

# JOSHUA

## CHAPTER 16

*The Allotment for Ephraim and Manasseh*

**The allotment of the people of Joseph went from the Jordan by Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho, into the wilderness, going up from Jericho into the hill country to Bethel. 2 Then going from Bethel to Luz, it passes along to Ataroth, the territory of the Archites. 3 Then it goes down westward to the territory of the Japhletites, as far as the territory of Lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer, and it ends at the sea. 4 The people of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, received their inheritance. 5 The territory of the people of Ephraim by their clans was as follows: the boundary of their inheritance on the east was Ataroth-addar as far as Upper Beth-horon, 6 and the boundary goes from there to the sea. On the north is Michmethath. Then on the east the boundary turns around toward Taanath-shiloh and passes along beyond it on the east to Janoah, 7 then it goes down from Janoah to Ataroth and to Naarah, and touches Jericho, ending at the Jordan. 8 From Tappuah the boundary goes westward to the brook Kanah and ends at the sea. Such is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Ephraim by their clans, 9 together with the towns that were set apart for the people of Ephraim within the inheritance of the Manassites, all those towns with their villages. 10 However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made 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 people of 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** *they did not drive out the Canaanites.* They failed to take God up on all His promises (13:6). (TLSB)

*made 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)