

**Thursday, April 18**

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**Joshua 16:1 - 18:28**

**16 1** The allotment for the descendants of Joseph extended from the Jordan River near Jericho, east of the springs of Jericho, through the wilderness and into the hill country of Bethel. **2** From Bethel (that is, Luz) it ran over to Ataroth in the territory of the Arkites. **3** Then it descended westward to the territory of the Japhletites as far as Lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer and over to the Mediterranean Sea. **4** This was the homeland allocated to the families of Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. **5** The following territory was given to the clans of the tribe of Ephraim. The boundary of their homeland began at Ataroth-addar in the east. From there it ran to Upper Beth-horon, **6** then on to the Mediterranean Sea. From Micmethath on the north, the boundary curved eastward past Taanath-shiloh to the east of Janoah. **7** From Janoah it turned southward to Ataroth and Naarah, touched Jericho, and ended at the Jordan River. **8** From Tappuah the boundary extended westward, following the Kanah Ravine to the Mediterranean Sea. This is the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Ephraim. **9** In addition, some towns with their surrounding villages in the territory allocated to the half-tribe of Manasseh were set aside for the tribe of Ephraim. **10** They did not drive the Canaanites out of Gezer, however, so the people of Gezer live as slaves among the people of Ephraim to this day.

**17 1** The next allotment of land was given to the half-tribe of Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph's older son. Makir, the firstborn son of Manasseh, was the father of Gilead. Because his descendants were experienced soldiers, the regions of Gilead and Bashan on the east side of the Jordan had already been given to them. **2** So the allotment on the west side of the Jordan was for the remaining families within the clans of the tribe of Manasseh: Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida. These clans represent the male descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph. **3** However, Zelophehad, a descendant of Hephher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, had no sons. He had only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. **4** These women came to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the Israelite leaders and said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us a grant of land along with the men of our tribe." So Joshua gave them a grant of land along with their uncles, as the LORD had commanded. **5** As a result, Manasseh's total allocation came to ten parcels of land, in addition to the land of Gilead and Bashan across the Jordan River, **6** because the female descendants of Manasseh received a grant of land along with the male descendants. (The land

of Gilead was given to the rest of the male descendants of Manasseh.) **7** The boundary of the tribe of Manasseh extended from the border of Asher to Micmethath, near Shechem. Then the boundary went south from Micmethath to the settlement near the spring of Tappuah. **8** The land surrounding Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but the town of Tappuah itself, on the border of Manasseh's territory, belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. **9** From the spring of Tappuah, the boundary of Manasseh followed the Kanah Ravine to the Mediterranean Sea. Several towns south of the ravine were inside Manasseh's territory, but they actually belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. **10** In general, however, the land south of the ravine belonged to Ephraim, and the land north of the ravine belonged to Manasseh. Manasseh's boundary ran along the northern side of the ravine and ended at the Mediterranean Sea. North of Manasseh was the territory of Asher, and to the east was the territory of Issachar. **11** The following towns within the territory of Issachar and Asher, however, were given to Manasseh: Beth-shan, Ibleam, Dor (that is, Naphoth-dor), Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo, each with their surrounding settlements. **12** But the descendants of Manasseh were unable to occupy these towns because the Canaanites were determined to stay in that region. **13** Later, however, when the Israelites became strong enough, they forced the Canaanites to work as slaves. But they did not drive them out of the land. **14** The descendants of Joseph came to Joshua and asked, "Why have you given us only one portion of land as our homeland when the LORD has blessed us with so many people?" **15** Joshua replied, "If there are so many of you, and if the hill country of Ephraim is not large enough for you, clear out land for yourselves in the forest where the Perizzites and Rephaites live." **16** The descendants of Joseph responded, "It's true that the hill country is not large enough for us. But all the Canaanites in the lowlands have iron chariots, both those in Beth-shan and its surrounding settlements and those in the valley of Jezreel. They are too strong for us." **17** Then Joshua said to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph, "Since you are so large and strong, you will be given more than one portion. **18** The forests of the hill country will be yours as well. Clear as much of the land as you wish, and take possession of its farthest corners. And you will drive out the Canaanites from the valleys, too, even though they are strong and have iron chariots."

**18 1** Now that the land was under Israelite control, the entire community of Israel gathered at Shiloh and set up the Tabernacle. **2** But there remained seven tribes who had not yet been allotted their grants of land. **3** Then Joshua asked them, "How long are you going to wait before taking possession of the remaining land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given to you? **4** Select three men from each tribe, and I will send them out to explore the land and map it out. They will then return to me with a written report of their proposed divisions of their new homeland. **5** Let them divide the land into seven sections, excluding Judah's territory in the

south and Joseph's territory in the north. **6** And when you record the seven divisions of the land and bring them to me, I will cast sacred lots in the presence of the LORD our God to assign land to each tribe. **7** "The Levites, however, will not receive any allotment of land. Their role as priests of the LORD is their allotment. And the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh won't receive any more land, for they have already received their grant of land, which Moses, the servant of the LORD, gave them on the east side of the Jordan River." **8** As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua commanded them, "Go and explore the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will assign the land to the tribes by casting sacred lots here in the presence of the LORD at Shiloh." **9** The men did as they were told and mapped the entire territory into seven sections, listing the towns in each section. They made a written record and then returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. **10** And there at Shiloh, Joshua cast sacred lots in the presence of the LORD to determine which tribe should have each section. **11** The first allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. It lay between the territory assigned to the tribes of Judah and Joseph. **12** The northern boundary of Benjamin's land began at the Jordan River, went north of the slope of Jericho, then west through the hill country and the wilderness of Beth-aven. **13** From there the boundary went south to Luz (that is, Bethel) and proceeded down to Ataroth-addar on the hill that lies south of Lower Beth-horon. **14** The boundary then made a turn and swung south along the western edge of the hill facing Beth-horon, ending at the village of Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a town belonging to the tribe of Judah. This was the western boundary. **15** The southern boundary began at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim. From that western point it ran to the spring at the waters of Nephtoah, **16** and down to the base of the mountain beside the valley of Ben-Hinnom, at the northern end of the valley of Rephaim. From there it went down the valley of Hinnom, crossing south of the slope where the Jebusites lived, and continued down to En-rogel. **17** From En-rogel the boundary proceeded in a northerly direction and came to En-shemesh and on to Geliloth (which is across from the slopes of Adummim). Then it went down to the Stone of Bohan. (Bohan was Reuben's son.) **18** From there it passed along the north side of the slope overlooking the Jordan Valley. The border then went down into the valley, **19** ran past the north slope of Beth-hoglah, and ended at the north bay of the Dead Sea, which is the southern end of the Jordan River. This was the southern boundary. **20** The eastern boundary was the Jordan River. These were the boundaries of the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. **21** These were the towns given to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz, **22** Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, **23** Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, **24** Kepharammoni, Ophni, and Geba—twelve towns with their surrounding villages. **25** Also Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, **26** Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, **27** Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, **28** Zela, Haeleph, the

Jebusite town (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath-jearim —fourteen towns with their surrounding villages. This was the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

### **Luke 19:1 - 27**

**19** **1** Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. **2** There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. **3** He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.” **6** Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. **7** But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. **8** Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” **9** Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” **11** The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. **12** He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. **13** Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ **14** But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’ **15** “After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. **16** The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’ **17** “‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’ **18** “The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’ **19** “‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’ **20** But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. **21** I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’ **22** “‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, **23** why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ **24** “Then, turning to the others standing nearby,

the king ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.' **25** "But, master,' they said, 'he already has ten pounds!' **26**"Yes,' the king replied, 'and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. **27** And as for these enemies of mine who didn't want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.'" **28** After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. **29** As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. **30** "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31**If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'" **32** So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. **33** And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?" **34** And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs it." **35** So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on. **36** As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. **37** When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. **38** "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD ! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" **39** But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!" **40** He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" **41** But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. **42** "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. **43** Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. **44** They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you." **45** Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices. **46** He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." **47** After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. **48** But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said.

**Psalm 87:1 - 7**

**87** **1** On the holy mountain stands the city founded by the LORD . **2** He loves the city of Jerusalem more than any other city in Israel. **3** O city of God, what glorious things are said of you! Interlude **4** I will count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me— also Philistia and Tyre, and even distant Ethiopia. They have all become citizens of Jerusalem! **5** Regarding Jerusalem it will be said, “Everyone enjoys the rights of citizenship there.” And the Most High will personally bless this city. **6** When the LORD registers the nations, he will say, “They have all become citizens of Jerusalem.” Interlude **7** The people will play flutes and sing, “The source of my life springs from Jerusalem!”

### **Proverbs 13:11**

**13** **11** Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.