

A DEEPER DIVE

August 30, 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: 8-13; 2 Timothy 4:7

Consider this— Nevertheless...

Verses 8-12 lists a lot of places and names of the places that are going to be split up. All of these victories! But something surprises us in verse 13. The word nevertheless (NKJV) interrupts all of this good feeling. What does this word introduce? Nothing much is said other than the statement, but what are the implications here? Paul, in his 2nd letter to Timothy, writes that he has finished the race. Read chapter 4 of second Timothy, and pray that you, like Paul, can say these things. Pray that when you meet the Lord, you won't be confronted with a "nevertheless."

Tuesday: Reading— Joshua 13: 8-13; 1 Samuel 27; 2 Samuel 10.

Consider this— Geshurites and Maachathites

From the passage in Joshua, what did these two groups have in common?

Read the verses in Samuel about these two groups. Note, the Maachathites are from the area of Maacha.

What can you conclude about this failure to drive out these people from the passages in Samuel?

Wednesday: Reading— Joshua 13; 2 Corinthians 12

Consider this— A thorn in my side.

The commentary in Joshua is sparse about the Geshurites and the Maachathites. After reading the associated passages in Samuel, what application can you make if we fail to completely get rid of sin in our lives?

In 2 Corinthians, Paul talks about a thorn in his flesh which the Lord allowed to remain. What was the purpose of the thorn in Paul's flesh? Could these groups represent a type of thorn in the side of Israel? To what purpose?

Thursday: Reading— Joshua 13; Romans 5; 2 Corinthians 4; Judges 3:1-6

Consider this— Why did they fight all those battles? Why do we go through all our trials?

What is the purpose of trials in our lives? What was the purpose of the battles that Israel waged under Joshua? The Lord showed in Jericho and elsewhere, that he could do all the heavy lifting in any battle. He could have had Israel sit on the sidelines, eat some popcorn and watch while the Lord destroyed their enemies. Why didn't this happen? Why did the Lord have the Israelites fight battles? Also, in verse 2 of chapter 13, the Philistines are mentioned as a group that was not conquered. It doesn't say why. How many times later in the Bible do we read about the Israelites and the Philistines doing battle? What could be the purpose of God allowing the Philistines to survive after all the battles? Does God have a purpose for allowing the Philistines to be the proverbial "thorn in the flesh" of Israel?

Similarly, we can ask why we go through trials. The Lord could smooth our road, so why doesn't he? Why do we have to suffer all the things that people who don't follow the Lord suffer? What is the purpose of trials and suffering? Also, how do trials help us measure our spiritual growth? If we are fighting today the same battles we fought last year, the year before, and the year before that, doesn't that say something is missing from our Christian walk? According to Judges, the Lord left certain kingdoms intact to test Israel. Are there things in your life that you have prayed about, but the Lord does not seem to be listening? Why do you think that is?

Friday: Reading– Joshua 13; Psalm 20

Consider this– Where is your trust?

Remember that the Lord commanded the army to burn the chariots and cripple the horses in chapter 11 verse 6. This should remind you of Psalm 20:7. Why does the Lord want this to happen? What things do we put our trust in these days instead of the Lord. In other words, what are the chariots and horses today? Is it your stocked freezer, your bank account, investments, firearms? What things cause you to think of God only in passing, because you have all the things you need?

Saturday: Reading– Joshua 13

Consider this– The true inheritance.

Davis says, "Healthy, grateful faith sees beyond the inheritance [of the land] to the one who granted it and is careful never to prize Yahweh's gifts more than Yahweh himself. Hence Levi—and Israel—should say, 'Yahweh is my inheritance, my portion.' As a believer you have received an inheritance. Do you view the gift of salvation more than the Giver of salvation?"

From the Henri Nouwen Society– A prayer.

I come to you to enter into the mystery of your way – the way of discipleship, the way that leads from the cross to new life. It is not an easy way, but it is a way of peace and joy. Help me to be here with a heart open to suffering, a mind open to understanding, and a will ready to follow.

There are many struggles and I will always have many struggles, but with you, O Lord, I am living in the Light. With you, O Lord, I am moving more and more toward life. With you, O Lord, I know I am safe.

Let me celebrate my life in a spirit of gratitude. Grateful that I am here and grateful you are my God.

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

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.