

Remembering victories

[Joshua 12-19](#) focuses on how the inheritance of the land was divided among the nation of Israel.

Beyond Jordan

[Joshua 12:1-6](#) describes Israel's victories beyond the Jordan. These battles were during Moses' leadership. The conquered land was granted to two and a half tribes of Israel.

After Jordan

[Joshua 12:7-24](#) describes Israel's victories after crossing Jordan. These were battles described in the book of Joshua. Recounting these victories was important for reminding future generations of God's blessings.

Inheritance beyond Jordan

Unconquered lands

[Joshua 13:1-7](#) describes the lands that were not yet conquered. [Joshua 13:1](#) "1 Now Joshua was **old** and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, "You are **old** and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess." This is important information because Joshua is old, implying that he would not be able to lead Israel much longer.

[Joshua 13:6-7](#) "... I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. 7 Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh." God's promises to give Israel the land did not cease with Joshua.

Beyond Jordan

[Joshua 13:8-33](#) describes how the cities and lands were distributed in the conquered regions beyond the Jordan.

Number of Tribes: The land beyond the Jordan was given to two and a half tribes (Reuben, Gad, 1/2 Manasseh - [Josh 12:6](#)). Joshua was told to divide the land west of the Jordan among the remaining nine and a half tribes ([Josh 13:7](#)). The Levites did not receive an inheritance ([Josh 13:14, 33](#)). *If Jacob only had twelve sons, why are there 13 tribes listed here?* Because of Jacob's favoritism toward Joseph, he took Joseph's two sons as his own, so that when he gave each son a blessing, Joseph would essentially get two blessings ([Gen 48](#); [1 Chr 5:1-2](#); cf. [Josh 14:4](#)).

Caleb's Inheritance

Caleb's reward

[Joshua 14:6-9](#) “6 Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning 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 word again as it was in my heart. 8 But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the Lord my God. 9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an **inheritance** for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’”

Why did Caleb receive a special inheritance? When the Exodus generation arrived at Canaan, only two men had faith that God would give them the land, Joshua and Caleb ([Num 14:6](#)). God made Israel wander in the wilderness for forty years until everyone over 20 died, except Joshua and Caleb ([Num 14:30](#)).

Caleb's battle

[Joshua 14:10-13](#) “10 And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these **forty-five years** since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day **eighty-five** years old. 11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. 12 So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the **Anakim** were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.” 13 Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave **Hebron** to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

How old was Caleb when he fought against Hebron? Caleb was 85 years old. He was forty when they came to Kadesh-Barnea and he had waited 45 years to receive Hebron.

Who were the Anakim? The Anakim (descendants of Anak) were the giants that Israel feared when they came to Kadesh-Barnea. To the next generation, Moses said in [Deuteronomy 9:1-2](#) “1 “Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified up to heaven, 2 a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the sons of Anak?’” They were descendants of the Nephilim - [Numbers 13:33](#) “33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.””

The Nephilim are first mentioned in [Genesis 6:4](#) “4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they

bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.” The LXX translated “Nephilim” as “giants” (γίγαντες).

The intertestamental book 1 Enoch makes the claim that the Nephilim were born from angels marrying human women based on [Gen 6:1-4](#). This book influenced Jewish and Christian interpretation of [Gen 6:1-4](#), especially regarding the Nephilim. *Should 1 Enoch be considered Scripture?* One clear reason to reject 1 Enoch as Scripture is that it claims to be the words of prophecy given to Enoch in [Gen 5](#) (1 Enoch 1:1-3); however, the book is a Greek (non-translation style) book from the intertestamental period (during Greek control over Israel). When Jesus discusses [Gen 6:1-4](#), he does not reference angelic beings ([Matt 24:37-39](#); [Luke 17:26-27](#)).

Remaining inheritance

Judah

[Joshua 15](#) describes the inheritance given to Judah. Judah is significant for later generations because the Messiah would come from Judah and Jerusalem ([Josh 15:63](#)) would be a significant place for worship. [Josh 15:63](#) points out that they did not drive out the Jebusites from Jerusalem.

Joseph

[Joshua 16-17](#) describes the inheritance given to the two tribes of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. [Josh 16:10](#) points out that they did not drive the Canaanites out of Gezer. [Josh 17:13](#) points out that they did not drive the Canaanites out of some of Manasseh’s cities.

Remaining Tribes

[Joshua 18-19](#) summarizes the inheritance given to the remaining tribes.

Levites

Notice the inheritance of the tribe of Levi. [Joshua 13:14](#) “14 To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.” [Joshua 13:33](#) “33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.”

Why didn’t Levi receive a land inheritance? When Israel made the golden calf to worship at Mt. Sinai, the Levites volunteered to carry out God’s judgment. [Exodus 32:28-29](#) “28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. 29 And Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day.””

What did the tribe of Levi inherit? [Joshua 13](#) mentions two things Levi inherited. Levi inherited the burnt offerings ([Josh 13:14](#)) and inherited the Lord ([Josh 13:33](#)). Similarly [Joshua 18:7](#) “7 The Levites have no portion among you, for the priesthood of the Lord is their heritage ...”

The Levites were ordained as priests; therefore, they received the offerings as their inheritance. [Numbers 18:19–21](#) “19 All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the Lord I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord for you and for your offspring with you.” 20 And the Lord said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel. 21 “To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting,” The Levites did inherit cities and pastureland throughout Israel, but not a portion of the land ([Josh 14:4](#)).

New Covenant

Priesthood

Who are the priests of the New Covenant? God told Israel if they were obedient, they would all be priests. [Exodus 19:5–6](#) “5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

We are no more obedient than the Israelites; however, Christ is obedient on behalf of those who have faith in Him. Hebrews explains that Jesus is our high priest. [Hebrews 2:14](#) “14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,” In Christ, we are a **kingdom of priests** as [Exod 19](#) describes. [1 Peter 2:5](#) “5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...” [1 Peter 2:9](#) “9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...”

Some people (e.g., Catholicism) teach that there are priests in the New Covenant who intercede for us. Pastors are not the New Covenant equivalent of priests; they are the New Covenant equivalent of elders. The only one who intercedes for us is Christ (not Mary, not priests). We can come directly to God through Jesus’ intercession. [Hebrews 10:19–22](#) “19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Inheritance

What is our inheritance in the New Covenant? We need to understand two important things about the inheritance in the New Covenant. First, **all of God's promises and covenants (including inheritances) are fulfilled in Christ** (cf. [Gal 3:15-18](#)). Christ is the heir of all of God's promises and those who are **in Christ** are heirs with Him. [Romans 8:17](#) "17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ ..." [Galatians 3:28-29](#) "28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." [Ephesians 3:6](#) "6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Second, our inheritance is eternal. [1 Peter 1:3-5](#) "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." [Hebrews 11:13-16](#) "13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city" (cf. [John 14:1-2](#)).

Conclusion

In [Joshua 12-19](#), we read that God was faithful to His covenant. Twelve tribes inherited land and one tribe inherited ministry before God. In Christ, we eternally inherit the Kingdom of God and the grace to draw near to Him.