

JOSHUA

CHAPTER 19

The Inheritance for Simeon

The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the people of Simeon, according to their clans, and their inheritance was in the midst of the inheritance of the people of Judah. 2 And they had for their inheritance Beersheba, Sheba, Moladah, 3 Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, 5 Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah, 6 Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhén—thirteen cities with their villages; 7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan—four cities with their villages, 8 together with all the villages around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the Negeb. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Simeon according to their clans. 9 The inheritance of the people of Simeon formed part of the territory of the people of Judah. Because the portion of the people of Judah was too large for them, the people of Simeon obtained an inheritance in the midst of their inheritance.

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 *Sharuhén.* 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)

The Inheritance for Zebulun

10 The third lot came up for the people of Zebulun, according to their clans. And the territory of their inheritance reached as far as Sarid. 11 Then their boundary goes up westward and on to Mareal and touches Dabbesheth, then the brook that is east of Jokneam. 12 From Sarid it goes in the other direction eastward toward the sunrise to the boundary of Chisloth-tabor. From there it goes to Daberath, then up to Japhia. 13 From there it passes along on the east toward the sunrise to

Gath-hepher, to Eth-kazin, and going on to Rimmon it bends toward Neah, 14 then on the north the boundary turns about to Hannathon, and it ends at the Valley of Iphtahel; 15 and Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem—twelve cities with their villages. 16 This is the inheritance of the people of Zebulun, according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

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)

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 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)

The Inheritance for Issachar

17 The fourth lot came out for Issachar, for the people of Issachar, according to their clans. 18 Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem, 19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, 20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, 21 Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, Beth-pazzez. 22 The boundary also touches Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and its boundary ends at the Jordan—sixteen cities with their villages. 23 This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Issachar, according to their clans—the cities with their villages.

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)

The Inheritance for Asher

24 The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans. 25 Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph, 26 Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. On the west it touches Carmel and Shihor-libnath, 27 then it turns eastward, it goes to Beth-dagon, and touches Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtahel northward to Beth-emek and Neiel. Then it continues in the north to Cabul, 28 Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, as far as Sidon the Great. 29 Then the boundary turns to Ramah, reaching to the fortified city of Tyre. Then the boundary turns to Hosah, and it ends at the sea; Mahalab, Achzib, 30 Ummah, Aphek and Rehob—twenty-two cities with their villages. 31 This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

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)

The Inheritance for Naphtali

32 The sixth lot came out for the people of Naphtali, for the people of Naphtali, according to their clans. **33** And their boundary ran from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim, and Adami-nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum, and it ended at the Jordan. **34** Then the boundary turns westward to Aznoth-tabor and goes from there to Hukkok, touching Zebulun at the south and Asher on the west and Judah on the east at the Jordan. **35** The fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth, **36** Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, **37** Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor, **38** Yiron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh—nineteen cities with their villages. **39** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Naphtali according to their clans—the cities with their villages.

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)

The Inheritance for Dan

40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans. **41** And the territory of its 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** and Me-jarkon and Rakkon with the territory over against Joppa. **47** When the territory of the people of Dan was lost to them, the people of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and after capturing it and striking it with the sword they took possession of it and settled in it, calling Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor. **48** This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans—these cities with their villages.

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. (CSB)

19:47 *fought against...calling it Leshem.* 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)

The Inheritance for Joshua

49 When they had finished distributing the several territories of the land as inheritances, the people of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun. **50** By command of the LORD they gave him the city that he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he rebuilt the city and settled in it. **51** These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel distributed by lot at Shiloh before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 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 *an inheritance...to Joshua.* 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)