

220907-4 Jos 12, Assessment of Israel's Boundaries & the City-kings Slain— CThurman

The LORD led both Joshua and Israel into successful southern and northern campaigns. The land is now at rest from war. Rest, not the Hebrew verb נָח, noo-ach, but שָׁקַט, shah-kat, tss. *to rest, to be quiet, to be still, to be idle*, and means to be inactive, not doing anything. This is not a good thing as the land of Canaan is not a land of rest but a land of conflict. This was a land to be possessed by faith in the God of Israel. Canaan was a land where Israel should have ceased from their own works to enter into the works of God. Something that we can understand of our lives since Christ revealed Himself to our hearts. We now live by faith and should be fruitful in the works of Christ rather than our own works which are after the flesh or carnal.

This chapter closes the first major division of the Book of Joshua by giving an assessment of Israel's newly established boundaries and of the 31 city-kings that were slain.

Chapter 12

1 ¶ Now these are the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the other side Jordan toward the rising of the sun,

In other words, the land on the eastern side of the Jordan River, which the Amorites took from Moab, and then Israel took from the Amorites.
(Nu.21.26) This is now Israel's land.

from the river Arnon unto mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east:

The river Arnon now marking the boundary between the country of Moab and Israel. From this river to mount Hermon in the north, and everything in-between is now Israel's land. (cf. Deu.3.8)

2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and ruled from Aroer, which is upon the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon;

The River Jabbok as it flows from the west to the Jordan, in its beginning evidently forms a boundary where begins the land of Ammon.

3 And from the plain

Probably meaning that from the plain above the river Jabbok,

to the sea of Chinneroth on the east,

Also called the Lake of Gennesaet and the Sea of Galilee.

and unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea on the east, the way to Bethjeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdothpisgah:

Seems to say that the Sihon and the Amorites formerly possessed all of the plains on the east side of the Jordan River.

4 And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

5 And reigned in mount Hermon, and in Salcah, and in all Bashan,
(in the north) (east of Chinneroth)

unto the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead,

Half of Gilead north of Jabbok, but also east of the valley, so possessing the land east of the plains of the Jordan River valley, over which Sihon reigned...

the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

6 Them did Moses the servant of the LORD

(when he was alive)

and the children of Israel smite:

And after this then Israel descended into the plains of Moab. (cf. Nu.22.1)

and Moses the servant of the LORD gave it for a possession unto the Reubenites, and the Gadites,

(a central Gilead)

(a southern Gilead)

and the half tribe of Manasseh.

(a northern Gilead)

Three of the tribes of Israel given land on the eastern side of the Jordan River.

7 ¶ And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel smote on this side Jordan on the west, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon

(in the north)

even unto the mount Halak,

(in the south)

There is in the south a mount Halak, a bare mount that would mark the western border in the south.

that goeth up to Seir; which Joshua gave unto the

tribes of Israel

other nine and one-half

for a possession according to their divisions;

8 In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

Note that for some unknown reason the Girgashites are not mentioned, six nations and not seven.

9 The king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one;

The first two kings to fall after Israel invaded the Canaan. (cf. Jos.6.24; 8.24) For the city of Bethel see verse 16.

10 The king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one;

11 The king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one;

12 The king of Eglon, one;

After the fall of the first three kings on the west side of the Jordan River, there was a coalition of five kings formed by king Adonizedek, of Jerusalem. (cf. Jos.10.3) All of these were later hanged at Makkedah and

their bodies cast into the cave where they had earlier been discovered hiding. (cf. Jos.10.16, 17, 23, 26, 27)

the king of Gezer, one;

The king of Gezer, Hiram came to help the inhabitant of Lachish.
(cf. Jos.10.33)

13 The king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one;

Debir was formerly known as Kirjathsepher. (cf. Jos.15.15; Jud.1.11) It was after destroying Hebron that Joshua and the host of Israel then turned back to destroy Debir. (Jos.10.38)

14 The king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one;

This city was formerly called *Zephath*. (cf. Jud.1.17) These are Canaanites. Hormah receives its name because Israel shall utterly destroy it. (cf. Nu.21.3)

15 The king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

Libnah (cf. Jos.10.29)

Judah, in Ge.38.1 has a friend named Hiram, who was an Adullamite.

16 The king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one;

For remarks about Makkedah see v.12. Bethel, the city next to Ai. (cf. Jos.7.2)

17 The king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hopher, one;

18 The king of Apher, one; the king of Lasharon, one;

19 The king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one;

20 The king of Shimronmeron, one; the king of Achshaph, one;

Shimron

Four kings southwest of Cinneroth. (cf. Jos.11.1)

21 *The king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one;*

22 *The king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam of Carmel, one;*

A Kedesh in the north; not Kadeshbarnea.

23 *The king of Dor in the coast of Dor, one; the king of the nations of Gilgal, one;*

24 *The king of Tirzah, one: all the kings thirty and one.*

Several cities are mentioned for the first time in this chapter. They are Geder, Arad, Adullam, Tappuah, Hephher, Aphek, Lasharon, Taanach, Jokneam, and Tirzah.

Joshua stopped to assess what they had done. He knew that they were not finished with the work of possessing the land.

Jos.18.3 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?

But I think it is good for us to do the same, to assess, to judge, to examine ourselves and what we've done? We should be able to look over the history of our lives since Christ and get a good idea of what we have done. Are we being strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, or not? (cf. Eph.3.16) The apostle John preferred his friend Gaius prosper as his soul prospereth. (cf. 3Jn.2) In other words prospering isn't anything if it costs us our souls.

Mt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Are we like Esau that traded his birthright for a measly bowl of bean soup? We have one life to live for Christ. There are no do-overs. Israel did wonderfully in the beginning but began to slip over just a little period of

time. And this is our natural tendency if we will not watch against it. Let's be honest without ourselves in the privacy of our hearts before the Lord and take assessment of our soul's condition.

Chapter 13 begins the second major division of the Book of Joshua, which is the issuance of the land to the remaining nine and one-half tribes of the nation of Israel. (cf. Jos.13.7)