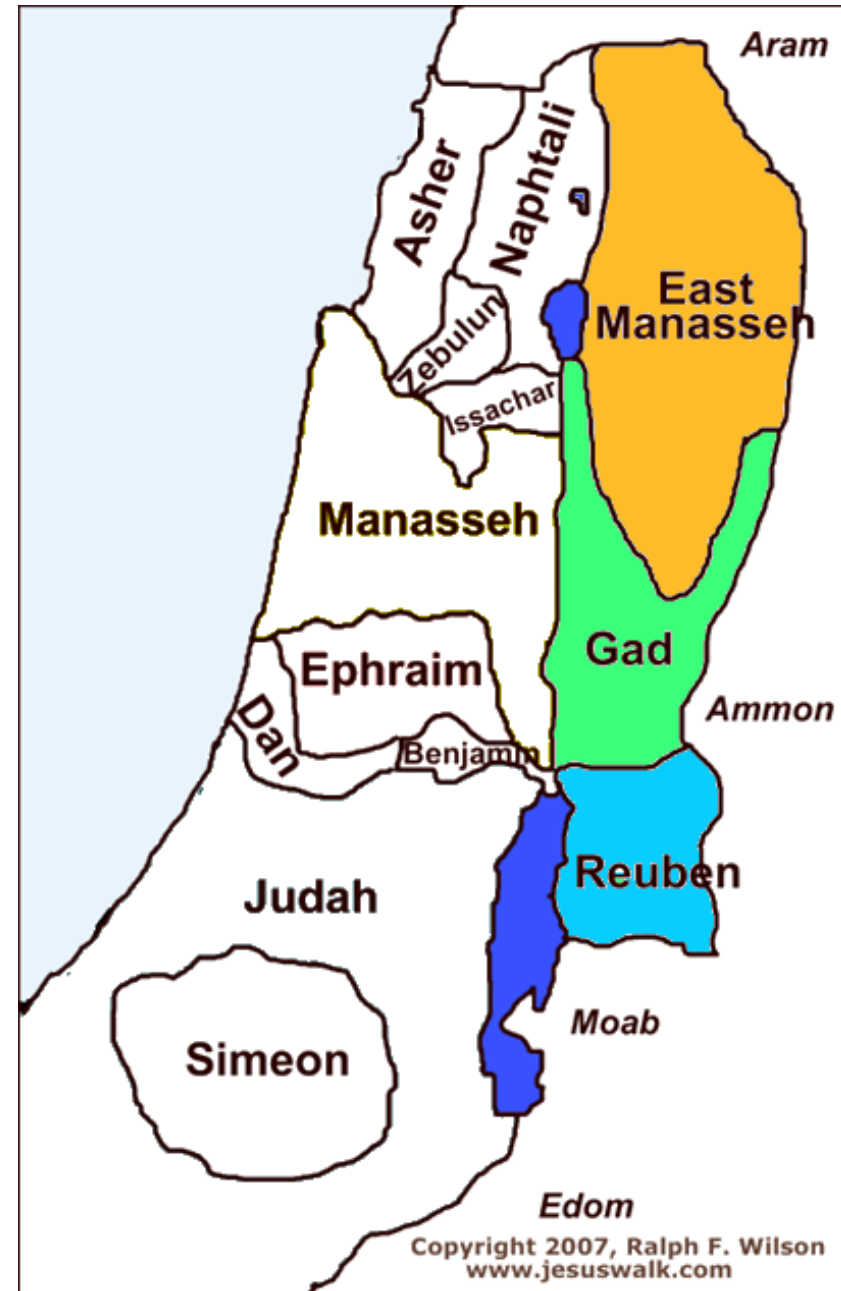
A reminder about the Levites – the 12th tribe

They were to be teachers throughout the territories and minister at Shiloh



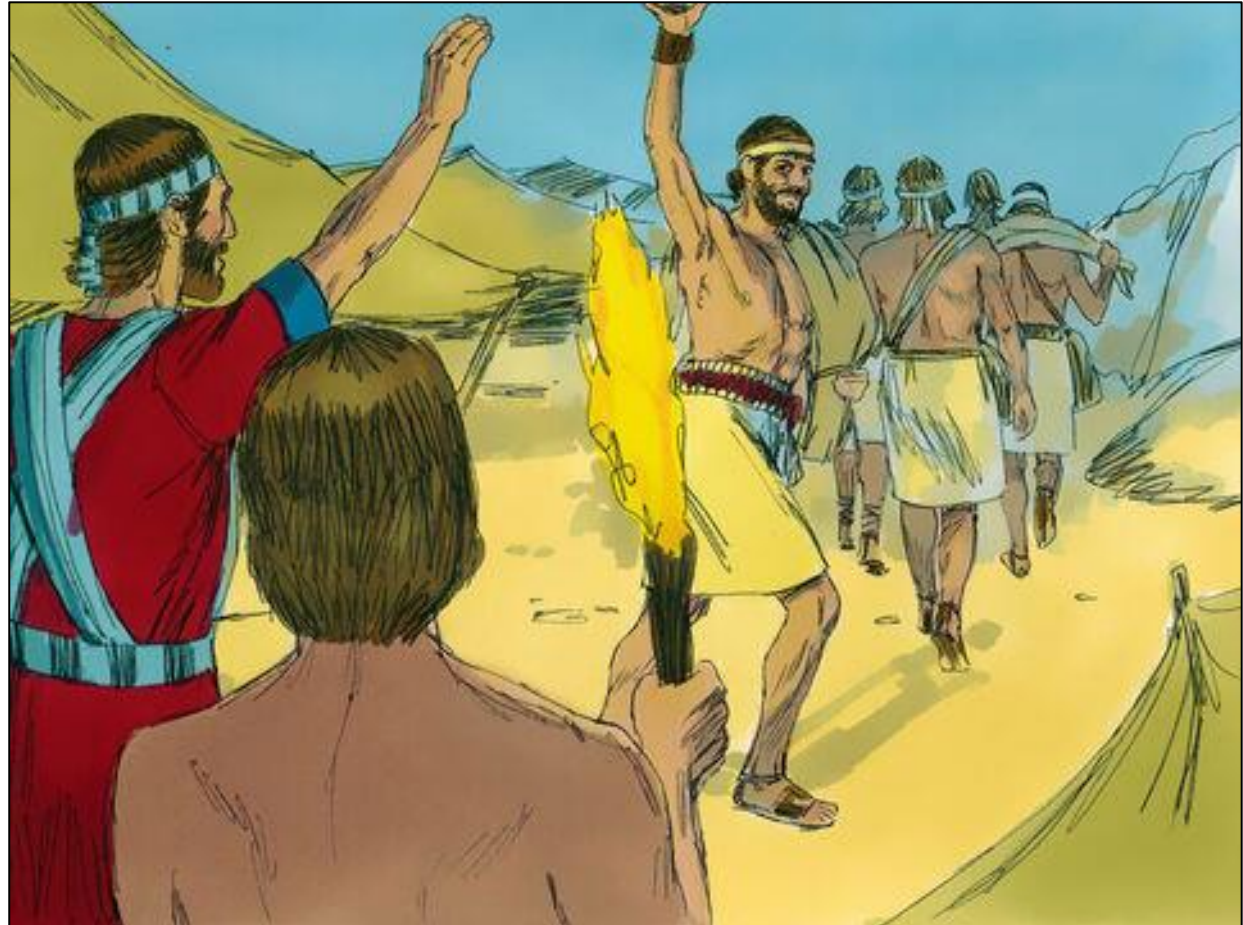
And Gad, Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. Moses the servant of the LORD gave it to them. v7

A reminder of the eastern tribes - their territory has been allocated



As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land and write a description of it." v8

Clear instructions



Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD. v8

The purpose of their work is important
Notice that in narrative accounts details are often repeated.



Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at **Shiloh in the presence of the LORD.** v8

The Lord's presence at Shiloh – the importance of the Tabernacle

Where is the Lord now?

Psalm 139:7-8 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

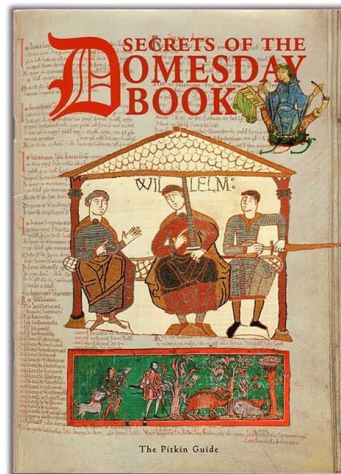


So the men left and went through the land. They wrote its description on a scroll, town by town, in seven parts, and returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. v9



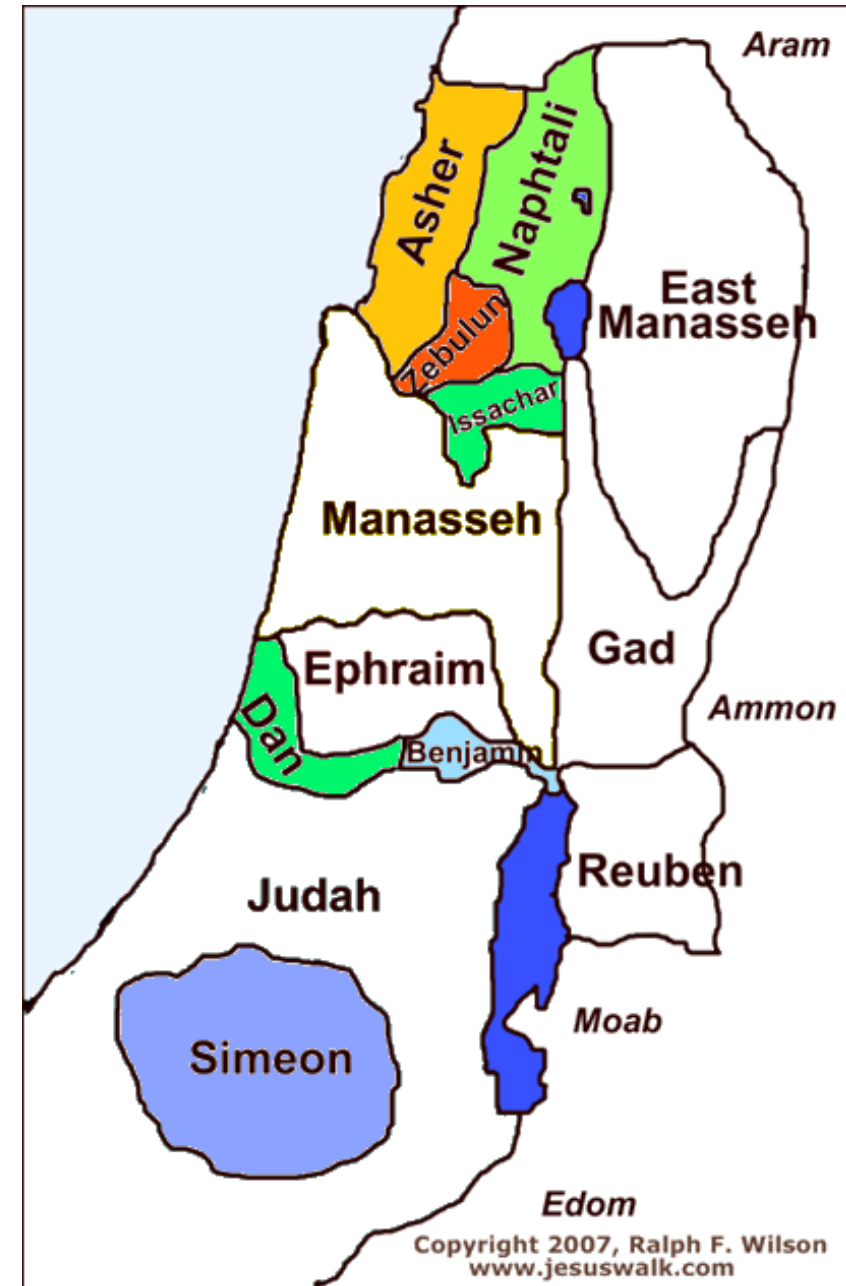
A comprehensive survey

Cf. The Domesday Book – the Middle English spelling of "Doomsday Book" – is a manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 by order of William I, known as William the Conqueror.



Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions. v10

When the seven portions had been allocated, there was no longer any excuse for the tribes to cling to the nomadic life they had when they were in the wilderness.



David's testimony

Psalm 16:5-6 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for
me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.



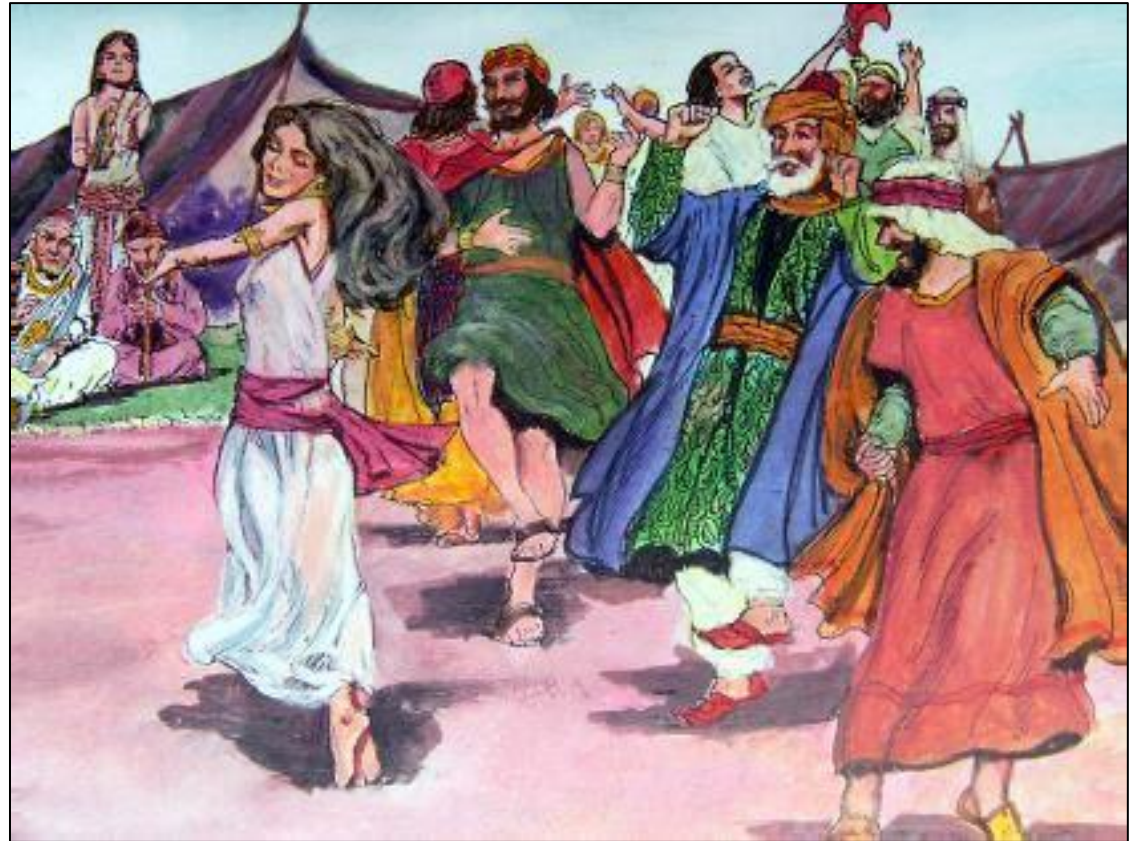
Chapter 19 describes the allocation for the 7 remaining tribes starting with Simeon ...

19:9 The inheritance of the Simeonites was taken from the share of Judah, because Judah`s portion was more than they needed. So the Simeonites received their inheritance within the territory of Judah.



Do You have plenty to share?

Simeon was the smallest tribe. Their numbers had drastically declined since the first census. Perhaps they were more involved than other tribes with the plague judgement at Baal Peor and had suffered greater losses.



Simeon was eventually absorbed into Judah. This was a fulfillment of Jacob's prophecy regarding Levi and Simeon.

Genesis 49:5-7 "Simeon and Levi are brothers-- their swords are weapons of violence. 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. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel."



Finally Joshua gets his inheritance.

When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, as the LORD had commanded. v49

“as the LORD had commanded.”

There is no biblical record of God’s promise to Joshua, but it is likely that it was at the same time that Caleb was also commended for his faith and rewarded with an inheritance.

Numbers14:30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Joshua's inheritance.

They gave him the town he asked for--Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there. v50



Joshua is at the end of the queue - no complaints

These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel assigned by lot at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. And so they finished dividing the land. v51

Was the work finished?

Now they need to go!



Why did Joshua have to urge them to go?

Were they 'contented' with what they had or were they fearful of stepping out in faith? Contentment has to be linked to godliness.

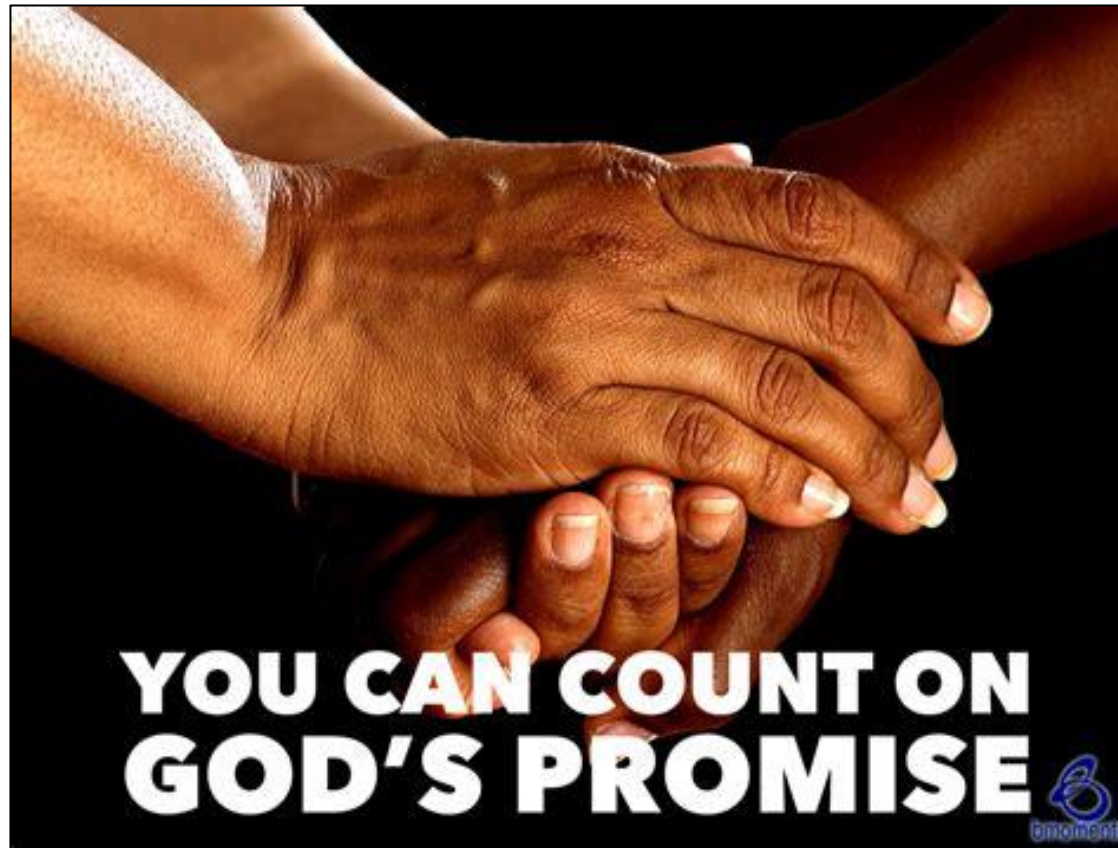
1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.



It wasn't just about possessions

God had told them this was to be theirs – so they should go!

This is where fear can be an opening for disobedience and sin.



While we can be contented in God's blessings there are some things we are called to pursue.

Matthew 5:6



The life in the Spirit is not a static thing

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

