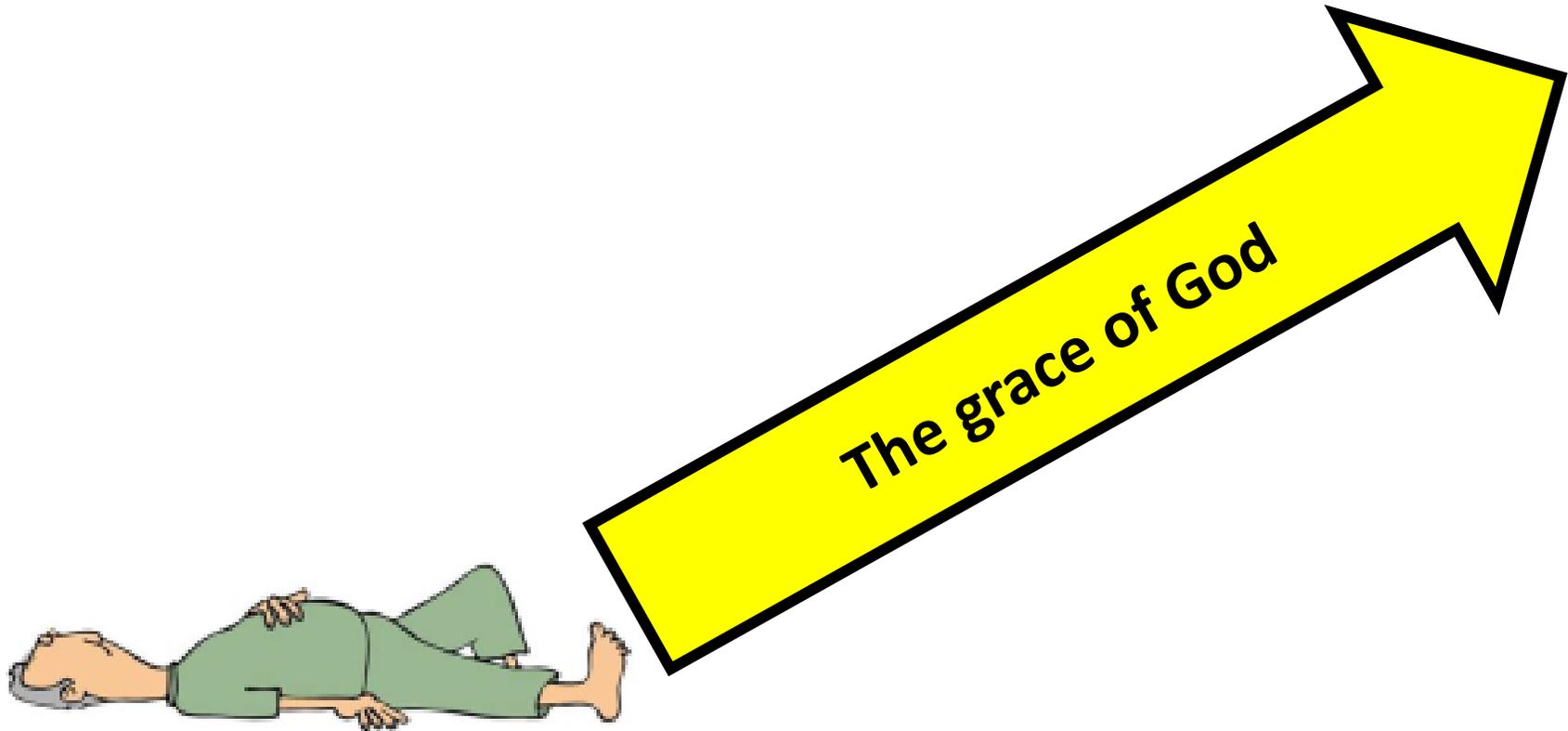


# And lastly – the Levites

Joshua Chapter 21

From cursed to blessed.

*Praise and Worship*



# Simeon and Levi were cursed by Jacob for their sin

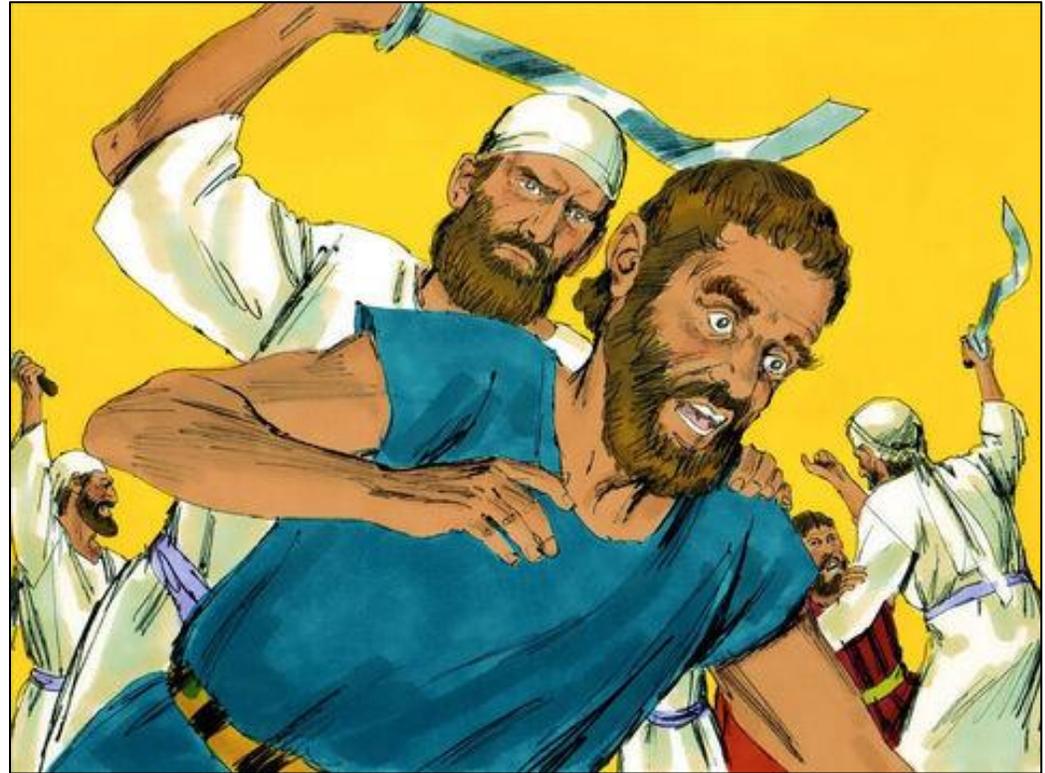


Genesis 49:5-7 "Simeon and Levi are brothers-- their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.

## Blessed by God for their stand against idolatry

They stood with Moses at Mt. Sinai over the issue of the golden calf

Exodus 32:26-28 *Moses* stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbour.'"

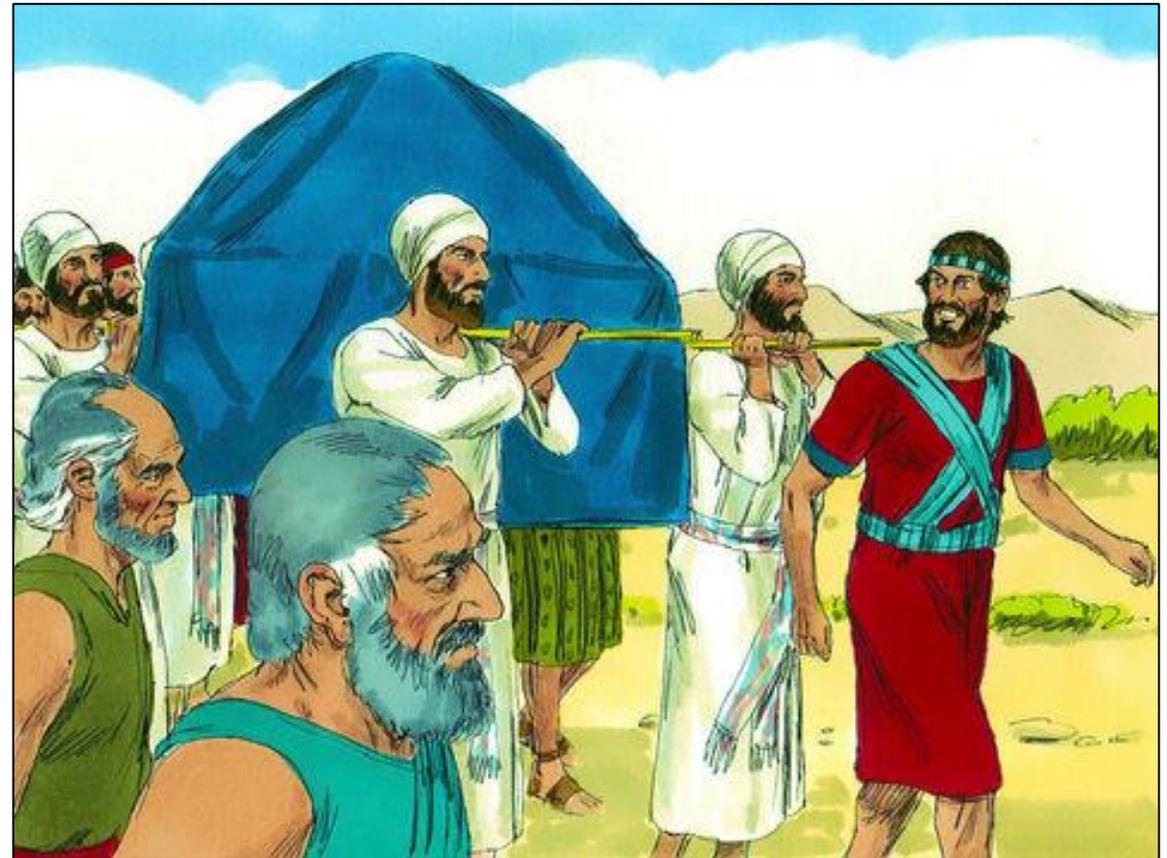


The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

## They were appointed to the Tabernacle ministry

Exodus 32:29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

Numbers 1:47-50 The LORD had said to Moses:.. appoint the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the covenant law--over all its furnishings and everything belonging to it.



## They were taken as replacement of firstborn

Numbers 3:12 "I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine,

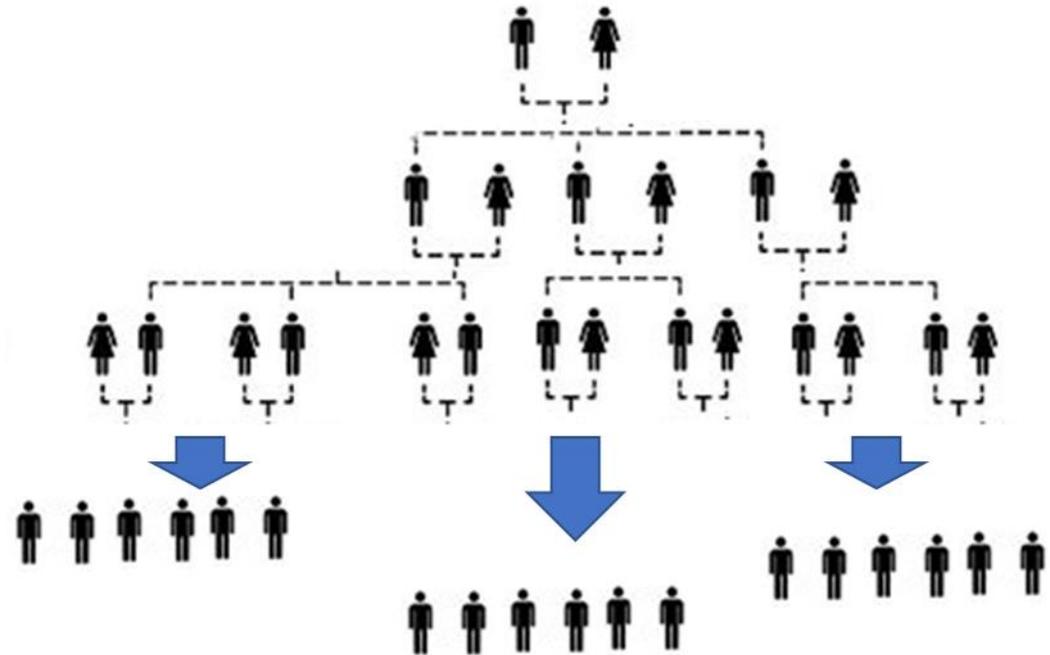


Numbers 3:15,22 "Count the Levites by their families and clans. Count every male a month old or more." The number of all the males a month old or more who were counted was 7,500.

# Levi's descendants

Genesis 46:11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

Numbers 26:57 These were the Levites who were counted by their clans: through Gershon, the Gershonite clan; through Kohath, the Kohathite clan; through Merari, the Merarite clan.



Now the family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the other tribal families of Israel at Shiloh in Canaan.. v1

Did this take place at the same time as the land distribution to the tribes in chapter 19?  
It is the same place and people.



*They* said to them, "The LORD commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock." v2

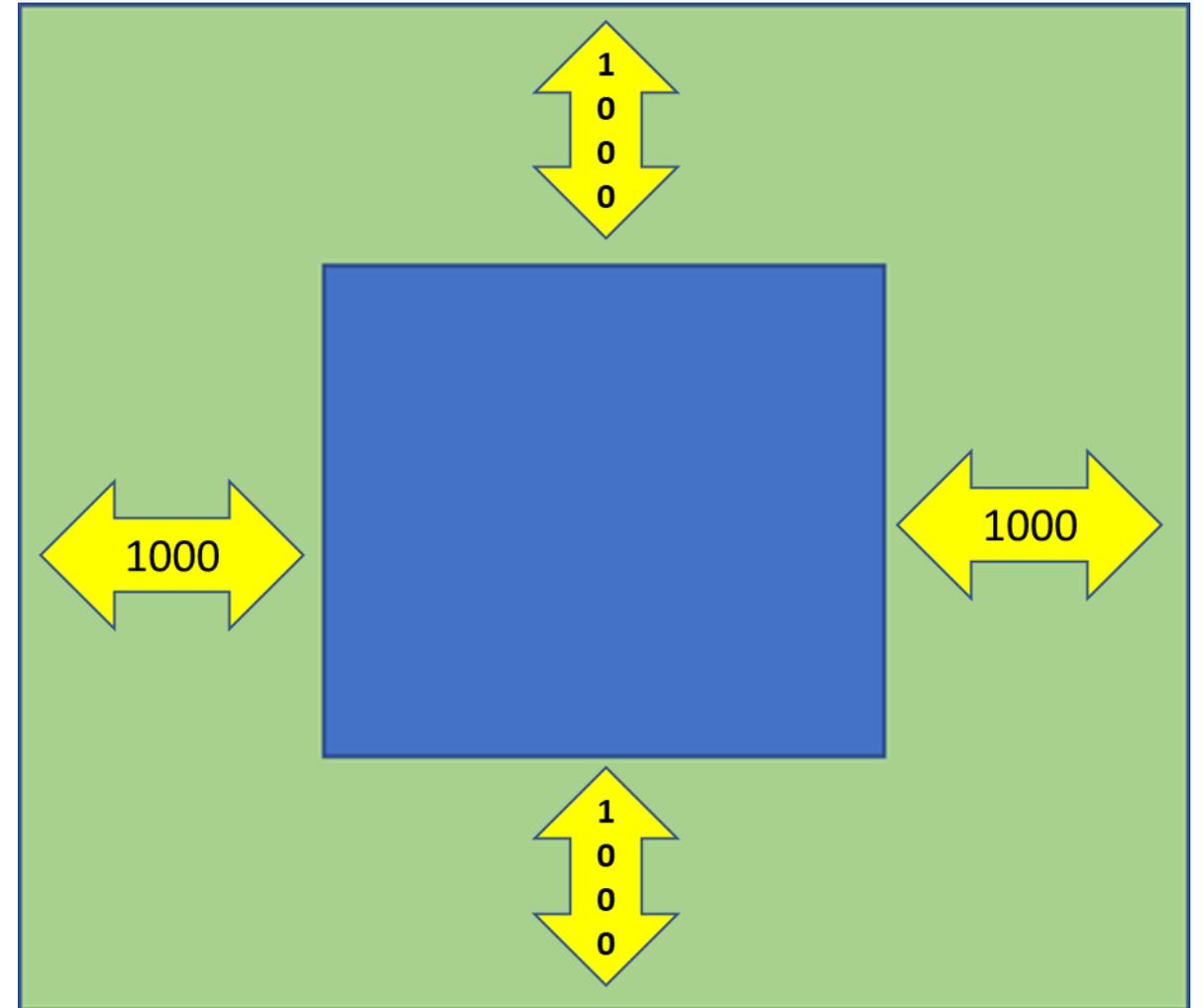
Numbers 35:2-3 "Command the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. And give them pasturelands around the towns. Then they will have towns to live in and pasturelands for the cattle they own and all their other animals.



*They* said to them, "The LORD commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock." v2

Numbers 35:4-7

... The pasturelands around the towns that you give the Levites will extend a thousand cubits from the town wall. ... "Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge... In addition, give them forty-two other towns. In all you must give the Levites forty-eight towns, together with their pasturelands.



Deuteronomy 12:19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

Numbers 18:24 .. I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD.

Support for the Levites came from tithes and support for the priests from tithes from Levites



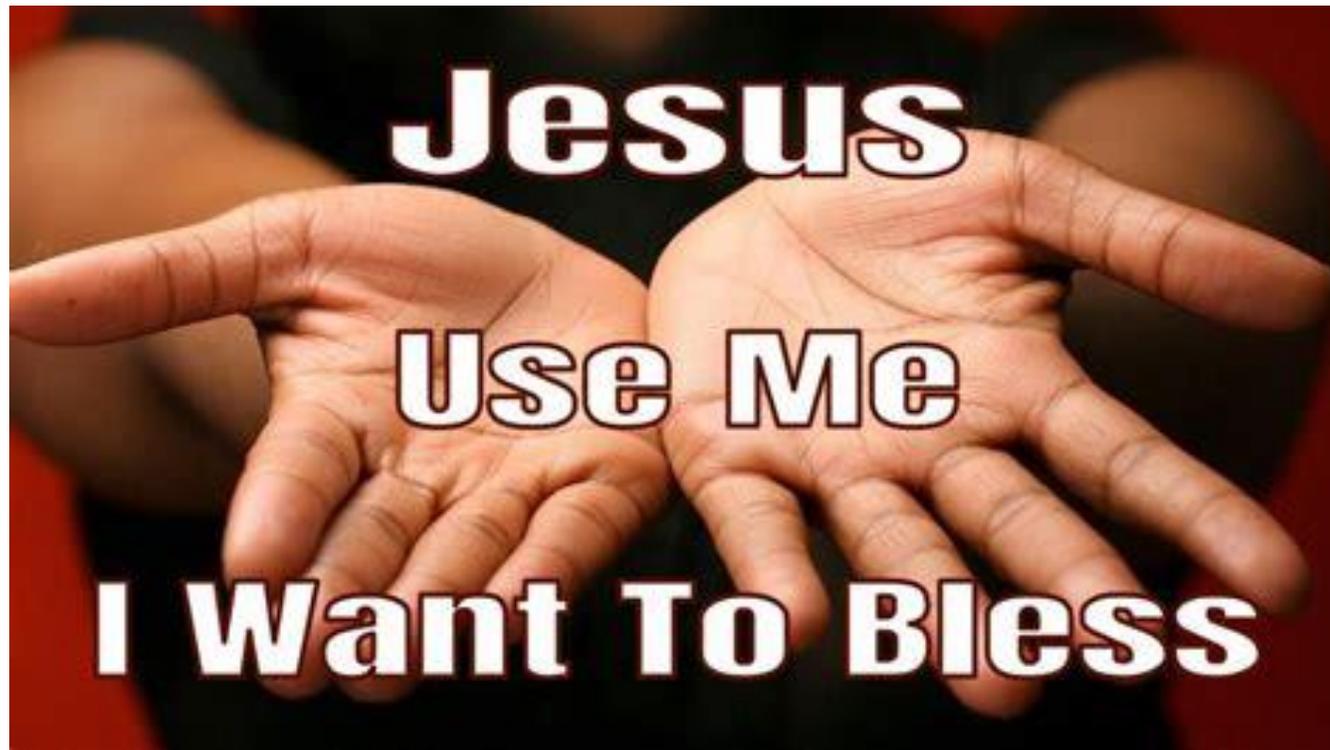
## Supporting gospel ministry

2 Corinthians 11:7-9 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? I “robbed” other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. And when I was with you and needed something, ...the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed.



So, as the LORD had commanded,  
the Israelites gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands  
out of their own inheritance.. v3

They were willing to obey and share.



## The Kohathite clan was dealt with in 2 parts

Aaron – priests, and others: 13- to priests 10- to others

The first lot came out for the Kohathites, clan by clan. The Levites who were **descendants of Aaron** the priest were allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin. **The rest of Kohath's descendants** were allotted ten towns from the clans of the tribes of Ephraim, Dan and half of Manasseh. v4-5

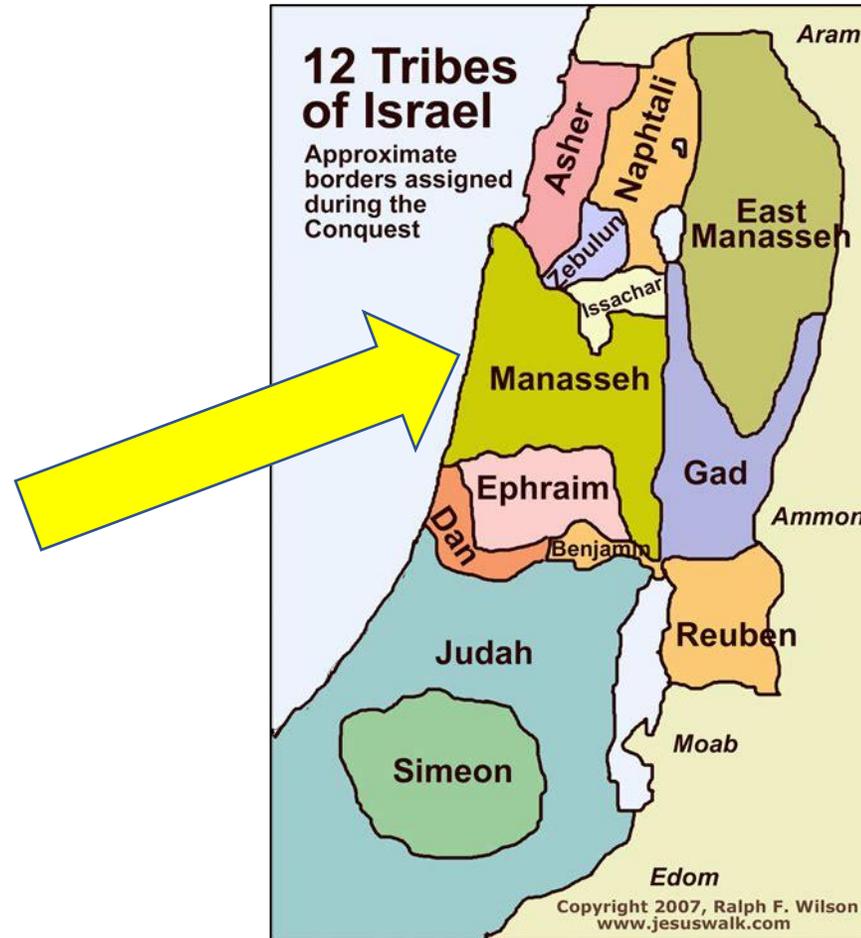
It's fair



Numbers 35:8 The towns you give the Levites from the land the Israelites possess are to be given in proportion to the inheritance of each tribe: Take many towns from a tribe that has many, but few from one that has few."

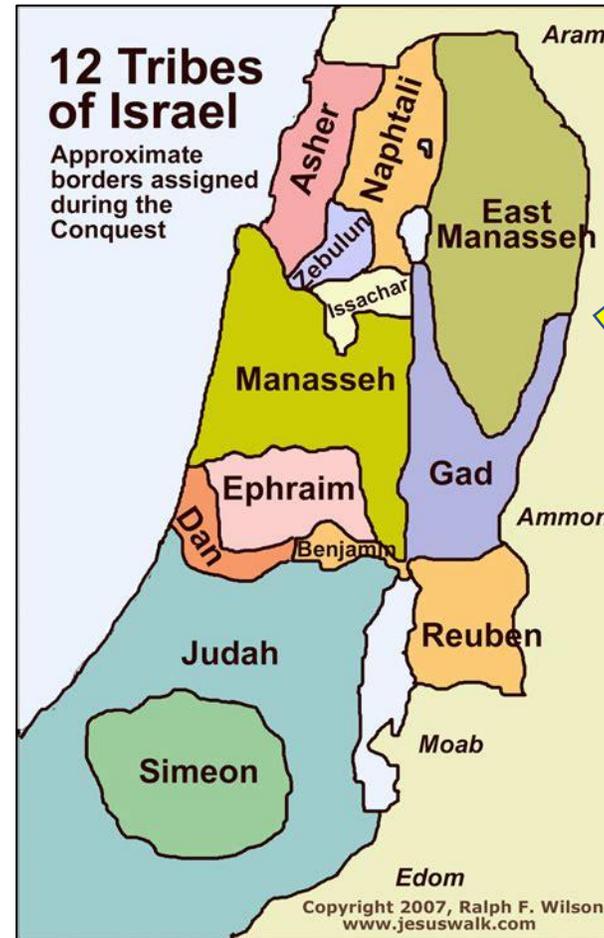
The descendants of **Gershon** were allotted thirteen towns from the clans of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

Northern groups  
13 towns



The descendants of **Merari**, clan by clan, received twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun.

East and North  
12 towns



So the Israelites allotted to the Levites these towns and their pasturelands,  
as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

48 – in total

**JOB WELL DONE**

**Verses 9 – 41 give a detailed list of each of the towns allotted to the Levites.**



From the tribes of Judah and Simeon they allotted the following towns by name ... But the fields and villages around the city *Hebron* they had given to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his possession.

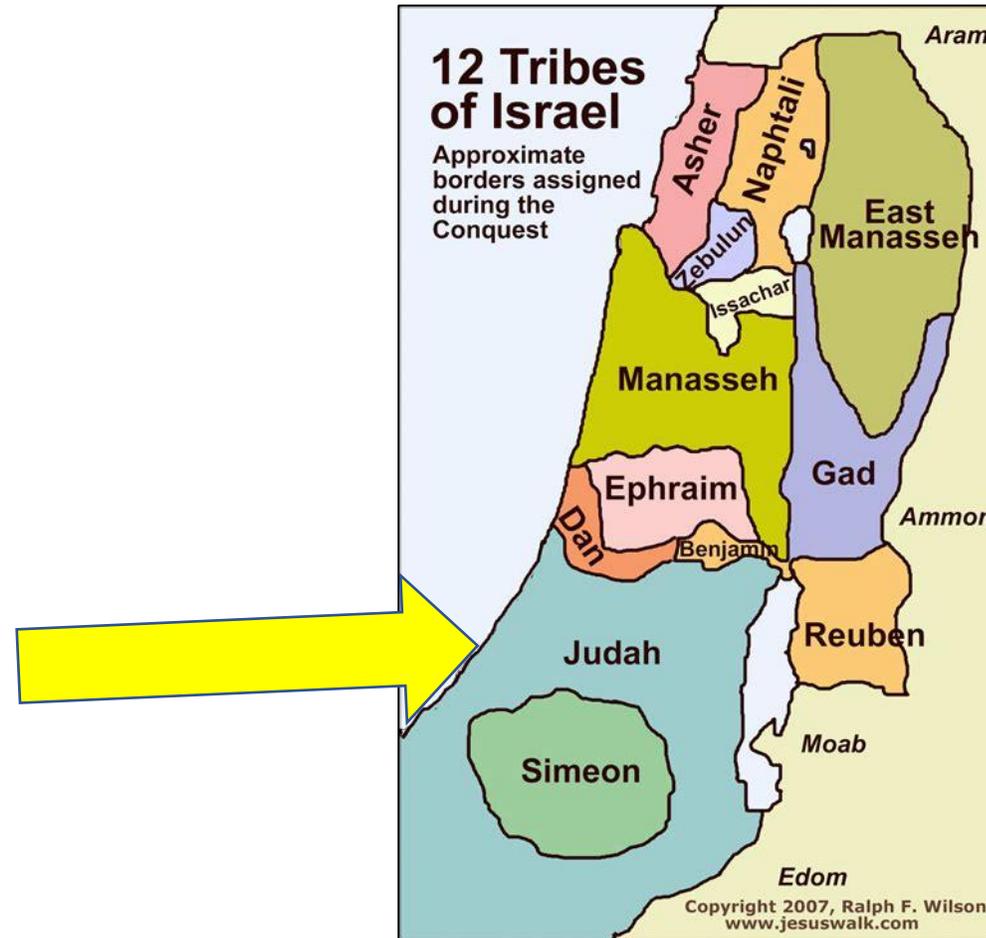
The priests are set near Jerusalem before its time! God has a plan!

Caleb keeps his share.



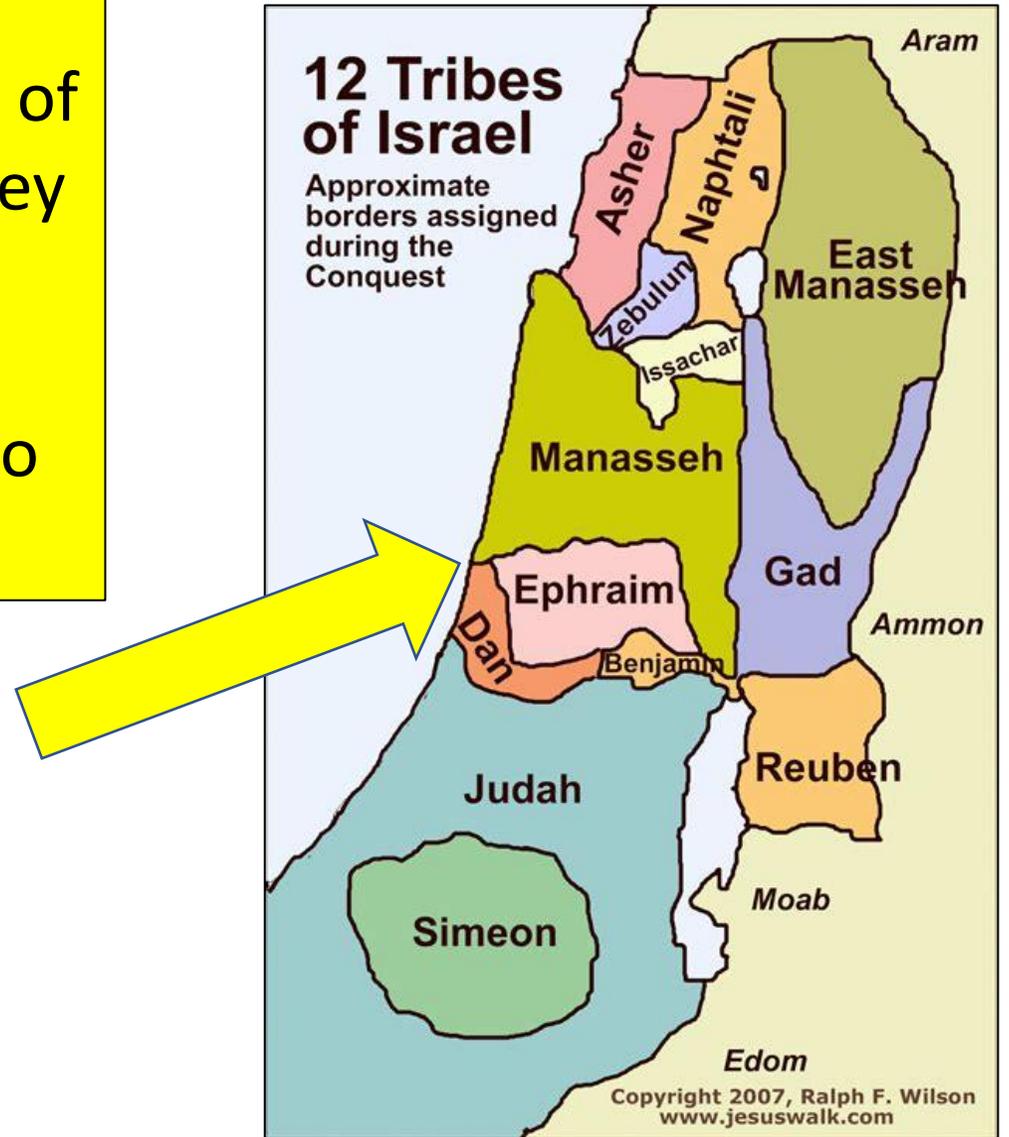
So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave.... And from the tribe of Benjamin they gave ... All the towns for **the priests**, the descendants of Aaron, were thirteen, together with their pasturelands.

13 towns to priests.  
(9 from Judah + Simeon  
4 from Benjamin)



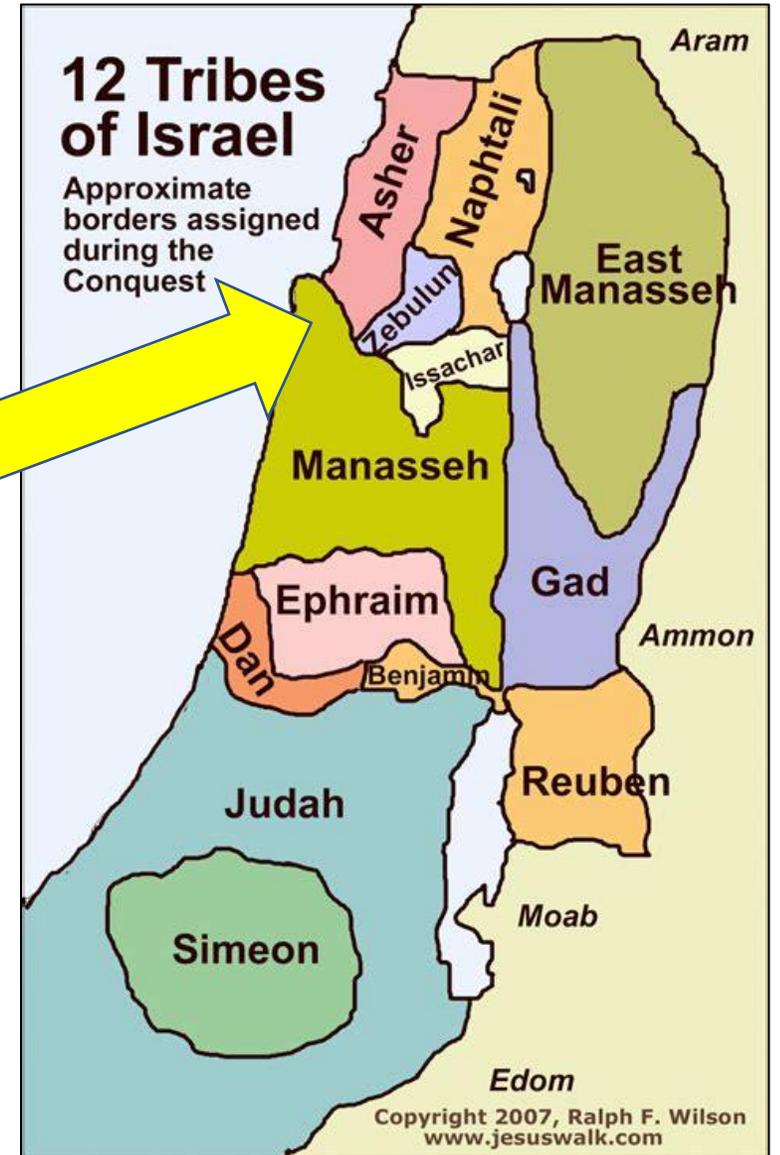
The **rest of the Kohathite** clans of the Levites were allotted towns from the tribe of Ephraim.. In the hill country of Ephraim they were given ... From half the tribe of Manasseh they received ...All these ten towns and their pasturelands were given to the rest of the Kohathite clans.

10 towns for the rest (4 From Ephraim  
4 from Dan 2 from ½ Manasseh)



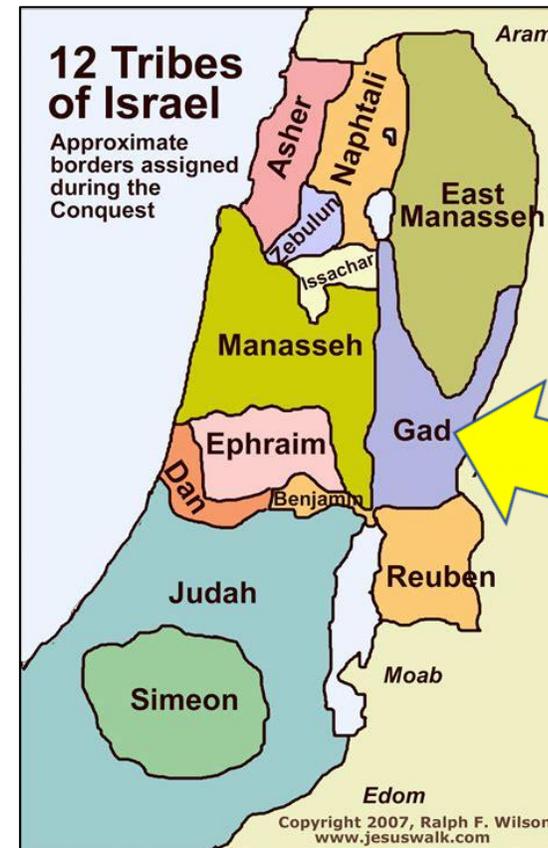
The Levite clans of the **Gershonites** were given.. from the half-tribe of Manasseh.. two towns; from the tribe of Issachar...-four towns; from the tribe of Asher...-four towns; from the tribe of Naphtali..-three towns. All the towns of the Gershonite clans were thirteen, together with their pasturelands.

13 towns (2 from ½ Manasseh 2  
From Issachar 4 from Asher 3 from  
Naphtali)



The **Merarite** clans (the rest of the Levites) were given.. from the tribe of Zebulun..-four towns; from the tribe of Reuben, ..-four towns; from the tribe of Gad, ..-four towns in all. All the towns allotted to the Merarite clans, who were the rest of the Levites, were twelve.

12 towns (4 from Zebulun 4 from Reuben 4 from Gad)



The towns of the Levites in the territory held by the Israelites were forty-eight in all, together with their pasturelands. Each of these towns had pasturelands surrounding it; this was true for all these towns. v41-42

### God's plan of distribution

All treated the same

Access to all for ministry

Visible to all



So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. v43

This a Summary of objective of book of Joshua



The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD handed all their enemies over to them. v44

The Lord kept his promise!

They enjoyed the present victory but there was future work to do.



# There's more to success than victory!

Romans 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled. v45

God is faithful in the detail



# The future ministry of the Levites in David's day

1 Chronicles 23:6 David separated the Levites into divisions corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.



# The ministry of all believers today

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



# The privileges and sacrifices of being a Levite

No inheritance  
in the land



The Lord was  
their inheritance

*"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble of heart."*