

## **Dividing Up the Land**

Joshua 10:29 – 22:34

Judges 1:1 – 2:7

by Don Falkos

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Over the course of five years, Joshua led the people of Israel in battle against king after king, destroying city after city, wiping out the peoples of Canaan, taking possession of their lands, their livestock, and their valuables. Joshua divided up the land and gave it to the tribes of Israel. The Israelites moved in, claiming their inheritance.

Caleb was one of the twelve spies Moses had sent into Canaan. Of those twelve only he and Joshua had given a positive report, and of their entire generation only those two had survived the intervening years. Caleb went to Joshua and asked for the land the Lord had promised him all those years before. Joshua granted his request.

Caleb had to fight off the current inhabitants in order to take possession of the land. His nephew Othniel was responsible for conquering one of the cities. So Caleb gave Othniel his daughter in marriage along with a wedding gift of land and springs of water.

The Tabernacle was set up in Shiloh. The Cities of Refuge were established. Towns were given for the Levites to live in. Aside from these towns and the pastureland around them, the Levites received no land. Their role as priests of the Lord was their inheritance.

Joshua called together Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He told them, "You have fulfilled your obligation to the other tribes. Now go home to the land the Lord gave you east of the Jordan. Obey the Law of Moses. Serve the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul."