

A DEEPER DIVE

August 16, 2026

Joshua 13

Prayer Focus– Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading – Joshua 13: 1

Consider this– Just a second, what?

Read verse 1 of Joshua 12 and then go back to chapter 11 and read verse 23. How can both of these statements be true?

Tuesday: Reading– Joshua 13: 1-6

Consider this– And another thing!

Chapter 11 ends by saying that “the land had rest from war.” Now, this might be the only time in history where that statement can be made, but that’s beside the point. Chapter 13 seems to pick up the sword again, as the first six verses list the places that still hadn’t been conquered, but need to be taken and divided as the inheritance of the tribes. But Joshua is “very old.” How will he muster the strength to continue the conquests? Read verse 6. What promise does the Lord give the Israelites? If we are obedient, but find our strength flagging, and our attention wandering, can we expect the Lord to give us the same help that he promises here?

Wednesday: Reading– Joshua 13

Consider this– Where is all of this happening?

There is a discordant note in verse 13. What does it say? What dangers are being foreshadowed here? There is no explanation here why the Israelites failed in their duty here. They had won many battles and conquered many lands. Maybe they thought that they had done enough and wanted to just settle down and rest. Davis asks, “what happens when you allow the ‘little things’ in your life to remain unchecked? How might it hurt you in the long run?”

Here is a link to a map to help you understand the geographical layout.

<https://www.bible.ca/maps/bible-maps-master-index-borders-twelve-12-tribes-israel-promised-land-joshua13-22-conquest-1400BC.htm>

Thursday: Reading– Joshua 13; Deuteronomy 18.

Consider this– What’s going on with the Levites?

Verse 14 has a quick line about the tribe of Levi. What do you know about them? Why no land for them?

Here are a couple of links for you to do some exploration.

<https://bibleproject.com/podcasts/what-made-tribe-levi-special/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-inheritance-Levites.html>

Friday: Reading– Joshua 13; 1 Peter 2

Consider this– Priests?

With the Levite Priesthood in mind, read 1 Peter 2. He packs a lot into a few verses, but what is your takeaway from that? If you did a Venn diagram with Levites in one circle and Christian in another–where would be the points of difference, and where would the intersecting circle be?

Saturday: Reading– Joshua 13

Consider this– Ho-hum.

At the beginning of Davis' commentary on chapter 12, he says, "It appears to be sheer tedium...it does not exactly engulf the reader in a glow of devotional warmth." When he talks about chapter 13, he says, "Probably even the most stout-hearted reader of Joshua begins to crumble and not as he enters chapters 13-21."

So, what can we do? Should we just skim through it on our one-year reading plan because it's in the Bible? Should we force ourselves to study each name, each place, each tiny detail that is mentioned? Davis uses an analogy of an old chair that he owns. It's rickety and has been held together over time with wire and bits and pieces added on for support. He says that he keeps that chair, and uses it, because it belonged to his father, and a lot of the repair work on it was done by his father. In other words, it means something to him. No doubt you have some things like that in your possession. Someone might look at it and ask "why are you hanging on to this?" That item means nothing to the person. But it has deep meaning and memory for you–you prize it as more valuable than many other things. It might be one of the things you grab if you had to evacuate your house due to fire or some other emergency.

Davis uses this idea to encourage us to try to see these next chapters as the Israelites would have. These chapters describe a precious inheritance, and we should try to stand in their place and imagine what they would have felt reading these chapters. As believers we also have an inheritance. As you read about Israel's inheritance, give thanks for the inheritance you have received from the Lord.

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

Optimism arranges reality in a way that enables us to say things will get better. Pessimism arranges the same reality so that we can say things will probably get worse. When it rains, the optimist says, "How wonderful! Things will grow." Seeing the same rain, the pessimist says, "Everything will drown."

Being neither an optimist nor a pessimist, Jesus speaks about hope that is not based on chances that things will get better or worse. His hope is built upon the promise that, whatever happens, God will stay with us at all times, in all places. God is the God of life.

Sunday - Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvcal13@gmail.com.