EDIFIED EDITION

Joshua

A modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures

24	658	Old	6
chapters	verses	Testament	book of 66

Contents

Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Chapter 6
Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10
Chapter 11
Chapter 12
Chapter 13
Chapter 14
Chapter 15
Chapter 16
Chapter 17
Chapter 18
Chapter 19
Chapter 20
Chapter 21
Chapter 22
Chapter 23
Chapter 24

Edified Edition (EDE): a modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek, in everyday British English. www.edifiededition.com

Numbered notes follow each chapter.

© 2026 Edified Edition. Made 2 November 2026.

Chapter 1

Joshua 1 opens after the death of Moses. The LORD commissions Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan into the land, promising to be with him as He was with Moses and never to leave him. Joshua is to be strong and courageous and to keep the Book of the Law always on his lips. Joshua tells the officers to prepare the people to cross in three days, and reminds Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh that their fighting men must go over armed ahead of their brothers. They pledge to obey him as they obeyed Moses.

[1]After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

[2]"Moses My servant is dead. Now get up, you and all this people, and cross this Jordan into the land I am giving to them, to the Israelites.

[3]Every place where the sole of your foot treads I have given you, as I promised Moses.

[4]From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea[1] towards the setting sun, will be your territory.

5 As long as you live, no one will be able to hold
out against you. I will be with you just as I was
with Moses; I will not leave you or abandon you.[2]
6 Be strong and courageous, because it is you who
will bring this people into possession of the land I
promised their fathers on oath.
7 Only be strong and very courageous, being
careful to do all the law that Moses My servant
commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right
or to the left, so that you may succeed wherever
you go.
8 This Book of the Law must not depart from your
mouth. Meditate on it day and night,[3] so that you
may be careful to do everything written in it. Then
you will make your way prosperous, and then you
will succeed.
9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and
courageous. Do not be terrified or dismayed, for
the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
10 Then Joshua gave orders to the officers of the
people:
11 "Go through the camp and command the people,
'Get provisions ready, for in three days you will
cross this Jordan to go in and take possession of
the land the LORD your God is giving you to
possess.'"
12 To the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe
of Manasseh Joshua said,
13 "Remember what Moses the servant of the
LORD commanded you when he said, 'The LORD
your God is giving you rest and will give you this
land.'[4]
14 Your wives, your little ones and your livestock
may stay in the land Moses gave you east of the
Jordan, but all your fighting men must cross over
armed ahead of your brothers and help them,
15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest as He
has given you, and they too take possession of the
land the LORD your God is giving them. Then you
may return to the land that is yours and possess it,
the land Moses the servant of the LORD gave you
east of the Jordan, towards the sunrise."
16 Then they gave Joshua their answer: "All that
you command us we will do, and we will go
wherever you send us.
17 Just as we obeyed Moses in everything, so we
will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be
with you as He was with Moses!
18 Whoever rebels against your command and does
not obey your words in all that you command him
shall be put to death. Only be strong and
courageous!"

1 The Mediterranean.

2 As in Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; compare Hebrew 13:5.

3 Hebrew הָגָה (hagah), to murmur or read half aloud; compare Psalm 1:2.

4 See Deuteronomy 3:18–20 and Numbers 32.

Chapter 2

Joshua 2 tells how Joshua sends two spies from Shittim to Jericho, where they lodge in the house of Rahab the prostitute. When the king of Jericho demands them, she hides them on her roof under stalks of flax and sends the pursuers off towards the Jordan. She tells the spies that the whole land is melting in fear, for the LORD their God is God in heaven above and on earth below, and asks them to swear to spare her family. They promise, if she ties a scarlet cord in her window and keeps her family inside. She lets them down by a rope through the window in the city wall, and after hiding three days in the hills they return to report that the LORD has given them the whole land.

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men
from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go and look over
the land, especially Jericho." So they went and
came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab,[1]
and lodged there.
2 The king of Jericho was told, "Some men of the
Israelites have come here tonight to search out
the land."
3 So the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab: "Bring
out the men who came to you and entered your
house, for they have come to search out the whole
land."
4 But the woman had taken the two men and
hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me,
but I did not know where they were from.
5 When the gate was about to be shut at dark, the
men went out. I do not know where they went. Go

after them quickly, and you will catch them.”

6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out there.

7 So the men set off after them on the road to the Jordan, as far as the fords, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before the spies lay down, she went up to them on the roof

9 and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that terror of you has fallen on us, and that all who live in the land are melting away before you.

10 We have heard how the LORD made the water of the Red Sea dry up in front of you on your way out of Egypt, and how you dealt with Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings beyond the Jordan, devoting them to destruction.

11 When we heard it, our hearts melted, and no one has any courage left because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.

12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, since I have shown you loyal kindness, you will also show loyal kindness to my father’s house. Give me a sure sign

13 that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.”

14 The men said to her, “Our lives for yours, if you do not tell anyone what we are doing! When the LORD gives us the land, we will deal with you in loyal kindness and faithfulness.”

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, and she lived in the wall itself.

16 She said to them, “Go into the hills, so that the pursuers do not find you. Hide there three days until they come back, and afterwards go on your way.”

17 The men said to her, “We will be free of this oath you have made us swear,

18 unless, when we come into the land, you tie this scarlet cord[2] in the window through which you let us down, and gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers and all your father’s household.

19 Anyone who goes out through the door of your house into the street will be responsible for his own death, and we shall be blameless. But if anyone in the house with you is harmed, his blood will be on our heads.

20 And if you tell anyone what we are doing, we shall be free of the oath you have made us swear.”

21 She replied, “Let it be as you say.” So she sent them away, and they left. Then she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

22 They went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had returned. The pursuers searched all along the road but did not find them.

23 Then the two men came down from the hills again, crossed over, and came to Joshua son of Nun, and told him everything that had happened to them.

24 They said to Joshua, “Truly the LORD has given the whole land into our hands. All who live in the land are melting away before us.”

1 Compare Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25. Rahab is named in Matthew 1:5 among the ancestors of Jesus.

2 Hebrew תִּקְוָה (tiqvah), here ‘cord’; the same word elsewhere means ‘hope’.

Chapter 3

> *Joshua 3 describes the crossing of the Jordan. The people are to follow the ark of the covenant at a distance and consecrate themselves, for the LORD will do wonders among them. The LORD promises to begin exalting Joshua in the sight of Israel. When the priests carrying the ark step into the river, then in full flood at harvest time, the water coming down from upstream stops and piles up far away at Adam, and the whole nation crosses on dry ground while the priests stand firm in the middle of the Jordan.*

1 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they camped there before crossing.

2 At the end of three days the officers went through the camp

3 and commanded the people, “When you see the
ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and
the Levitical priests carrying it, set out from
where you are and follow it.
4 But keep a distance of about two thousand
cubits[1] between you and it; do not come near it.
Then you will know which way to go, for you have
never been this way before.”
5 Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate
yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do
wonders among you.”
6 And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark
of the covenant and cross over ahead of the
people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant
and went ahead of the people.
7 The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to
make you great in the eyes of all Israel, so that
they may know that I will be with you as I was
with Moses.
8 Command the priests who carry the ark of the
covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the water
of the Jordan, stand still in the Jordan.’”
9 Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and
listen to the words of the LORD your God.”
10 And Joshua said, “By this you will know that the
living God is among you, and that He will surely
drive out before you the Canaanites, the Hittites,
the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the
Amorites and the Jebusites.
11 See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all
the earth is crossing ahead of you into the Jordan.
12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of
Israel, one from each tribe.
13 As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests
who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the
earth, rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of
the Jordan flowing down from above will be cut off
and will stand up in a single heap.”
14 So when the people set out from their tents to
cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of
the covenant went ahead of them.
15 Now the Jordan overflows all its banks
throughout the harvest season. But as soon as
those carrying the ark reached the Jordan and the
feet of the priests who carried the ark dipped into
the edge of the water,
16 the water flowing down from above stood still. It
rose up in a heap a great distance away, at Adam,
the town beside Zarethan, while the water flowing
down to the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, was
completely cut off. So the people crossed over
opposite Jericho.
17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant
of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the
middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed over
on dry ground, until the whole nation had finished
crossing the Jordan.

1 About 900 metres (1,000 yards).

Chapter 4

> *Joshua 4 tells how, at the LORD’s command, one man from each tribe takes a stone from the riverbed where the priests stood, to set up as a memorial at the camp, while Joshua sets up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan. The fighting men of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh cross over armed ahead of the rest, about forty thousand of them. That day the LORD exalts Joshua in the sight of all Israel. When the priests come up out of the river, the water returns to its place. At Gilgal Joshua sets up the twelve stones, so that when their children ask what they mean, they may tell them how Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground, as at the Red Sea.*

1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the
Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,
2 “Take twelve men from the people, one from each
tribe,
3 and command them, ‘Take up twelve stones from
here, from the middle of the Jordan, from the very
place where the priests’ feet stood firm. Carry
them over with you and put them down at the
place where you camp tonight.’”
4 So Joshua called the twelve men he had
appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,
5 and Joshua said to them, “Go over ahead of the
ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the
Jordan, and each of you lift a stone on to his
shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the
Israelites,
6 so that this may be a sign among you. In time to
come, when your children ask, ‘What do these
stones mean to you?’

7 you are to tell them that the flow of the Jordan
stopped in front of the ark of the LORD's
covenant; as it went across the river, the water
was cut off. These stones will remind the Israelites
of it for all time."

8 The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They
took up twelve stones from the middle of the
Jordan, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites,
as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them
over with them to the camp and put them down
there.

9 Joshua set up twelve stones as well in mid-river,[1]
on the spot where the priests carrying the ark of
the covenant had stood; they are still there today.

10 The priests who carried the ark remained
standing in the middle of the Jordan until
everything the LORD had commanded Joshua to
tell the people was done, just as Moses had
commanded Joshua. And the people hurried
across.

11 When all the people had finished crossing, the
ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in
front of the people.

12 The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of
Manasseh crossed over armed ahead of the
Israelites, as Moses had told them.

13 About forty thousand men equipped for war
crossed over before the LORD to the plains of
Jericho for battle.

14 That day the LORD made Joshua great in the
eyes of all Israel, and they revered him all the
days of his life, as they had revered Moses.

15 Then the LORD said to Joshua,

16 "Tell the priests carrying the ark of the
testimony to come up from the river."

17 So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out
of the Jordan."

18 As the priests carrying the ark of the covenant
of the LORD came up from the middle of the
Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched
dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to
their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

19 It was on the tenth day of the first month[2] that
the people came up from the Jordan, and they
made camp at Gilgal, at the eastern edge of
Jericho's territory.

20 And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones
they had taken out of the Jordan.

21 He said to the Israelites, "In time to come, when
your children ask their fathers, 'What do these
stones mean?'

22 let your children know, 'Israel crossed this
Jordan on dry ground.'

23 The LORD your God made the Jordan run dry in
front of you until you were across, as He did at the
Red Sea, drying it up before us until we were
across,

24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know
that the hand of the LORD is mighty, and so that
you may fear the LORD your God for ever."

1 Or 'Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan'.
2 The day the Passover lamb was chosen (Exodus 12:3); compare 5:10.

Chapter 5

> *Joshua 5 tells how the kings west of the Jordan lose heart when they hear that the LORD dried up the river. At Gilgal Joshua circumcises the generation born in the wilderness, and the LORD declares that He has rolled away the disgrace of Egypt. Israel keeps the Passover on the plains of Jericho and eats the produce of the land, and the manna stops. Near Jericho Joshua meets a man with a drawn sword, the commander of the LORD's army, who tells him to take off his sandals, for the place is holy.*

1 When all the kings of the Amorites west of the
Jordan and all the kings of the Canaanites along
the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the
waters of the Jordan before the Israelites until
they had crossed,[1] their hearts melted, and they
had no courage left to face the Israelites.

2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint
knives and circumcise the Israelites again, a
second time."

3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the
Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth.[2]

4 This is why Joshua circumcised them: all the
males who came out of Egypt, all the fighting men,
had died in the wilderness on the way after they
left Egypt.

5 All the people who came out had been
circumcised, but none of those born in the
wilderness on the way out of Egypt had been
circumcised.

6 For the Israelites had walked forty years in the
wilderness until the whole nation, the fighting
men who came out of Egypt, had died, since they
had not obeyed the voice of the LORD. The LORD
had sworn to them that He would not let them see
the land He had sworn to their fathers to give us,
a land flowing with milk and honey.

7 So it was their sons, whom He raised up in their
place, that Joshua circumcised. They were
uncircumcised, because no one had circumcised
them on the way.

8 When the whole nation had been circumcised,
they stayed where they were in the camp until
they had healed.

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have
rolled away the disgrace of Egypt from you.” So
that place is called Gilgal[3] to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on
the plains of Jericho, they kept the Passover on the
evening of the fourteenth day of the month.

11 The day after the Passover, on that very day,
they ate some of the produce of the land,
unleavened bread and roasted grain.

12 The manna stopped the day after they ate the
produce of the land. The Israelites had no more
manna; that year they ate the crops of the land of
Canaan.

13 When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and
saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn
sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and
asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14 “Neither,” he replied, “but I have come now as
commander of the LORD’s army.” Then Joshua fell
face down to the ground in worship and said to
him, “What does my lord have to say to his
servant?”

15 The commander of the LORD’s army said to
Joshua, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the
place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua
did so.[4]

1 So the traditional reading; the written Hebrew has ‘until we had crossed’.

2 ‘The hill of foreskins’.

3 Gilgal sounds like the Hebrew for ‘roll’ (גָּלַל, galal).

4 Compare Exodus 3:5.

Chapter 6

Joshua 6 tells of the fall of Jericho. The LORD tells Joshua how to take the city: for six days the army is to march round it once a day, with seven priests blowing rams’ horns before the ark, and on the seventh day seven times; then at a long blast the people are to shout. The army keeps silence until the seventh day, then shouts, and the wall falls down flat. The city is devoted to the LORD; its silver, gold, bronze and iron go into His treasury. Rahab and her family are spared, as the spies had sworn, and Joshua pronounces a curse on anyone who rebuilds Jericho.

1 Jericho had barred its gates against the Israelites
and was tightly shut; nobody left and nobody
entered.

2 The LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given
Jericho into your hand, with its king and its mighty
men of valour.

3 March round the city, all you fighting men, going
round it once. Do this for six days.

4 Seven priests are to carry seven rams’ horns[1] in
front of the ark. On the seventh day march round
the city seven times, with the priests blowing the
horns.

5 When they sound a long blast on the ram’s horn
and you hear the sound of the horn, all the people
are to give a great shout. Then the wall of the city
will fall down flat, and the people will go up, each
straight ahead.”

6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said
to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and let
seven priests carry seven rams’ horns in front of
the ark of the LORD.”

7 And he said to the people,[2] “Go forward and
march round the city, with the armed men going
ahead of the ark of the LORD.”

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven
priests carrying the seven rams' horns before the
LORD went forward and blew the horns, and the
ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

9 The armed men went ahead of the priests who
blew the horns, and the rearguard followed the
ark, with the horns sounding all the while.

10 Joshua had given the people this order: "No
battle cry, no raised voices, not one word from
your lips, until the day I tell you to shout. Then
shout!"

11 So he had the ark of the LORD carried round the
city, going round it once. Then they came back to
the camp and spent the night in the camp.

12 Early next morning Joshua rose, and the priests
lifted the ark of the LORD again.

13 The seven priests carrying the seven rams'
horns went on ahead of the ark of the LORD,
blowing the horns as they went. The armed men
went ahead of them, and the rearguard followed
the ark of the LORD, with the horns sounding all
the while.

14 On the second day too they circled the city once
and went back to camp, and they did the same for
six days.

15 On the seventh day they got up at daybreak and
marched round the city in the same way seven
times; only on that day did they go round the city
seven times.

16 At the seventh circuit, as the priests sounded
the horns, Joshua told the people, "Raise the
shout, for the LORD has handed the city to you!

17 The city and everything in it are to be devoted to
the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the
prostitute and all who are with her in the house
shall live, because she hid the messengers we
sent.

18 But as for you, keep away from the devoted
things, so that you do not take any of them after
devoting them, and so make the camp of Israel
liable to destruction and bring disaster on it.

19 All the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze
and iron, are holy to the LORD; they are to go into
the treasury of the LORD."

20 So the people shouted, and the horns were
blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of
the horn, they gave a great shout, and the wall fell
down flat.[3] The people went up into the city, each
straight ahead, and they captured the city.

21 They devoted to destruction with the sword
everything in the city, man and woman, young and
old, ox, sheep and donkey.

22 Joshua told the two men who had scouted the
land, "Go to the prostitute's house and bring her
out with everyone who belongs to her, just as you
promised her on oath."

23 So the young men who had been spies went in
and brought out Rahab, her father and mother,
her brothers and all who belonged to her. They
brought out all her relatives and put them outside
the camp of Israel.

24 Then they burned the city with fire and
everything in it. Only the silver and gold and the
articles of bronze and iron they put into the
treasury of the house of the LORD.

25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with
her father's household and all who belonged to
her, and she has lived among Israel to this day,
because she hid the messengers Joshua sent to
spy out Jericho.

26 At that time Joshua made them take this oath:
"Cursed before the LORD is the man who rises up
and rebuilds this city, Jericho. At the cost of his
firstborn he will lay its foundations, and at the
cost of his youngest he will set up its gates."[4]

27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame
spread through the whole land.

---

1 Hebrew שׁוֹפָר (shofar), a ram's horn trumpet; compare Leviticus 25:9.

2 So the traditional reading; the written Hebrew has 'they said'.

3 Compare Hebrews 11:30.

4 Fulfilled in 1 Kings 16:34.

Chapter 7

Joshua 7 tells how Achan of the tribe of Judah takes some of the things devoted to the LORD, and the LORD's anger burns against Israel. A small force sent against Ai is routed and thirty-six men are killed. Joshua and the elders lie before the ark until evening, and the LORD tells Joshua that Israel has sinned and broken His covenant. By lot the tribe, clan, family and man are picked out, and Achan confesses that he coveted and hid a fine cloak, silver and a bar of gold. He and all he has are taken to the Valley of Achor, where Israel stones and burns them, and the LORD turns from His anger.

1 But the Israelites broke faith in regard to the
devoted things. Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi,
son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of
the devoted things, and the LORD's anger burned
against the Israelites.

2 From Jericho Joshua sent men to Ai, which lies
near Beth-aven to the east of Bethel, with orders
to go up and scout the country. So they went up
and scouted Ai.

3 When they came back to Joshua, they said to him,
"There is no need for the whole army to go up. Let
two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai.
Do not wear out the whole army over there, for
the people of Ai are few."

4 So some three thousand of the people went up,
but they were put to flight by the men of Ai.

5 The men of Ai killed about thirty-six of them and
chased them from the gate as far as Shebarim,[1]
striking them down on the slope. And the hearts of
the people melted and turned to water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell face down to
the ground before the ark of the LORD until
evening, he and the elders of Israel, and they
threw dust on their heads.

7 Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Why did You ever
bring this people across the Jordan, only to hand
us over to the Amorites to destroy us? If only we
had been content to stay on the other side of the
Jordan!

8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has
turned its back before its enemies?

9 The Canaanites and all who live in the land will
hear of it, and they will surround us and wipe our
name from the earth. And what will You do for
Your great name?"

10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you
lying on your face?

11 Israel has sinned. They have broken My
covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They
have taken some of the devoted things; they have
stolen, they have lied, and they have put them
among their own belongings.

12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against
their enemies. They turn their backs before their
enemies, because they themselves have become
liable to destruction. I will not be with you any
longer unless you destroy the devoted things from
among you.

13 Get up and consecrate the people. Tell them,
'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for this is
what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There are
devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot
stand against your enemies until you remove them
from among you.

14 In the morning you are to come forward tribe by
tribe. The tribe the LORD takes is to come
forward clan by clan; the clan the LORD takes is
to come forward family by family; and the family
the LORD takes is to come forward man by man.

15 The one who is taken with the devoted things
shall be burned with fire, he and all he has,
because he has broken the covenant of the LORD
and done an outrageous thing in Israel.'"

16 Early next morning Joshua had Israel come
forward by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was
taken.

17 He had the clans of Judah come forward, and
the clan of the Zerahites was taken. He had the
clan of the Zerahites come forward family by
family,[2] and Zabdi was taken.

18 He had Zabdi's household come forward man by
man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of
Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory
to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make your
confession to Him. Tell me what you have done; do
not hide it from me."

20 Achan answered Joshua, "It is true. I have
sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is
what I did:

21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak
from Shinar,[3] two hundred shekels of silver and a
bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,[4] I coveted them

and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

22 So Joshua sent messengers, who ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and laid them out before the LORD.

24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his oxen, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

25 Joshua said, "Why have you brought trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him; they burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

26 Over him they raised a great heap of stones, which is there to this day. Then the LORD turned from His burning anger. That is why the place is called the Valley of Achor[5] to this day.

1 Or 'as far as the quarries'.

2 So some manuscripts; most have 'man by man'.

3 That is, Babylonia.

4 About 2.3 kilograms (5 pounds) of silver and 575 grams (1¼ pounds) of gold.

5 Achor means 'trouble' (verse 25); compare Hosea 2:15. Achan is called Achar, 'troubler', in 1 Chronicles 2:7.

Chapter 8

Joshua 8 tells of the capture of Ai. The LORD encourages Joshua and tells him to set an ambush behind the city. Joshua leads the main force against Ai and pretends to flee, drawing the men of Ai and Bethel out of the city. At the LORD's word he holds out his javelin towards Ai; the ambush rises, takes the city and sets it on fire, and the men of Ai are caught between the two forces. Ai is made a ruin and its king hanged until evening. Then Joshua builds an altar of uncut stones on Mount Ebal, writes a copy of the law of Moses on stones, and reads all the words of the law, the blessings and the curses, before the whole assembly.

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or dismayed. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.

2 Do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may take its spoil and livestock as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

3 So Joshua and the whole army set out to go up against Ai. Joshua chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out by night

4 with these orders: "Listen. You are to lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, and all of you be ready.

5 I and all the people with me will approach the city, and when they come out against us as they did the first time, we will flee before them.

6 They will chase us until we have lured them away from the city, thinking, 'They are running from us just as before.' And while we are retreating,

7 you are to rise from your ambush and seize the city. The LORD your God will give it into your hand.

8 When you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do as the LORD has said. See, I have given you your orders."

9 Then Joshua sent them off, and they went to the place of ambush and waited between Bethel and Ai, west of Ai. But Joshua spent that night among the people.

10 Early next morning Joshua mustered the army, and he and the elders of Israel marched at their head to Ai.

11 All the fighting men with him went up and drew near, and arrived in front of the city. They camped north of Ai, with the valley between them and the city.

12 He had also posted about five thousand men in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.

13 So the soldiers took up their positions, the main camp north of the city and its rearguard west of the city, and that night Joshua went down into the valley.

14 When the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried out early in the morning to meet Israel in battle at the

appointed place facing the Arabah. He did not know that an ambush had been set against him behind the city.

15 Joshua and all Israel let themselves be driven back before them, and fled towards the wilderness.

16 All the people in the city were called out to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city.

17 Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and went after Israel.

18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Hold out the javelin in your hand towards Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” So Joshua held out the javelin in his hand towards the city.

19 As soon as he stretched out his hand, the men in ambush rose quickly from their position and ran forward. They entered the city, captured it and quickly set it on fire.

20 When the men of Ai looked back, they saw the smoke of the city rising to the sky, and they had no chance to escape in any direction, for the people who had been fleeing towards the wilderness turned back on their pursuers.

21 Joshua and all Israel, seeing that the ambush had taken the city and that smoke was going up from it, wheeled round and attacked the men of Ai.

22 The men in the ambush also came out of the city against them, so that they were caught in the middle, with Israelites on both sides. Israel struck them down until not one survivor or fugitive was left.

23 The king of Ai, however, they captured alive and brought before Joshua.

24 When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open country and the wilderness where they had chased them, and every one of them had fallen by the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the sword.

25 Twelve thousand men and women fell that day, all the people of Ai.

26 For Joshua did not draw back the hand with which he held out the javelin until he had devoted to destruction all the inhabitants of Ai.

27 Israel took for themselves only the livestock and the spoil of that city, as the LORD had commanded Joshua.

28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it a permanent ruin mound,[1] a desolate place to this day.

29 He hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. At sunset Joshua gave the order, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it down at the entrance of the city gate.[2] They raised over it a great heap of stones, which is there to this day.

30 Joshua then built an altar on Mount Ebal to the LORD, the God of Israel,

31 following the command Moses the LORD’s servant had given the Israelites, as written in the Book of the Law of Moses: an altar of whole stones untouched by any iron tool.[3] On it they offered burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings.

32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

33 All Israel, with their elders, officials and judges, foreigner and native-born alike, stood on either side of the ark, facing the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD. Half of them stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded earlier, to bless the people of Israel.

34 Afterwards Joshua read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, just as it is written in the Book of the Law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read before the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and the little ones and the foreigners who lived among them.

1 Ai means ‘the ruin’.

2 As Deuteronomy 21:22–23 requires.

3 See Deuteronomy 27:4–8 and Exodus 20:25.

Chapter 9

Joshua 9 tells how the kings of Canaan join forces against Israel, but the people of Gibeon use a trick. Dressed in worn-out clothes and sandals, with cracked wineskins and dry, crumbling bread, they come to Gilgal claiming to be from a distant country and ask for a treaty. The Israelites sample their provisions but do not ask the LORD, and Joshua and the leaders swear peace with them. Three days later Israel learns they are neighbours, but because of the oath sworn by the LORD the leaders spare them, and Joshua makes them woodcutters and water-carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD.

1 When all the kings west of the Jordan heard of these things, the kings in the hill country, in the lowlands and all along the coast of the Great Sea as far as Lebanon, the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites,

2 they came together with one accord to fight against Joshua and Israel.

3 The Gibeonites, however, on hearing how Joshua had dealt with Jericho and Ai,

4 they for their part acted with cunning. They went and disguised themselves as envoys,[1] loading their donkeys with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and patched up.

5 They had worn-out, patched sandals on their feet and wore threadbare clothes, and all their bread was dry and crumbling.

6 Coming to Joshua at the Gilgal camp, they told him and the Israelites, “We are from a far-off land. Will you make a treaty with us?”

7 The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you live among us. How then can we make a treaty with you?”

8 “We are your servants,” they told Joshua. “But who are you,” Joshua asked, “and where have you come from?”

9 They replied, “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. We have heard the report of Him, and all that He did in Egypt,

10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites across the Jordan, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.

11 So our elders and all who live in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for the journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; now make a treaty with us.”’

12 This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we set out to come to you. Now look, it is dry and crumbling.

13 These wineskins were new when we filled them, and see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out from the very long journey.”

14 The men took some of their provisions, but they did not ask for the LORD’s counsel.

15 Joshua made peace with them and a treaty to let them live, and the leaders of the community swore an oath to them.

16 Three days after they had made the treaty with them, the Israelites heard that they were neighbours, living among them.

17 So the Israelites set out, and on the third day came to their towns: Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath-jearim.

18 But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the community had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. The whole community grumbled against the leaders,

19 but all the leaders said to the whole community, “We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them.

20 This is what we will do with them: we will let them live, so that wrath does not fall on us because of the oath we swore to them.”

21 The leaders said to them, “Let them live.” So they became woodcutters and water-carriers for the whole community, as the leaders had said of them.

22 Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said to them, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live very far from you,’ when you live among us?

23 Now you are under a curse. Some of you will always be slaves, cutting wood and drawing water for the house of my God.”

24 They answered Joshua, “Your servants were told clearly how the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you the whole land and to destroy all who live in it before you. We were terrified for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.

25 Now we are in your hands. Do to us whatever
seems good and right to you."

26 So he did that for them: he rescued them from
the hand of the Israelites, and they did not kill
them.

27 That day Joshua made them woodcutters and
water-carriers for the community and for the altar
of the LORD, at the place He would choose, as
they are to this day.[2]

1 So some manuscripts; most read 'took provisions'.
2 Compare 2 Samuel 21:1–14, where Saul breaks this oath.

Chapter 10

Joshua 10 tells how five Amorite kings, led by Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem, attack Gibeon for making peace with Israel. Joshua marches all night from Gilgal, and the LORD throws the enemy into panic and kills more of them with great hailstones than Israel kills with the sword. At Joshua's word the sun stands still over Gibeon and the moon over the Valley of Aijalon until the nation has taken vengeance, as the Book of Jashar records; never before or since has the LORD so listened to a man. The five kings are caught hiding in a cave at Makkedah and put to death. Joshua then takes Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron and Debir, and conquers the whole south of the land, because the LORD fights for Israel.

1 Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that
Joshua had taken Ai and devoted it to destruction,
doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho
and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had
made peace with Israel and were living among
them.

2 He was greatly alarmed, because Gibeon was a
great city, like one of the royal cities, larger than
Ai, and all its men were warriors.

3 So Adoni-zedek, Jerusalem's king, sent a message
to four other kings: Hoham of Hebron, Piram of
Jarmuth, Japhia of Lachish and Debir of Eglon.

4 "Come up and help me attack Gibeon, for it has
made peace with Joshua and the Israelites."

5 Then the five kings of the Amorites, the kings of
Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon,
joined forces and went up with all their armies.
They took up positions against Gibeon and
attacked it.

6 The Gibeonites sent an urgent message to Joshua
at the Gilgal camp: "Do not desert your servants!
Hurry up here to rescue and help us, because
every Amorite king in the hill country has
gathered against us."

7 So Joshua went up from Gilgal with his whole
army, including all his best fighting men.

8 The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of
them, for I have given them into your hand. Not
one of them will be able to stand against you."

9 After marching all night from Gilgal, Joshua took
them by surprise.

10 The LORD threw them into confusion before
Israel, who struck them down in a great slaughter
at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road up
to Beth-horon and cut them down all the way to
Azekah and Makkedah.

11 As they fled before Israel down the slope from
Beth-horon, the LORD hurled great stones from
the sky on them all the way to Azekah, and they
died. More of them died from the hailstones than
the Israelites killed with the sword.

12 On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to
the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD, and he
said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still over
Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation had taken vengeance on its
enemies. Is it not written in the Book of Jashar?[1]
The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did
not hurry to set for about a whole day.[2]

14 There has been no day like it before or since,
when the LORD listened to the voice of a man, for
the LORD fought for Israel.

15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp
at Gilgal.[3]

16 Meanwhile the five kings had fled and hidden in
the cave at Makkedah.

17 Word reached Joshua: "The five kings are hiding
in the cave at Makkedah; they have been found."

18 Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the
mouth of the cave and post men there to guard
them.

19 But do not stop. Pursue your enemies, attack
them from the rear, and do not let them reach
their towns, for the LORD your God has given
them into your hand."
20 When Joshua and the Israelites had finished
striking them down in a very great slaughter, until
they were wiped out, though a few survivors
escaped and reached the fortified cities,
21 the whole army returned safely to Joshua in the
camp at Makkedah. No one dared to say a word
against any of the Israelites.[4]
22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave
and bring those five kings out to me."
23 They did so, and brought the five kings out of
the cave to him: the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron,
Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon.
24 When they had brought the kings out to Joshua,
he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the
commanders of the fighting men who had gone
with him, "Come here and put your feet on the
necks of these kings." So they came forward and
put their feet on their necks.[5]
25 Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or
dismayed. Be strong and courageous, for this is
what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are
fighting."
26 Then Joshua struck them down and put them to
death, and hanged them on five trees, and they
hung on the trees until evening.
27 At sunset Joshua gave the order, and they took
them down from the trees and threw them into the
cave where they had hidden. They placed large
stones at the mouth of the cave, which are there
to this very day.
28 On that same day Joshua took Makkedah and
put it, and its king, to the sword. He devoted
everyone in it to destruction, leaving no survivor,
and treated its king as he had treated the king of
Jericho.
29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on
from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it.
30 The LORD gave it too, with its king, into Israel's
hand. He put it and everyone in it to the sword
and left no survivor there. He did to its king as he
had done to the king of Jericho.
31 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on
from Libnah to Lachish. He took up positions
against it and attacked it.
32 The LORD gave Lachish into Israel's hand, and
Joshua took it on the second day. He put it and
everyone in it to the sword, just as he had done to
Libnah.
33 Meanwhile Horam king of Gezer had come up to
help Lachish, but Joshua struck him and his army
down until no survivor was left.
34 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on
from Lachish to Eglon. They took up positions
against it and attacked it.
35 They captured it that same day and put it to the
sword, and he devoted everyone in it to
destruction that day, just as he had done to
Lachish.
36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up
from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it.
37 They captured it and put it to the sword, with its
king, its towns and everyone in it. He left no
survivor, just as he had done at Eglon; he devoted
it and everyone in it to destruction.
38 Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back
to Debir and attacked it.
39 He captured it, with its king and all its towns.
They put them to the sword and devoted everyone
in it to destruction. He left no survivor. He did to
Debir and its king as he had done to Hebron, and
as he had done to Libnah and its king.
40 So Joshua struck the whole land: the hill
country, the Negev, the lowlands and the slopes,
with all their kings. He left no survivor, but
devoted to destruction all that breathed, as the
LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.
41 Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea to
Gaza, and the whole region of Goshen[6] as far as
Gibeon.
42 All these kings and their lands Joshua captured
in a single campaign, because the LORD, the God
of Israel, fought for Israel.
43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp
at Gilgal.

1 ‘The Book of the Upright’, a lost collection of poems; also quoted in 2 Samuel 1:18.

2 The Hebrew verbs mean ‘be still, be silent’ and ‘stand’; how the event is to be understood has long been debated.

3 This verse, repeated at verse 43, is missing in the Greek; the return to Gilgal came after the campaign.

4 Hebrew ‘No one sharpened his tongue’.

5 A sign of complete victory; compare Psalm 110:1.

6 A district in the south of Canaan, not the Goshen of Egypt.

Chapter 11

Joshua 11 tells of the northern campaign. Jabin king of Hazor gathers the northern kings, an army as numerous as the sand on the seashore with many horses and chariots, at the waters of Merom. The LORD tells Joshua not to fear them; Israel attacks suddenly and routes them, hamstringing their horses and burning their chariots. Joshua burns Hazor, the head of those kingdoms, and takes all the other royal cities. Apart from Gibeon, no city made peace with Israel, for the LORD hardened their hearts to fight. Joshua wipes out the Anakim from the hill country, leaving some only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod. So Joshua takes the whole land and gives it to Israel as an inheritance, and the land has rest from war.

1 Word of this reached Jabin king of Hazor, and he sent messages to Jobab king of Madon and to the kings of Shimron and Achshaph,

2 and to the kings in the northern hill country, in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, in the lowlands and in Naphoth-dor on the west,

3 to the Canaanites in the east and west, the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites and Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

4 They came out with all their troops, a vast host, as countless as the sand on the seashore, with a great many horses and chariots.

5 All these kings met together, came and camped at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6 The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for at this time tomorrow I will hand over all of them, slain, to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”

7 So Joshua and all his fighting men came against them suddenly at the waters of Merom and fell on them.

8 The LORD gave them into Israel’s hand. They struck them down and pursued them as far as Greater Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastwards to the Valley of Mizpeh, striking them down until no survivor was left.

9 Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots.

10 At that time Joshua turned back and captured Hazor, and put its king to the sword. Hazor had formerly been the head of all these kingdoms.

11 They put everyone in it to the sword, devoting them to destruction. Not a living soul was left, and he burned Hazor with fire.

12 Joshua captured all the cities of these kings, and their kings, and put them to the sword. He devoted them to destruction, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

13 But Israel did not burn any of the cities that stood on their mounds,[1] except Hazor alone, which Joshua burned.

14 The Israelites took for themselves all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, but they struck down every person with the sword until they had destroyed them; they left no one alive.

15 As the LORD had commanded His servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

16 So Joshua took this whole land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the lowlands, the Arabah, and the hill country of Israel with its lowlands,

17 from Mount Halak, which rises towards Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, struck them down and put them to death.

18 Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time.

19 Not one city made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites living in Gibeon; all the others they took in battle.

20 For it was the LORD’s doing to harden their hearts to meet Israel in battle, so that they might

be devoted to destruction without mercy and be destroyed, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

21 At that time Joshua went and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, Debir and Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah and all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them and their towns to destruction.

22 No Anakim were left in the land of the Israelites; only in Gaza, Gath[2] and Ashdod did some remain.

23 So Joshua took the whole land, just as the LORD had told Moses, and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by tribes. And the land had rest from war.

1 Hebrew תֵּל (tel), the mound formed by a city rebuilt again and again on its own ruins.

2 The home of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4).

Chapter 12

Joshua 12 lists the kings Israel defeated. East of the Jordan, under Moses, were Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, whose land Moses gave to Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh. West of the Jordan, under Joshua, thirty-one kings were defeated, from Jericho and Ai to Tirzah, and their land given to the tribes of Israel.

1 These are the kings of the land whom the Israelites defeated and whose land they took east of the Jordan, from the Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, with all the Arabah on the east:

2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon. He ruled from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley, from the middle of the valley, over half of Gilead as far as the Jabbok River, the border of the Ammonites,

3 and over the Arabah as far as the Sea of Chinneroth[1] on the east, and as far as the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, on the east, towards Beth-jeshimoth, and southwards below the slopes of Pisgah.

4 And the territory of Og king of Bashan, one of the last of the Rephaim, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei.

5 He ruled over Mount Hermon, Salecah and all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

6 Moses the servant of the LORD and the Israelites had defeated them, and Moses the servant of the LORD gave their land as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

7 These are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the Israelites defeated west of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises towards Seir. Joshua gave their land as a possession to the tribes of Israel according to their divisions:

8 the hill country, the lowlands, the Arabah, the slopes, the wilderness and the Negev, the land of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

9 The king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, near Bethel, one;

10 the king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one;

11 the king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one;

12 the king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one;

13 the king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one;

14 the king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one;

15 the king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

16 the king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one;

17 the king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hepher, one;

18 the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one;

19 the king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one;

20 the king of Shimron-meron, one; the king of Achshaph, one;

21 the king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one;

22 the king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one;

23 the king of Dor in Naphath-dor, one; the king of Goiim at Gilgal,[2] one;

24 the king of Tirzah, one. Thirty-one kings in all.

1 The Sea of Galilee.

2 The Greek has ‘Galilee’; compare Isaiah 9:1.

Chapter 13

Joshua 13 begins the division of the land. Joshua is old, and much land remains to be taken, from Philistia to Lebanon, but the LORD will drive out its people; Joshua is to divide it among the nine and a half tribes. The chapter then records the land Moses gave east of the Jordan: to Reuben, from the Arnon over the tableland round Heshbon; to Gad, Jazer and half of Gilead down the Jordan valley; and to half of Manasseh, Bashan, the kingdom of Og. The tribe of Levi receives no land, for the LORD is their inheritance.

1 Now Joshua was old and well on in years, and the
LORD said to him, “You are old and well on in
years, and very much of the land remains to be
possessed.

2 What is left is this: every district of the
Philistines, and all the Geshurite country,

3 from the Shihor east of Egypt as far north as the
border of Ekron, counted as Canaanite; the five
rulers of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod,
Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron; and the Avvim

4 in the south; all the land of the Canaanites, from
Mearah, which belongs to the Sidonians, as far as
Aphek, to the border of the Amorites;

5 the land of the Gebalites,[1] and all Lebanon
towards the sunrise, from Baal-gad below Mount
Hermon to Lebo-hamath.

6 All the people of the hill country from Lebanon to
Misrephoth-maim, all the Sidonians, I Myself will
drive out before the Israelites. Only allot the land
to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded
you.

7 So now share out this land as an inheritance
among the nine tribes and half the tribe of
Manasseh.”

8 With the other half of Manasseh, the Reubenites
and the Gadites had received their inheritance,
which Moses gave them east of the Jordan, as
Moses the servant of the LORD assigned it to
them:

9 from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Valley, and
the town in the middle of the valley, the whole
tableland of Medeba as far as Dibon;

10 all the towns of Sihon king of the Amorites, who
reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the
Ammonites;

11 Gilead, the territory of the Geshurites and
Maacathites, all Mount Hermon and all Bashan as
far as Salecah;

12 the whole kingdom of Og in Bashan, who
reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei; he was one of the
last of the Rephaim. Moses had struck them down
and dispossessed them.

13 But the Israelites did not drive out the
Geshurites or the Maacathites, and Geshur and
Maacath live among Israel to this day.

14 Only to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance;
the fire offerings of the LORD, the God of Israel,
are their inheritance, as He promised them.

15 This is what Moses gave to the tribe of the
Reubenites, clan by clan.

16 Their territory ran from Aroer on the edge of the
Arnon Valley, and the town in the middle of the
valley, over the whole tableland by Medeba,

17 to Heshbon and all its towns on the tableland:
Dibon, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon,

18 Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,

19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the hill in
the valley,

20 Beth-peor, the slopes of Pisgah and Beth-
jeshimoth,

21 all the towns of the tableland and the whole
kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who
reigned in Heshbon. Moses had struck him down
along with the chiefs of Midian, Evi, Rekem, Zur,
Hur and Reba, princes allied with Sihon, who lived
in the land.

22 The Israelites had also put to the sword Balaam
son of Beor, who practised divination, among the
others they killed.[2]

23 The border of the Reubenites was the Jordan
and its bank. This was the inheritance of the
Reubenites, clan by clan, the towns and their
villages.

24 This is what Moses gave to the tribe of Gad, to
the Gadites, clan by clan.

25 Their territory was Jazer and all the towns of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which faces Rabbah;

26 and from Heshbon as far as Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Debir;[3]

27 and in the valley, Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border as far as the end of the Sea of Chinnereth, east of the Jordan.

28 This was the inheritance of the Gadites, clan by clan, the towns and their villages.

29 This is what Moses gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh, to the half of the Manassites, clan by clan.

30 Their territory ran from Mahanaim through all Bashan, the whole kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the settlements of Jair in Bashan, sixty towns,

31 with half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, the royal cities of Og in Bashan. These went to the descendants of Machir son of Manasseh, to half of the Machirites, clan by clan.

32 These are the inheritances Moses assigned on the plains of Moab across the Jordan east of Jericho.

33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as He promised them.

1 The people of Byblos, on the coast north of Sidon.

2 See Numbers 31:8.

3 Or ‘Lidebir’, perhaps Lo-debar (2 Samuel 9:4).

Chapter 14

Joshua 14 introduces the division of Canaan by lot among the nine and a half tribes, carried out by Eleazar the priest, Joshua and the family heads; the Levites receive towns and pastures but no territory. Caleb of the tribe of Judah reminds Joshua of the promise Moses made at Kadesh-barnea forty-five years earlier, because Caleb followed the LORD wholeheartedly. Now eighty-five and as strong as ever, he asks for the hill country where the Anakim live, and Joshua blesses him and gives him Hebron.

1 These are the inheritances the Israelites received in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the families of the tribes of Israel allotted to them.

2 Their inheritance was assigned by lot to the nine and a half tribes, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.[1]

3 Moses had given the two and a half tribes their inheritance east of the Jordan, but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them.

4 For the descendants of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites were given no share of the land, only towns to live in, with pastureland for their livestock and their possessions.

5 The Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they divided the land.

6 Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about you and me.

7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him back an honest report.[2]

8 My brothers who went up with me made the people’s hearts melt, but I followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.

9 So on that day Moses swore, ‘The land your foot has trodden will be an inheritance for you and your children for ever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’

10 And now, see, the LORD has kept me alive, as He promised, these forty-five years since the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel journeyed in the wilderness. And here I am today, eighty-five years old.

11 I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out; I have as much strength now as I had then, for battle and for going out and coming in.

12 So now give me this hill country the LORD spoke of on that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities.

Perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out, as the LORD said."

13 Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.

14 So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as an inheritance to this day, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

15 Hebron used to be called Kiriath-arba, after Arba, the greatest man among the Anakim.[3] And the land had rest from war.

1 See Numbers 26:52–56 and 34:13–29.

2 Hebrew 'as it was in my heart'. See Numbers 13–14.

3 'The town of Arba'; compare 15:13.

Chapter 15

Joshua 15 sets out the allotment of the tribe of Judah. Its borders are traced: the south from the Salt Sea past the Ascent of Akrabbim and Kadesh-barnea to the Brook of Egypt; the east along the Salt Sea; the north from the mouth of the Jordan up past the Valley of Hinnom below Jerusalem and on to the sea; and the west along the Great Sea. Caleb takes Hebron and drives out the three sons of Anak, and gives his daughter Achsah to Othniel for capturing Debir; at her request he adds the upper and lower springs. Then the towns of Judah are listed by region, in the Negev, the lowlands, the hill country and the wilderness. But the people of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites from Jerusalem.

1 The allotment for the tribe of Judah, clan by clan, reached south to the border of Edom, to the wilderness of Zin at the far south.

2 Their southern border began at the end of the Salt Sea, at the bay that faces south,

3 ran south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,[1] went on to Zin, went up south of Kadesh-barnea, passed Hezron, went up to Addar and curved round to Karka,

4 passed on to Azmon and out along the Brook of Egypt, ending at the sea. This was their[2] southern border.

5 The eastern border was the Salt Sea, up to the mouth of the Jordan. The northern border began at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan,

6 went up to Beth-hoglah, passed north of Beth-arabah, and went up to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.

7 The border then went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor and turned north towards Gilgal, which faces the Ascent of Adummim south of the valley. It passed on to the waters of En-shemesh and came out at En-rogel.

8 Then the border went up the Valley of Ben-hinnom[3] along the southern slope of the Jebusite city, that is, Jerusalem, and up to the top of the hill that lies west of the Valley of Hinnom, at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.

9 From the hilltop the border ran to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, came out at the towns of Mount Ephron, and bent round to Baalah, that is, Kiriath-jearim.

10 From Baalah the border turned west to Mount Seir, passed along the northern slope of Mount Jearim, that is, Chesalon, went down to Beth-shemesh and passed on to Timnah.

11 It came out on the northern slope of Ekron, bent round to Shikkeron, passed on to Mount Baalah, came out at Jabneel and ended at the sea.

12 The western border was the coastline of the Great Sea. These were the borders all round of the people of Judah, clan by clan.

13 In keeping with the LORD's command to Joshua, he gave Caleb son of Jephunneh a share among the people of Judah: Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron. Arba was the father of Anak.

14 From there Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai, descendants of Anak.

15 From there he went up against the people of Debir; Debir used to be called Kiriath-sepher.[4]

16 Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him my daughter Achsah as his wife."

17 Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, captured it, and Caleb gave him his daughter Achsah as his wife.[5]

18 When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. As she got down from her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?"

19 She replied, “Give me a blessing. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me springs of water as well.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

20 This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, clan by clan.

21 The towns at the far south of the tribe of Judah, towards the border of Edom in the Negev, were: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

25 Hazor-hadattah, Kerioth-hezron, that is, Hazor,

26 Amam, Shema, Moladah,

27 Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet,

28 Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,

29 Baalah, Iim, Ezem,

30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain and Rimmon: twenty-nine towns in all, with their villages.[6]

33 In the lowlands: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

34 Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah and Gederothaim: fourteen towns with their villages.

37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad,

38 Dilean, Mizpeh, Joktheel,

39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

40 Cabbon, Lahmam, Chitlish,

41 Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah and Makkedah: sixteen towns with their villages.

42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

43 Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,

44 Keilah, Achzib and Mareshah: nine towns with their villages.

45 Ekron, with its dependent towns and villages;

46 and westwards from Ekron to the sea, every place in the neighbourhood of Ashdod, with their villages;

47 Ashdod, its dependent towns and villages; Gaza, its dependent towns and villages, as far as the Brook of Egypt and the coastline of the Great Sea.

48 In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,

49 Dannah, Kiriath-sannah, that is, Debir,

50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,

51 Goshen, Holon and Giloh: eleven towns with their villages.

52 Arab, Dumah, Eshan,

53 Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphekah,

54 Humtah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron, and Zior: nine towns with their villages.

55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

57 Kain, Gibeah and Timnah: ten towns with their villages.

58 Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor,

59 Maarath, Beth-anoth and Eltekon: six towns with their villages.[7]

60 Kiriath-baal, that is, Kiriath-jearim, and Rabbah: two towns with their villages.

61 In the wilderness: Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah,

62 Nibshan, Ir-hamelach (the City of Salt) and En-gedi: six towns, together with their villages.

63 But the people of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, and the Jebusites live with the people of Judah in Jerusalem to this day.[8]

---

1 Or ‘the Scorpion Pass’.

2 Hebrew ‘your’; the Greek has ‘their’.

3 The Valley of the son of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem; its name became ‘Gehenna’ (Matthew 5:22).

4 ‘Town of the book’ or ‘of the scribe’.

5 Compare Judges 1:11–15 and 3:9–11.

6 The names listed come to thirty-six; some may be pairs naming one place, as Ain and Rimmon (En-rimmon, Nehemiah 11:29).

7 The Greek adds a further eleven towns here, among them Bethlehem and Tekoa.

8 Until David took the city (2 Samuel 5:6–9).

Chapter 16

Joshua 16 gives the allotment of the descendants of Joseph, beginning with the southern border running from the Jordan at Jericho up through Bethel to Gezer and the sea. It then traces the territory of Ephraim, clan by clan, with towns set apart for Ephraim within Manasseh's land. But the Ephraimites did not drive out the Canaanites in Gezer, who remain among them as forced labourers.

1 The allotment for the descendants of Joseph ran
from the Jordan at Jericho, east of the waters of
Jericho, through the wilderness, going up from
Jericho into the hill country to Bethel.

2 It went on from Bethel to Luz[1] and passed along
the territory of the Archites at Ataroth,

3 then went down westwards to the territory of the
Japhletites, as far as the region of Lower Beth-
horon and Gezer, ending at the sea.

4 So the descendants of Joseph, Manasseh and
Ephraim, received their inheritance.

5 This was the territory of the Ephraimites, clan by
clan. The border of their inheritance on the east
ran from Ataroth-addar to Upper Beth-horon,

6 and on to the sea. From Michmethath on the
north the border turned east towards Taanath-
shiloh and passed by it on the east to Janoah.

7 From Janoah it went down to Ataroth and
Naarah, touched Jericho and came out at the
Jordan.

8 From Tappuah the border went west along the
Kanah ravine and ended at the sea. This is the
inheritance of the tribe of the Ephraimites, clan by
clan,

9 together with the towns set apart for the
Ephraimites within the inheritance of the
Manassites, all those towns with their villages.

10 They did not drive out the Canaanites who lived
in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived among the
Ephraimites to this day, but they have been made
to do forced labour.

1 Or 'from Bethel, that is, Luz'; compare 18:13 and Genesis 28:19.

Chapter 17

Joshua 17 gives the allotment of the tribe of Manasseh. Machir, a warrior, has already received Gilead and Bashan; the other clans receive land west of the Jordan, and the daughters of Zelophehad claim the inheritance Moses promised them. The border of Manasseh is traced, though the Manassites cannot drive the Canaanites out of Beth-shean and other cities. When the people of Joseph complain that they have only one share though they are numerous, Joshua tells them to clear the forested hill country for themselves, for they are strong enough to drive out the Canaanites, iron chariots and all.

1 This was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh,
for he was Joseph's firstborn. To Machir,
Manasseh's firstborn, the father of Gilead, Gilead
and Bashan had been given, because he was a
man of war.

2 So the allotment was for the rest of the
Manassites, clan by clan: the descendants of
Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher and
Shemida. These were the male descendants of
Manasseh son of Joseph, by their clans.

3 Now Zelophehad son of Hepher, son of Gilead,
son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, only
daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah,
Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.

4 They came before Eleazar the priest, Joshua son
of Nun and the leaders, and said, "The LORD
commanded Moses to give us an inheritance
among our brothers." So in keeping with the
LORD's command Joshua gave them an
inheritance among their father's brothers.[1]

5 So Manasseh received ten shares, besides the
land of Gilead and Bashan across the Jordan,

6 because the daughters of Manasseh received an
inheritance along with his sons. The land of Gilead
belonged to the rest of the Manassites.

7 The territory of Manasseh ran from Asher to
Michmethath, east of Shechem, and the border
went south to the people of En-tappuah.

8 The district of Tappuah was Manasseh's, though
the town of Tappuah on Manasseh's border went
to Ephraim.

9 The border then went down to the Kanah ravine.
South of the ravine these towns belonged to

Ephraim, though they lay among the towns of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh ran along the north side of the ravine and ended at the sea.

10 On the south the land was Ephraim's, on the north Manasseh's, with the sea as its boundary. It reached Asher on the north and Issachar on the east.

11 Within Issachar and Asher, Manasseh also had Beth-shean, Ibleam, and the people of Dor, En-dor, Taanach and Megiddo, each with its dependent towns; the third is Naphath.[2]

12 But the Manassites could not take possession of these towns, for the Canaanites were determined to stay in that land.

13 When the Israelites grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labour, but did not drive them out completely.

14 The descendants of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why have you given us only one allotment and one share as our inheritance? We are a numerous people, for until now the LORD has blessed us."

15 Joshua answered them, "If you are so numerous, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you."

16 The descendants of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have chariots of iron, both those in Beth-shean and its towns and those in the Valley of Jezreel."

17 But Joshua said to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, "You are a numerous people with great strength. You shall not have only one allotment.

18 The hill country will be yours too: it is wooded, but you will clear it and own it to its farthest edges. You will drive the Canaanites out, iron chariots and strength notwithstanding."

1 See Numbers 27:1–11 and 36:1–12.

2 The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; perhaps 'the three hills'.

Chapter 18

Joshua 18 tells how the whole community gathers at Shiloh and sets up the tent of meeting there. Seven tribes have still not received their inheritance, and Joshua rebukes their delay. He sends three men from each tribe to survey the land and write a description of it in seven parts, and then casts lots for them before the LORD at Shiloh. The first lot falls to Benjamin, whose territory lies between Judah and Joseph; its borders and its towns, including Jericho, Bethel, Gibeon and Jerusalem, are listed.

1 The whole community of the Israelites assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.

2 But seven tribes of the Israelites were left who had not yet received their inheritance.

3 So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?

4 Appoint three men from each tribe, and I will send them out. They are to set out and go through the land and write a description of it according to their inheritances, and then come back to me.

5 They are to divide it into seven parts. Judah is to keep to its territory in the south, and the house of Joseph to its territory in the north.

6 You are to write a description of the land in seven parts and bring it here to me, and I will cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

7 The Levites get no portion among you, since serving the LORD as priests is their inheritance. As for Gad, Reuben and half of Manasseh, they already have the inheritance beyond the Jordan to the east that Moses the LORD's servant assigned them."

8 As the men set out, Joshua charged those who were going to describe the land: "Go and walk through the land, write a description of it, and come back to me. Then I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

9 So the men went and passed through the land, and described it town by town in seven parts in a scroll. Then they returned to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.

10 Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their divisions.

11 The lot came up for the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan. The territory allotted to them lay between the people of Judah and the people of Joseph.

12 On the north side their border began at the Jordan, went up along the northern slope of Jericho, and up westwards through the hill country, ending in the wilderness of Beth-aven.

13 From there it passed on to the southern slope of Luz, that is, Bethel, and went down to Ataroth-addar on the hill south of Lower Beth-horon.

14 Then the border turned and bent round on the west side southwards from the hill facing Beth-horon on the south, ending at Kiriath-baal, that is, Kiriath-jearim, a town of the people of Judah. This was the western side.

15 The southern side began at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim on the west and came out at the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

16 The border then went down to the foot of the hill that faces the Valley of Ben-hinnom, at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim, and down the Valley of Hinnom along the southern slope of the Jebusite city to En-rogel.

17 It bent northwards, came out at En-shemesh and on to Geliloth, facing the Ascent of Adummim, and went down to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.

18 It passed on to the slope facing the Arabah on the north and went down into the Arabah.

19 Then the border passed along the northern slope of Beth-hoglah and ended at the northern bay of the Salt Sea, at the southern end of the Jordan. This was the southern border.

20 The Jordan formed the border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the Benjaminites, clan by clan, by its borders all round.

21 The towns of the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, were: Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz,

22 Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

23 Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,

24 Chephar-ammoni, Ophni and Geba: twelve towns with their villages;

25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

26 Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,

27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,

28 Zela, Haeleph, Jebus, that is, Jerusalem, Gibeah and Kiriath:[1] fourteen towns with their villages. This was the inheritance of the Benjaminites, clan by clan.

1 Perhaps Kiriath-jearim (15:60).

Chapter 19

Joshua 19 completes the distribution of the land by lot. Simeon's inheritance lies within Judah's, since Judah's share was larger than it needed. The territories and towns of Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan follow in turn; the Danites later capture Leshem in the far north and rename it Dan. Finally the Israelites give Joshua the town he asks for, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. So Eleazar, Joshua and the family heads finish dividing the land by lot at Shiloh before the LORD.

1 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of Simeon, clan by clan. Their inheritance lay within the inheritance of the people of Judah.[1]

2 Their inheritance included Beersheba, Sheba,[2] Moladah,

3 Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem,

4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

5 Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah,

6 Beth-lebaoth and Sharuhen: thirteen towns with their villages;

7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether and Ashan: four towns with their villages;

8 and all the villages round these towns as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the Negev. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Simeonites, clan by clan.

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

10 The third lot came up for the Zebulunites, clan by clan. The border of their inheritance went as far as Sarid.

11 From there it went up westwards to Maralah, touched Dabbesheth and reached the ravine east of Jokneam.

12 From Sarid it turned eastwards towards the sunrise to the border of Chisloth-tabor, went on to

Daberath and up to Japhia.

13 From there it passed east to Gath-hepher and Eth-kazin, came out at Rimmon and bent round to Neah.

14 On the north the border went round to Hannathon and ended at the Valley of Iphtah-el.

15 Included were Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah and Bethlehem:[3] twelve towns with their villages.

16 This was the inheritance of the Zebulunites, clan by clan, these towns with their villages.

17 The fourth lot came out for Issachar, for the people of Issachar, clan by clan.

18 Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem,

19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,

20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,

21 Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah and Beth-pazzez.

22 The border touched Tabor, Shahazumah and Beth-shemesh, and ended at the Jordan: sixteen towns with their villages.

23 This was the inheritance of the tribe of Issachar, clan by clan, the towns with their villages.

24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the Asherites, clan by clan.

25 Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

26 Allammelech, Amad and Mishal. On the west it touched Carmel and Shihor-libnath.

27 It turned eastwards to Beth-dagon, touched Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah-el to the north, Beth-emek and Neiel, and came out at Cabul on the left,

28 Ebron, Rehob, Hammon and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon.

29 The border then turned to Ramah and to the fortified city of Tyre, turned to Hosah and ended at the sea, in the region of Achzib,

30 with Ummah, Aphek and Rehob: twenty-two towns with their villages.

31 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Asherites, clan by clan, these towns with their villages.

32 The sixth lot came out for the Naphtalites, for the Naphtalites clan by clan.

33 Their border ran from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim, by Adami-nekeb and Jabneel as far as Lakkum, and ended at the Jordan.

34 Westwards the border turned to Aznoth-tabor and went on from there to Hukkok. It touched Zebulun on the south and Asher on the west, and Judah at the Jordan on the east.[4]

35 The fortified towns were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

37 Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor,

38 Yiron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath and Beth-shemesh. In all there were nineteen towns, with their villages.

39 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Naphtalites, clan by clan, the towns with their villages.

40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the Danites, clan by clan.

41 The territory of their inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh,

42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,

43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

45 Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon,

46 Me-jarkon and Rakkon, with the territory facing Joppa.

47 But the territory of the Danites slipped from their grasp,[5] so the Danites went up and fought against Leshem. They captured it, put it to the sword, took possession of it and settled there, and they renamed Leshem Dan, after their ancestor Dan.

48 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Danites, clan by clan, these towns with their villages.

49 When they had finished dividing the land into its territories, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them.

50 At the LORD’s command they gave him the town he asked for, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. He rebuilt the town and settled there.

51 These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the families of the tribes of Israel allotted by lot at Shiloh, before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

1 Compare Genesis 49:7.
2 Or ‘Beersheba, that is, Sheba’; compare 1 Chronicles 4:28.
3 A Bethlehem in Galilee, not Bethlehem in Judah.
4 The meaning of ‘Judah’ here is uncertain; the Greek leaves it out.
5 Or ‘went out beyond them’. See Judges 1:34 and 18:1–31.

Chapter 20

Joshua 20 tells how, at the LORD’s command, Israel sets apart the cities of refuge Moses had spoken of, where anyone who kills a person by accident may find safety from the avenger of blood until he stands trial before the community, and may go home after the death of the high priest. Kedesh, Shechem and Hebron are chosen west of the Jordan, and Bezer, Ramoth-gilead and Golan to the east, for Israelites and foreigners alike.

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua,

2 “Tell the Israelites, ‘Designate the cities of refuge
I spoke to you about through Moses,[1]

3 so that anyone who kills a person accidentally,
without intending to, may flee there. They will be
your refuge from the avenger of blood.

4 The one who flees to one of these cities is to
stand at the entrance of the city gate and state his
case to the elders of that city. Then they are to
take him into the city and give him a place to live
among them.

5 If the avenger of blood pursues him, they must
not hand the killer over to him, because he struck
his neighbour unintentionally and had not hated
him beforehand.

6 He is to stay in that city until he has stood trial
before the community, until the death of the high
priest who is serving at that time. Then the killer
may go back to his own town and his own home,
to the town from which he fled.’”

7 They consecrated these: in the hills of Naphtali,
Kedesh in Galilee; in the hills of Ephraim,
Shechem; and in the hills of Judah, Kiriath-arba,
which is Hebron.

8 East of the Jordan, across from Jericho, they
designated Bezer in the wilderness on the
tableland from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in
Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan
from the tribe of Manasseh.

9 These were the cities appointed for all the
Israelites and for the foreigner living among them,
so that anyone who killed a person accidentally
might flee there and not die at the hand of the
avenger of blood before standing trial before the
community.

1 See Numbers 35:9–34 and Deuteronomy 19:1–13.

Chapter 21

Joshua 21 records the towns given to the Levites. The family heads of the Levites remind Eleazar and Joshua of the LORD’s command through Moses, and the Israelites give them, by lot, forty-eight towns with their pasturelands from the territories of the other tribes: thirteen for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, ten for the rest of the Kohathites, thirteen for the Gershonites and twelve for the Merarites, including the six cities of refuge. So the LORD gives Israel the whole land He swore to give their fathers and gives them rest on every side. Not one of all the good promises the LORD made to the house of Israel fails; every one comes true.

1 Then the family heads of the Levites came to
Eleazar the priest, to Joshua son of Nun, and to
the family heads of the tribes of Israel,

2 at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, and said to them,
“The LORD commanded through Moses that we be
given towns to live in, with their pasturelands for
our livestock.”[1]

3 So, at the LORD’s command, the Israelites gave
the Levites the following towns and their
pasturelands out of their own inheritance.

4 The lot came out for the clans of the Kohathites.
The descendants of Aaron the priest, who were
Levites, received thirteen towns by lot from the
tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin.

5 The rest of the Kohathites received ten towns by
lot from the clans of the tribe of Ephraim, the
tribe of Dan and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

6 The Gershonites received thirteen towns by lot
from the clans of the tribe of Issachar, the tribe of
Asher, the tribe of Naphtali and the half-tribe of
Manasseh in Bashan.
7 The Merarites, clan by clan, received twelve
towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and
Zebulun.
8 So the Israelites allotted these towns and their
pasturelands to the Levites by lot, as the LORD
had commanded through Moses.
9 From the tribes of Judah and Simeon they gave
the following towns, here named,
10 which went to the descendants of Aaron, of the
Kohathite clans of the Levites, because the first lot
fell to them.
11 They gave them Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron
(Arba was the father of Anak), in the hill country
of Judah, with the pastureland around it.
12 But the fields of the town and its villages they
had given to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his
property.
13 So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they
gave Hebron, a city of refuge for the killer, with its
pastureland, Libnah with its pastureland,
14 Jattir with its pastureland, Eshtemoa with its
pastureland,
15 Holon with its pastureland, Debir with its
pastureland,
16 Ain with its pastureland, Juttah with its
pastureland, and Beth-shemesh with its
pastureland: nine towns from these two tribes.
17 From the tribe of Benjamin they gave Gibeon
with its pastureland, Geba with its pastureland,
18 Anathoth[2] with its pastureland and Almon with
its pastureland: four towns.
19 The towns of the priests, the descendants of
Aaron, came to thirteen in all, with their
pasturelands.
20 The rest of the Kohathite clans of the Levites
received towns by lot from the tribe of Ephraim.
21 They were given Shechem, a city of refuge for
the killer, with its pastureland in the hill country
of Ephraim, Gezer with its pastureland,
22 Kibzaim with its pastureland and Beth-horon
with its pastureland: four towns.
23 From the tribe of Dan they received Eltekeh
with its pastureland, Gibbethon with its
pastureland,
24 Aijalon with its pastureland and Gath-rimmon
with its pastureland: four towns.
25 From the half-tribe of Manasseh they received
Taanach with its pastureland and Gath-rimmon[3]
with its pastureland: two towns.
26 All these ten towns with their pasturelands were
for the rest of the Kohathite clans.
27 The Gershonite clans of the Levites received
from the half-tribe of Manasseh Golan in Bashan,
a city of refuge for the killer, with its pastureland,
and Be-eshterah with its pastureland: two towns.
28 From the tribe of Issachar they received Kishion
with its pastureland, Daberath with its
pastureland,
29 Jarmuth with its pastureland and En-gannim
with its pastureland: four towns.
30 From the tribe of Asher they received Mishal
with its pastureland, Abdon with its pastureland,
31 Helkath with its pastureland and Rehob with its
pastureland: four towns.
32 From the tribe of Naphtali they received Kedesh
in Galilee, a city of refuge for the killer, with its
pastureland, Hammoth-dor with its pastureland
and Kartan with its pastureland: three towns.
33 The towns of the Gershonites, clan by clan,
came to thirteen in all, with their pasturelands.
34 The Merarite clans, the rest of the Levites,
received from the tribe of Zebulun Jokneam with
its pastureland, Kartah with its pastureland,
35 Dimnah with its pastureland and Nahalal with
its pastureland: four towns.
36 From the tribe of Reuben they received Bezer
with its pastureland, Jahaz with its pastureland,
37 Kedemoth with its pastureland and Mephaath
with its pastureland: four towns.[4]
38 From the tribe of Gad they received Ramoth in
Gilead, a city of refuge for the killer, with its
pastureland, Mahanaim with its pastureland,
39 Heshbon with its pastureland and Jazer with its
pastureland: four towns in all.
40 All the towns allotted to the Merarites, clan by
clan, the rest of the Levite clans, came to twelve.
41 The towns of the Levites within the territory
held by the Israelites came to forty-eight in all,
with their pasturelands.
42 Each of these towns had its pastureland around
it; so it was with all these towns.

43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land He had sworn to give their fathers, and they took possession of it and settled there.

44 The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as He had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand.

45 Not one word of all the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; every one came true.

1 See Numbers 35:1–8.

2 The home of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1).

3 Perhaps a copying of the name in verse 24; 1 Chronicles 6:70 has 'Bileam'.

4 Verses 36–37 are missing in many Hebrew manuscripts; compare 1 Chronicles 6:78–79.

Chapter 22

Joshua 22 tells how Joshua commends the fighting men of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh for keeping faith with their brothers, charges them to love the LORD and hold fast to Him, and sends them home with their share of the spoil. By the Jordan they build a great altar, and the rest of Israel, fearing rebellion against the LORD, gather at Shiloh for war and send Phinehas the priest with ten leaders to challenge them. The eastern tribes answer that the altar is not for sacrifice but a witness that they too belong to the LORD, so that their children will not be shut out from His worship. Phinehas and Israel are satisfied, and the altar is named Witness.

1 After this Joshua sent for the men of Reuben and Gad and of the half-tribe of Manasseh,

2 and said to them, "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded you.

3 All this long time, to this day, you have not deserted your brothers, but have carefully kept the charge of the LORD your God.

4 Now the LORD your God has given your brothers rest, as He promised them. So turn now and go home to your tents, to the land that is yours, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you across the Jordan.

5 But take great care to carry out the commandment and the law that Moses the LORD's servant laid on you: love the LORD your God, walk in all His ways, keep His commandments, hold fast to Him, and serve Him with your whole heart and your whole soul."

6 With a blessing Joshua sent them on their way, and they went back to their tents.

7 (To one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half Joshua had given land with their brothers west of the Jordan.) When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them

8 and said, "Go back to your tents with great wealth: with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and with a great quantity of clothing. Share the spoil of your enemies with your brothers."

9 So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in the land of Canaan and set out for the land of Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired at the LORD's command through Moses.

10 When they came to the region of the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size.

11 The Israelites heard it said, "See, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan, on the Israelites' side."

12 When the Israelites heard this, the whole community of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

13 So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh in the land of Gilead,

14 and with him ten leaders, one from each family of all the tribes of Israel, each of them the head of a family among the clans of Israel.

15 They came to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh in the land of Gilead and said to them,

16 "This is what the whole community of the LORD says: 'What is this breach of faith you have

committed against the God of Israel, turning away from the LORD today by building yourselves an altar in rebellion against the LORD?

17 Was the sin of Peor not enough for us? To this day we have not cleansed ourselves from it, though a plague came on the community of the LORD.[1]

18 And now you are turning away from the LORD today! If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow He will be angry with the whole community of Israel.

19 If the land you possess is unclean, cross over to the LORD's own land, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take a share among us. But do not rebel against the LORD or against us by building yourselves an altar other than the altar of the LORD our God.

20 When Achan son of Zerah broke faith in regard to the devoted things, did not wrath fall on the whole community of Israel? And he was not the only one to die for his sin.'"

21 Then the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the clans of Israel:

22 "The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD![2] He knows, and let Israel know! If this was in rebellion or in breach of faith against the LORD, do not spare us today.

23 If we have built ourselves an altar to turn away from the LORD, or to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings on it, or to sacrifice peace offerings on it, may the LORD Himself call us to account.

24 No, we did it out of concern, for fear that in time to come your children might say to our children, 'What have you to do with the LORD, the God of Israel?

25 The LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you, you Reubenites and Gadites. You have no share in the LORD.' So your children might make our children stop fearing the LORD.

26 That is why we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offerings or for sacrifices,

27 but as a witness between us and you and the generations after us, that we will serve the LORD in His presence with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and peace offerings.' Then in time to come your children cannot say to our children, 'You have no share in the LORD.'

28 And we said, 'If they ever say this to us or to our descendants, we will answer, "Look at this copy of the LORD's altar, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you."'

29 Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD and turn away from Him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings or sacrifices other than the altar of the LORD our God that stands before His tabernacle!"

30 When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community, the heads of the clans of Israel who were with him, heard what the Reubenites, Gadites and Manassites said, they were satisfied.

31 Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to the Reubenites, Gadites and Manassites, "Today we know that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this breach of faith against Him. Now you have delivered the Israelites from the LORD's hand."

32 Then Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest and the leaders returned from the Reubenites and Gadites in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the Israelites, and brought back their report.

33 The Israelites were glad to hear it and praised God, and spoke no more of going to war against them to destroy the land where the Reubenites and Gadites lived.

34 The Reubenites and Gadites named the altar Witness,[3] "for it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

1 See Numbers 25:1–9.

2 Hebrew אֵל אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה (El Elohim YHWH), three names of God; compare Psalm 50:1.

3 So some manuscripts and the Syriac; the Hebrew lacks the name, which is explained by the words that follow.

Chapter 23

Joshua 23 records Joshua's farewell to the leaders of Israel. Now old, he reminds them that the LORD their God has fought for them and will drive out the nations that remain, as He promised. They must be very strong to keep everything written in the Book of the Law of Moses, hold fast to the LORD, and not mix with the remaining nations, invoke their gods or intermarry with them, or those nations will become a snare and a trap to them. Not one of the LORD's good promises has failed; but just as surely, if they break His covenant and serve other gods, He will bring disaster on them until they perish from the good land.

1 A long time afterwards, when the LORD had
given Israel rest from all their enemies around
them, and Joshua was old and well on in years,

2 Joshua summoned all Israel, their elders, leaders,
judges and officials, and said to them: "I am old
and well on in years.

3 You yourselves have seen all that the LORD your
God has done to all these nations for your sake,
for it is the LORD your God who has fought for
you.

4 See, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for
your tribes the nations that remain, along with all
the nations I have already cut off, from the Jordan
to the Great Sea in the west.

5 The LORD your God will push them back before
you and drive them out of your way, and you will
take possession of their land, as the LORD your
God promised you.

6 Be resolute, then, in keeping and carrying out
everything written in the Book of the Law of
Moses, never straying from it to right or left,

7 so that you do not mix with these nations that
remain among you. Do not call on the names of
their gods or swear by them; do not serve them or
bow down to them.

8 Instead, hold fast to the LORD your God, as you
have done to this day.

9 For the LORD has driven out before you great
and powerful nations, and to this day no one has
been able to stand against you.

10 One of you puts a thousand to flight, because
the LORD your God fights for you, as He promised
you.[1]

11 So take great care, for your own sakes, to love
the LORD your God.

12 But if you do turn away and cling to what is left
of these nations that remain among you, and
intermarry with them and mingle with them and
they with you,

13 then know for certain that the LORD your God
will no longer drive these nations out before you.
Instead they will be a snare and a trap to you, a
whip on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until
you perish from this good land the LORD your God
has given you.[2]

14 Now I am going the way of all the earth. In your
heart and soul you all know that of all the good
things the LORD your God promised you, not a
single word has fallen short. Every one has come
to pass for you; not one has failed.

15 But just as every good promise the LORD your
God made to you has come true, so the LORD will
bring on you every harm He has threatened, until
He has destroyed you from this good land the
LORD your God has given you,

16 if you violate the covenant the LORD your God
laid on you, going off to worship other gods and
bowing down to them. Then the LORD's anger will
flare against you, and you will soon vanish from
the good land He gave you."

1 Compare Leviticus 26:8 and Deuteronomy 32:30.

2 Compare Numbers 33:55 and Judges 2:3.

Chapter 24

Joshua 24 tells how Joshua gathers all the tribes at Shechem and, speaking for the LORD, recounts their story: their fathers served other gods beyond the River, but the LORD took Abraham and led him through Canaan, gave him Isaac, Jacob and Esau, sent Moses and Aaron, brought Israel out of Egypt and through the sea, defeated the Amorites and Balaam's curse, and gave them a land they had not worked for. Joshua calls on them to choose this day whom they will serve, declaring that he and his household will serve the LORD. The people pledge to serve the LORD, and Joshua makes a covenant with them, writes it in the Book of the Law of God and sets up a great stone as a witness. Joshua dies at a hundred and ten and is buried at Timnath-serah; Joseph's bones are buried at Shechem, and Eleazar dies.

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at
Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders,
judges and officials of Israel, and they presented
themselves before God.

2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your
fathers, Terah the father of Abraham and of
Nahor, lived beyond the River[1] and served other
gods.

3 But I took Abraham your father from the far side
of the River and brought him through the whole
land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants; I
gave him Isaac.

4 To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the
hill country of Seir as his possession, but Jacob
and his sons went down to Egypt.

5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I struck Egypt
with plagues by what I did there, and afterwards I
brought you out.

6 When I led your fathers out of Egypt and you
came to the sea, the Egyptians went after them
with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea.

7 They cried out to the LORD, and He put darkness
between you and the Egyptians, and brought the
sea over them and covered them. Your own eyes
saw what I did in Egypt. Then you lived in the
wilderness for a long time.

8 I brought you to the land of the Amorites who
lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you,
but I gave them into your hand; you took
possession of their land, and I destroyed them
before you.

9 Then Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, set out
to fight against Israel. He sent for Balaam son of
Beor to curse you,

10 but I would not listen to Balaam. So he blessed
you again and again, and I delivered you out of his
hand.

11 Then you crossed the Jordan and came to
Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you,
as did the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites,
Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I
gave them into your hand.

12 I sent the hornet[2] ahead of you, and it drove
them out before you, the two kings of the
Amorites. It was not by your sword or your bow.

13 I gave you a land you had not laboured for and
towns you had not built, and you live in them; you
eat the fruit of vineyards and olive groves you did
not plant.'

14 Now then, fear the LORD and serve Him
faithfully and wholeheartedly.[3] Put away the gods
your fathers served beyond the River and in
Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 But if you think it wrong to serve the LORD,
choose for yourselves this day whom you will
serve, whether the gods your fathers served
beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in
whose land you are living. But I and my household
will serve the LORD."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to
forsake the LORD to serve other gods!

17 For it is the LORD our God who brought us and
our fathers up from the land of Egypt, from the
house of slavery, and did those great signs before
our eyes. He protected us all along the way we
travelled and among all the peoples we passed
through.

18 The LORD drove out before us all the peoples,
including the Amorites who lived in the land. We
too will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

19 Joshua replied to the people, "You cannot serve
the LORD, for He is a holy God, a jealous God,
who will not overlook your rebellion and your sins.

20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods,
He will turn and bring disaster on you and make
an end of you, after having done you good."

21 But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will
serve the LORD."

22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “We are witnesses,” they said.

23 “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you,” he said, “and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

24 And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey His voice.”

25 So Joshua made a covenant for the people that day, and there at Shechem he set out statutes and rules for them.

26 Joshua recorded these words in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a great stone and stood it up there beneath the oak beside the LORD’s sanctuary.

27 Joshua said to all the people, “See, this stone will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the LORD has spoken to us. It will be a witness against you, so that you do not deny your God.”

28 Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance.

29 After these things Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, a hundred and ten years old.

30 They buried him in the territory of his inheritance at Timnath-serah, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

31 As long as Joshua lived, Israel served the LORD, and also as long as the elders lived who survived him and had seen everything the LORD had done for Israel.

32 Joseph’s bones, brought up from Egypt by the Israelites, were buried at Shechem, in the plot of land Jacob had bought for a hundred pieces of silver[4] from the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father. It became part of the inheritance of Joseph’s descendants.

33 And Eleazar son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of his son Phinehas, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.

1 The Euphrates; so also in verses 3, 14 and 15.

2 Or ‘panic’; see the note at Deuteronomy 7:20.

3 Hebrew ‘in blamelessness and in truth’.

4 Hebrew קְשִׂיטָה (qesitah), a unit of unknown weight. See Genesis 33:19 and 50:25; compare Acts 7:16 and Hebrews 11:22.