Joshua 18

Verse 1

Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled at Shiloh, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them.

When Israel first entered Canaan the tabernacle was set up at Gilgal, now that the fighting was over, it was moved to Shiloh.

See map 1805



The tabernacle will remain there for over 300 years.

From 1396 to 1070 BC

See chart 1810

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1000	20
Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1000	959	40
I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	959		

Verses 2 - 10

² But there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance. ³ So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you? ⁴ Provide for yourselves three men from each tribe so that I may send them, and that they may arise and walk through the land and write a description of it according to their inheritance; then they shall return to me. ⁵ And they shall divide it into seven portions; Judah shall stay in its territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall stay in their territory on the north. ⁶ And you shall write a description of the land in seven divisions, and bring the description here to me. Then I will cast lots for you here before the Lord our God. ⁷ For the Levites have no portion among you, because the priesthood of the Lord is their inheritance. Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh also have received their inheritance eastward beyond the Jordan, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave them."

² But there remained among the sons of Israel seven tribes who had not divided their inheritance.

So far only 5 tribes had claimed their inheritance

Judah, Manasseh, Ephraim, Gad, Reuben

See map 1815



³ So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land

The 7 tribes that were slow to claim their land were the smaller tribes.

See map 1820



⁶ And you shall write a description of the land in seven divisions, and bring the description here to me. Then I will cast lots for you here before the Lord our God.

First the 21 men had to survey the remaining land.

Then the land would be divided into 7 lots and after that God would decide where the 7 tribes would be stationed.

Verses 8 -10

⁸ Then the men arose and went, and Joshua commanded those who went to write a description of the land, saying, "Go and walk through the land and write a description of it, and return to me; then I will cast lots for you here before the Lord in Shiloh." ⁹ So the men went and passed through the land, and wrote a description of it by cities in seven divisions in a book; and they came to Joshua at the camp at Shiloh. ¹⁰ Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh before the Lord, and there Joshua divided the land for the sons of Israel according to their divisions.

The 7 tribes did as Joshua had commanded and after <u>the casting of lots</u> the land was given to each tribe as God had directed.

Verse 11 - 20

¹¹ Now the lot of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot lay between the sons of Judah and the sons of Joseph.¹² Their border on the north side was from the Jordan, then the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the hill country westward, and it ended at the wilderness of Beth-aven. ¹³ Then from there the border continued to Luz, to the side of Luz (that is, Bethel) southward; and the border went down to Ataroth-addar, near the hill which lies on the south of lower Beth-horon.¹⁴ And the border changed direction from there and turned around on the west side southward, from the hill which lies opposite Beth-horon southward; and it ended at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city of the sons of Judah. This was the west side. ¹⁵ Then the south side was from the edge of Kiriath-jearim, and the border went westward and went to the fountain of the waters of Nephtoah.¹⁶ Then the border went down to the edge of the hill which is [h]in the Valley of Ben-hinnom, which is in the Valley of Rephaim northward; and it went down to the Valley of Hinnom, to the slope of the Jebusite southward, and went down to En-rogel.¹⁷ Then it turned northward and went to En-shemesh, and went to Geliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, and it went down to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben. ¹⁸ And it continued to the side in front of the Arabah northward, and went down to the Arabah. ¹⁹ Then the border continued to the side of Beth-hoglah northward; and the border ended at the north bay of the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the southern border.²⁰ Moreover, the Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the sons of Benjamin according to their families, and according to its borders all around.

Now the lot of the tribe of the sons of <u>Benjamin</u> came up...

See map 1830



This area is 25 miles east to west, and ten miles north to south.

From this small tribe, Israel received its first king, King Saul.

It was the future home of the temple in 959 BC.

And Paul, the most gifted and successful of the apostles!

Verses 21 - 28

²¹ Now the cities of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin according to their families were Jericho, Beth-hoglah, and Emek-keziz, ²² Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, and Bethel, ²³ Avvim, Parah, and Ophrah, ²⁴ Chephar-ammoni, Ophni, and Geba; twelve cities with their villages. ²⁵ Gibeon, Ramah, and Beeroth, ²⁶ Mizpeh, Chephirah, and Mozah, ²⁷ Rekem, Irpeel, and Taralah, ²⁸ Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, Kiriath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the sons of Benjamin according to their families.

Now the cities of the tribe of the sons of Benjamin according to their families were twelve cities with their villages and fourteen cities with their villages.

For such a small lot of land this area had many cities and villages.