**Joshua**

Chapter 16

*Allotment for Ephraim and Manasseh*

**The allotment for Joseph began at the Jordan of Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho, and went up from there through the desert into the hill country of Bethel. 2 It went on from Bethel (that is, Luz), crossed over to the territory of the Arkites in Ataroth, 3 descended westward to the territory of the Japhletites as far as the region of Lower Beth Horon and on to Gezer, ending at the sea. 4 So Manasseh and Ephraim, the descendants of Joseph, received their inheritance. 5 This was the territory of Ephraim, clan by clan: The boundary of their inheritance went from Ataroth Addar in the east to Upper Beth Horon 6 and continued to the sea. From Micmethath on the north it curved eastward to Taanath Shiloh, passing by it to Janoah on the east. 7 Then it went down from Janoah to Ataroth and Naarah, touched Jericho and came out at the Jordan. 8 From Tappuah the border went west to the Kanah Ravine and ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Ephraimites, clan by clan. 9 It also included all the towns and their villages that were set aside for the Ephraimites within the inheritance of the Manassites. 10 They did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer; to this day the Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labor.**

**16:1–17:18** Two chapters are devoted to the lands given to the “house of Joseph” (Ephraim and the half-tribe of Manasseh that settled west of the Jordan). Following Judah, the Joseph tribes were given priority. (CSB)

**Ch 16** Not only was Joseph the favorite son of Jacob, but his two sons were adopted by Jacob (Gn 48:5–6). Ephraim, the second son, receives territory before his firstborn brother, in keeping with Gn 48:17–20. (TLSB)

**16:1** *allotment for Joseph.* Ephraim’s southern border moved west from Jericho past Bethel and down to Gezer and the Mediterranean coast. (CSB)

**16:5** *boundary.* Ephraim’s northern border began down by the Jordan and ran west near Shiloh, but south of Shechem, then followed the Wadi Kanah down to the Mediterranean Sea. (CSB)

**16:10** *Gezer.* See note on 10:33. (CSB)

*they did not drive out the Canaanites*. They failed to take God up on all His promises (13:6). (TLSB)

*but are required to do forced labor.* Since Gezer does not appear to have come under Israelite control until the days of Solomon (1Ki 9:15–16), this may be a note added after that event (but see 2Sa 5:25). (CSB)

**Ch 16** Failures of Ephraim to drive out the Canaanites warn us against neglecting our spiritual battles as Christians. The Lord equips us for these struggles, giving us His Spirit and the Word. God’s allotment to Ephraim can also give us hope because it shows the Lord keeping a long-standing promise. The giving of land to Ephraim ahead of his brother highlights God’s unmerited grace to an undeserving people. • O Lord, help us identify and know our enemies, so we do not grow complacent. Stir us to bold service through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (TLSB)