**Joshua**

Chapter 19

*Allotment for Simeon*

**The second lot came out for the tribe of Simeon, clan by clan. Their inheritance lay within the territory of Judah. 2 It included: Beersheba (or Sheba), Moladah, 3 Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, 5 Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, 6 Beth Lebaoth and Sharuhen—thirteen towns and their villages; 7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether and Ashan—four towns and their villages— 8 and all the villages around these towns as far as Baalath Beer (Ramah in 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 Judah, because Judah’s portion was more than they needed. So the Simeonites received their inheritance within the territory of Judah.**

**19:1–9** Lists 17 cities allotted to Simeon. (TLSB)

**19:1** *second lot … for … Simeon.* Cities within the borders of Judah (15:21) in the Negev along Judah’s southern border (1Ch 4:24–42). (CSB)

**19:2** *Beersheba*. Important place in Abraham’s life (Gn 21:22–34); later, part of the description of the entirety of Israel, from north to south (cf Jgs 20:1; 1Sm 3:20; 2Sm 3:10). (TLSB)

**19:6–7** *Sharuhen*. Mentioned as the location of an Egyptian garrison in Egyptian military texts, which record a rebellion taking place north of this region during the fifteenth century BC. Egyptians were active in southern Canaan and along the coast up to Megiddo. (TLSB)

*thirteen cities* … *four cities*. In the second census (Nu 26), Simeon is listed as having fewer clans and less than half the population of Benjamin, thus Simeon receives fewer cities than Benjamin. (TLSB)

**19:9** *Simeon* … *in the midst*. Note Jacob’s curse that Levi and Simeon (Gn 49:5–7) would be scattered among other tribes. In Levi’s case, this meant receiving cities among all the other tribes; in Simeon’s case, it meant dwelling in Judah. When the kingdom later became divided, the tribe of Simeon remained with Judah (David’s tribe), along with parts of Benjamin (1Ki 11:11–13). (TLSB)

**19:1–9** Simeon’s clans receive land and cities within the boundaries of Judah. Consequences of the rash actions of Simeon and Levi were visited upon their descendants note, v 9). Yet, there is still blessing on the tribe of Simeon, for they are not without an inheritance. They come under the care of their brother, according to God’s mercy. • Thank You, Lord, that You have a place for all who repent. All who believe and put their hope in You will not be disappointed but will receive a place in Your kingdom. Amen. (TLSB)

*Allotment for Zebulun*

**10 The third lot came up for Zebulun, clan by clan: The boundary of their inheritance went as far as Sarid. 11 Going west it ran to Maralah, touched Dabbesheth, and extended to the ravine near Jokneam. 12 It turned east from Sarid toward the sunrise to the territory of Kisloth Tabor and went on to Daberath and up to Japhia. 13 Then it continued eastward to Gath Hepher and Eth Kazin; it came out at Rimmon and turned toward Neah. 14 There the boundary went around on the north to Hannathon and ended at the Valley of Iphtah El. 15 Included were Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah and Bethlehem. There were twelve towns and their villages. 16 These towns and their villages were the inheritance of Zebulun, clan by clan.**

**19:10** *third lot … for Zebulun.* To this tribe went a portion of lower Galilee west of the Sea of Galilee and in the vicinity of NT Nazareth. (CSB)

*Allotment for Issachar*

**17 The fourth lot came out for Issachar, clan by clan. 18 Their territory included: Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, 19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, 20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, 21 Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah and Beth Pazzez. 22 The boundary touched Tabor, Shahazumah and Beth Shemesh, and ended at the Jordan. There were sixteen towns and their villages. 23 These towns and their villages were the inheritance of the tribe of Issachar, clan by clan.**

**19:10–16** Lists 12 cities allotted to Zebulun, with boundary descriptions. (TLSB)

**19:15** *Bethlehem*. Not the famous ancestral home of David and Christ, but a city northwest of Nazareth. Though Nazareth was the most notable town in this territory, it is never mentioned in the OT. (TLSB)

**19:10–16** The disbursement of inheritance continues with Zebulun. This tribe receives so little mention in Scripture Scripture that the people are virtually anonymous. Yet, their territory would be the first to hear the Gospel preached from the life of Jesus, as Isaiah prophesied (Is 9:1; Mt 4:12–16). • Lord, help us to remember that our peace lies not in the permanent possession of a parcel of land but in the promises You gave us concerning the One born in Bethlehem of Judea, raised in Nazareth of Zebulun. Amen. (TLSB)

**19:17–23** Lists 16 cities allotted to Issachar, with border descriptions. (TLSB)

**19:17** *fourth lot … for Issachar.* Southwest of the Sea of Galilee reaching down to Beth Shan and west to the Jezreel Valley. Mount Tabor marked its northern border. (CSB)

**19:17–23** Issachar receives as inheritance the area west of the Jordan and south of the Sea of Chinnereth. Issachar receives even less attention in Scripture than Zebulun. Yet, the Lord prepared their eternal inheritance, for Ezekiel later prophesied that they would have a gate to the new Jerusalem, as would believers from the other tribes (Ezk 48:33). • Father, You have promised to be with us and see us through to the eternal inheritance prepared for us in Your Son, our risen Lord and Savior. By His grace, open to us the gates of heaven. Amen. (TLSB)

*Allotment for Asher*

**24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of Asher, clan by clan. 25 Their territory included: Helkath, Hali, Beten, Acshaph, 26 Allammelech, Amad and Mishal. On the west the boundary touched Carmel and Shihor Libnath. 27 It then turned east toward Beth Dagon, touched Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah El, and went north to Beth Emek and Neiel, passing Cabul on the left. 28 It went to Abdon, Rehob, Hammon and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon. 29 The boundary then turned back toward Ramah and went to the fortified city of Tyre, turned toward Hosah and came out at the sea in the region of Aczib, 30 Ummah, Aphek and Rehob. There were twenty-two towns and their villages. 31 These towns and their villages were the inheritance of the tribe of Asher, clan by clan.**

**19:24–31** Lists 22 cities allotted to Asher, with border descriptions. (TLSB)

**19:24** *fifth lot … for … Asher.* Asher was given the coastal area as far north as Sidon in Phoenicia and as far south as Mount Carmel. (CSB)

**19:28** *Sidon the Great*. Old Canaanite and then Phoenician city on the coast (Gn 10:15) that was later the source of serious temptation to Israel, esp through Jezebel, wife of King Ahab. She was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon (1Ki 16:31). (TLSB)

**19:24–31** Asher’s allotment runs along the Great Sea north of Mount Carmel, up to the pagan city of Sidon. By giving this border/coastal territory to Asher, the Lord gives the tribe a great challenge, which they would not properly meet. When the Lord challenges us, He also equips us by His good Word and Spirit. Praise God! The region of Asher became a haven for the Gospel through the ministry of Jesus and the apostles (Mt 15:21–28). • Father, we often dwell too near temptations and do not rely on You to overcome them. Grant us strength to avoid temptation and to proclaim Your Son as the Savior of all. Amen. (TLSB)

*Allotment for Naphtali*

**32 The sixth lot came out for Naphtali, clan by clan: 33 Their boundary went from Heleph and the large tree in Zaanannim, passing Adami Nekeb and Jabneel to Lakkum and ending at the Jordan. 34 The boundary ran west through Aznoth Tabor and came out at Hukkok. It touched Zebulun on the south, Asher on the west and the Jordan on the east. 35 The fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Kinnereth, 36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor, 38 Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath and Beth Shemesh. There were nineteen towns and their villages. 39 These towns and their villages were the inheritance of the tribe of Naphtali, clan by clan.**

**19:32–39** Lists 19 cities allotted to Naphtali, with border descriptions. (TLSB)

**19:32** *sixth lot … for Naphtali.* An area mostly to the north of the Sea of Galilee, taking in the modern Huleh Valley and the mountains bordering on Asher to the west. Its southernmost point was at the lower edge of the Sea of Galilee. (CSB)

**19:32–39** Naphtali’s portion and inheritance to the north would be hit hard by invading armies but would also be among the first to hear the preaching of Christ (Is 9:1; Mt 4:15. • Lord, make our way glorious, for the sake of Christ. Amen. (TLSB)

*Allotment for Dan*

**40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of Dan, 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 area facing Joppa. 47 (But the Danites had difficulty taking possession of their territory, so they went up and attacked Leshem, took it, put it to the sword and occupied it. They settled in Leshem and named it Dan after their forefather.) 48 These towns and their villages were the inheritance of the tribe of Dan, clan by clan.**

**19:40–48** Lists 19 cities allotted to Dan, with border descriptions. (TLSB)

**19:40** *seventh lot … for … Dan.* An elbow of land squeezed between Ephraim and Judah and west of Benjamin. The port of Joppa marked the northwestern corner of Dan.

**19:47** *Danites had difficulty.* The Amorites of this area “confined the Danites to the hill country” (Jdg 1:34), so most of the tribe migrated to the upper Jordan Valley, where they seized the town of Leshem (or Laish, Jdg 18:2–10, 27–29) and renamed it Dan. (CSB)

Tribe was unable to move into its allotment by the Great Sea and sought out other, unclaimed land far to the north. Like Naphtali, Dan had a challenging inheritance and was furiously resisted by the Amorites (Jgs 1:34). They soon fell into idolatry and remained in it (Jgs 18). (TLSB)

**19:40–48** Dan’s failure to gain its inheritance often stands for the evil from which we need the salvation of the Lord (Gn 49:16–18; note Dan’s absence from the list in Rv 7:4–8). When we fail and fall into sin, we will be tempted to give up completely on what we know is good and right. Yet, when we are at our lowest, the Lord remembers us in His mercy. • “Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.” Amen. (*LSB* 655:1) when we are at our lowest, the Lord remembers us in His mercy. • “Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.” Amen. (*LSB* 655:1). (TLSB)

*Allotment for Joshua*

**49 When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, 50 as the Lord had commanded. They gave him the town he asked for—Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there. 51 These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel assigned by lot at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. And so they finished dividing the land.**

**19:49–51** Last allotment is to Joshua, of the tribe of Ephraim, and is within the territory granted to Ephraim. See Caleb’s special treatment (14:6–9; 15:13). Cf Nu 14:24–30; Dt 1:36–38.

**19:49** *gave Joshua … an inheritance.* In the account of the distribution of the promised land (the territory west of the Jordan), the assignment to Caleb is treated first (14:6–15), the assignment to Joshua last. Thus the allotting of inheritance to these two dauntless servants of the Lord from the desert generation (see Nu 13:30; 14:6, 24, 30) frames the whole account—and both received the territory they asked for. Appropriately, Joshua’s allotment came last; he was not a king or a warlord but the servant of God commissioned to bring the Lord’s people into the promised land. (CSB)

Tribes show gratitude. (TLSB)

**19:50** *command of the Lord*. Emphasizing properness of the allotment. (tlsb)

*Timnath Serah.* Located in the southwestern corner of Ephraim, facing out to the sea. Here Joshua was also buried (24:30). (CSB)

**19:49–51** As a strong leader, Joshua receives his portion last! The allotment of land began with Caleb, one of the faithful spies. It ends with Joshua, the other faithful spy. All of this was done with God having a firm hand in the proceedings and the people trusting that He would deal generously with them. • We thank You, Lord, for Your faithful dealings with us. Teach us how to put You, not ourselves, first in all things. Amen. (tlsb)