

Joshua 15

Verses 1 - 12

Now the lot for the tribe of the sons of Judah according to their families reached the border of Edom, southward to the wilderness of Zin at the extreme south.

² Their southern border was from the *lower* end of the Salt Sea, from the bay that turns to the south. ³ Then it proceeded southward to the ascent of Akrabbim and continued to Zin, then went up by the south of Kadesh-barnea and continued to Hezron, and went up to Addar and turned to Karka. ⁴ It continued to Azmon and proceeded to the brook of Egypt, and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border. ⁵ The eastern border was the Salt Sea, as far as the mouth of the Jordan. And the border of the north side was from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan. ⁶ Then the border went up to Beth-hoglah, and continued on the north of Beth-arabah, and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. ⁷ And the border went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor, and turned northward toward Gilgal which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, which is on the south of the valley; and the border continued to the waters of En-shemesh and it ended at En-rogel. ⁸ Then the border went up the Valley of Ben-hinnom to the slope of the Jebusite on the south (that is, Jerusalem); and the border went up to the top of the mountain which is opposite the Valley of Hinnom to the west, which is at the end of the Valley of Rephaim toward the north. ⁹ And from the top of the mountain the border turned to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah and proceeded to the cities of Mount Ephron, then the border turned to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim). ¹⁰ The border turned from Baalah westward to Mount Seir, and continued to the slope of Mount Jearim on the north (that is, Chesalon), and went down to Beth-shemesh and continued through Timnah. ¹¹ Then the border proceeded to the side of Ekron northward. And the border turned to Shikkeron and continued to Mount Baalah and proceeded to Jabneel, and the border ended at the sea. ¹² The western border was at the Great Sea, even *its* coastline. This is the border around the sons of Judah according to their families.

² Their southern border was from the *lower* end of the Salt Sea.

^{5A} The eastern border was the Salt Sea, as far as the mouth of the Jordan.

^{5B} The northern border was from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

¹² The western border was at the Great Sea, even *its* coastline.

See map 1505



As we can see from the map Judah did not take all of the territory that God gave to them as an inheritance.

There were times when Israel would win a major battle over the Philistines but they were never able to subdue Philistia in such a way as to make it a part of Israel.

Also the tribe of Simeon was given their inheritance in the center of Judah.

This was done because of their role in the killing of the men of Shechem.

See Genesis 34

The penalty for doing this was prophesized by their father Jacob.

See Genesis 49:5-7

Verses 13 - 19

¹³ Now he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the sons of Judah, in accordance with the ^lcommand of the Lord to Joshua, *namely*, Kiriath-arba, *Arba being* the father of Anak (that is, Hebron). ¹⁴ And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

¹⁵ Then he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir; now the name of Debir previously was Kiriath-sepher. ¹⁶ And Caleb said, “The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter as a wife.”

¹⁷ Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it; so he gave him Achsah his daughter as a wife. ¹⁸ And it happened that when she came *to him*, she incited him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from the donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you want?” ¹⁹ Then she said, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me springs of water also.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

¹³ Now he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the sons of Judah, in accordance with the ^lcommand of the Lord to Joshua, *namely*, Kiriath-arba, *Arba being* the father of Anak (that is, Hebron). ¹⁴ And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

We know that the two events mentioned here are future events.

The writer tells us these events now (25 years before it takes place) because this section is about the cities and boundaries of Judah and how they came to be inhabited.

We know this because these two events are recorded in Judges 1:10-15.

And Judges 1:1 begins with “Now it came about after the death of Joshua”

Since these events took place after the death of Joshua it had to be the second taking of Hebron by Caleb. The first time took place in Joshua 10:36-39

¹⁶ And Caleb said, “The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter as a wife.”

This event also takes place in the future.

From these two examples we can see that some cities that were captured during the 7 year war had to be retaken after the land was allotted. In these two cases 25 years had passed.

¹⁹ Then she said, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me the land of the Negev

Caleb probably gave her land in the Northern Negev.

See map 1510



Give me springs of water also.” So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

Having received land in the Negev, a desert area, she also asked for some springs.

See pic 1515



Their kids would have had a large sand box to play in. ☺

They also had some very modern looking roads for their time. ☺

Verses 20 - 32

This is the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Judah according to their families.

²¹ Now the cities at the extremity of the tribe of the sons of Judah toward the border of Edom in the south were Kabzeel, Eder, and Jagur, ²² Kinah, Dimonah, and Adadah, ²³ Kedesh, Hazor, and Ithnan, ²⁴ Ziph, Telem, and Bealoth, ²⁵ Hazor-hadattah, Keriath-hezron (that is, Hazor), ²⁶ Amam, Shema, and Moladah, ²⁷ Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, and Beth-pelet, ²⁸ Hazar-shual, Beersheba, and Biziothiah, ²⁹ Baalah, Iim, and Ezem, ³⁰ Eltolad, Chesil, and Hormah, ³¹ Ziklag, Madmannah, and Sansannah, ³² Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon; in all, twenty-nine cities with their villages.

The first group of cities lies along **the southern border.**

The Text says 29 cities but the list includes 36 places. Several explanations have been suggested to explain the variance but none of them seem satisfactory.

Verses 33 - 36

³³ In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, and Ashnah, ³⁴ Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, and Enam, ³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, and Azekah, ³⁶ Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim; fourteen cities with their villages.

The second group was in the lowland

The text says 14 cities but the list in the text includes 15 places.

Verses 37 – 41

³⁷ Zenan, Hadashah, and Migdal-gad, ³⁸ Dilean, Mizpeh, and Joktheel, ³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, and Eglon, ⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmas, and Chitlish, ⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah; sixteen cities with their villages.

The third group was composed of 16 cities.

Verses 42 - 44

⁴² Libnah, Ether, and Ashan, ⁴³ Iphtah, Ashnah, and Nezib, ⁴⁴ Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah; nine cities with their villages.

A fourth group was composed of 9 cities

Verses 45 - 47

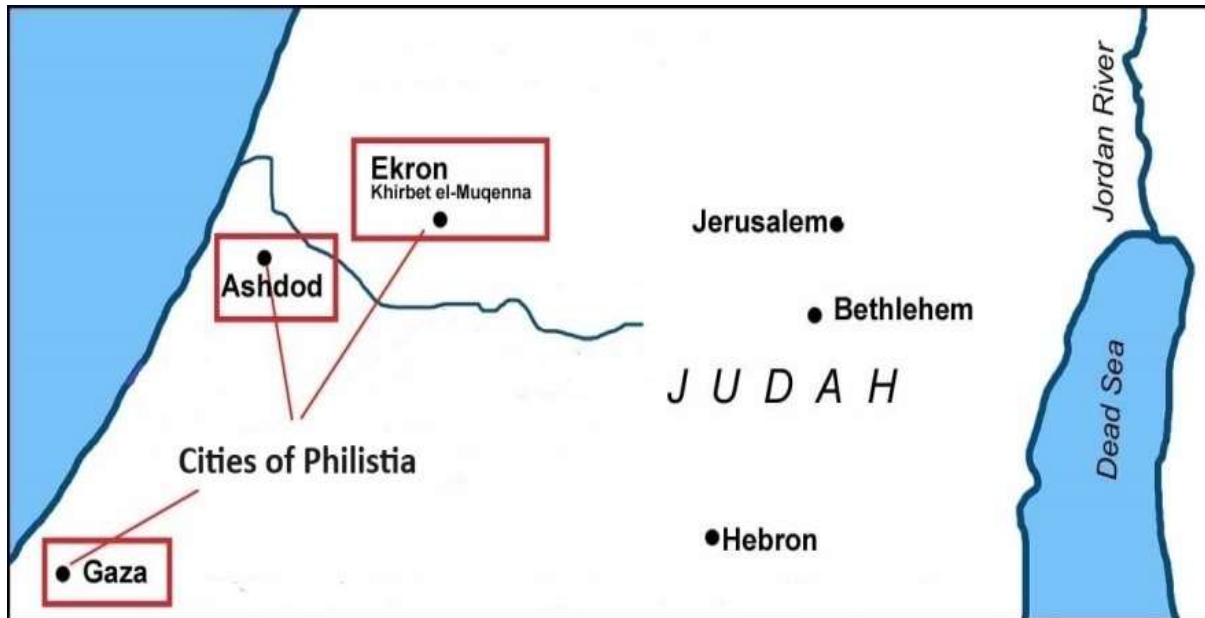
⁴⁵ Ekron, with its towns and its villages; ⁴⁶ from Ekron even to the sea, all that were by the side of Ashdod, with their villages. ⁴⁷ Ashdod, its towns and its villages; Gaza, its towns and its villages, as far as the brook of Egypt and the Great Sea, even its coastline.

This fifth group consists of three Philistine cities.

God allotted this area to Israel but it never became a part of Israel.

As noted before, David and Solomon had some control over this area but it never became part of Israel.

See map 1520



Verses 48 - 51

⁴⁸ In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, and Socoh, ⁴⁹ Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir), ⁵⁰ Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, ⁵¹ Goshen, Holon, and Giloh; eleven cities with their villages.

A sixth group occupied sites in the hill-country.

It was composed of 11 cities.

Verses 52 - 54

⁵² Arab, Dumah, and Eshan, ⁵³ Janum, Beth-tappuah, and Aphekah, ⁵⁴ Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior; nine cities with their villages.

A seventh group was composed of 9 cities.

Verses 55 - 57

⁵⁵ Maon, Carmel, Ziph, and Juttah, ⁵⁶ Jezreel, Jokdeam, and Zanoah, ⁵⁷ Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah; ten cities with their villages.

An eighth group was composed of 10 cities.

Verses 58 - 59

⁵⁸ Halhul, Beth-zur, and Gedor, ⁵⁹ Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon; six cities with their villages.

A ninth group was composed of 6 cities.

Verse 60

⁶⁰ Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah; two cities with their villages.

A tenth group had 2 cities

Verse 60 - 62

⁶¹ In the wilderness: Beth-arabah, Middin, and Secacah, ⁶² Nibshan, the City of Salt, and Engedi; six cities with their villages.

An eleventh group had 6 cities.

Verse 63

⁶³ Now as for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the sons of Judah could not drive them out; so the Jebusites live with the sons of Judah in Jerusalem to this day.

Jerusalem is located on the border of Benjamin and Judah so it was not unusual that the sons of Judah would be living in Jerusalem.

Judah could not take the city of the Jebusites (Jerusalem) at this time but they will have a victory over them in about 25 years.

See Judges 1:8

⁸ Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it, and struck it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.

The grand total of cities was either 115 or 123.