

Claiming Your Inheritance in Christ

As we enter Joshua 18, we see a significant shift in Israel's journey. The land has been conquered, but not all of it has been distributed. At this point, seven tribes have yet to claim their inheritance. The tabernacle—the central place of worship—has now been set up in Shiloh, marking a spiritual turning point for the people of Israel.

This chapter challenges us with an important spiritual lesson: God has given us an inheritance, but it is up to us to claim it.

The Tabernacle at Shiloh: Keeping God at the Center

Before the land was fully divided, Israel established the tabernacle at Shiloh. The tabernacle, which had traveled with them through the wilderness, was the place where sacrifices were made, where the presence of God dwelled, and where worship was centered. This was significant because it ensured that, before settling into their land, Israel first established a place to meet with God.

Personal Application:

This reminds us that in all our pursuits—whether spiritual, personal, or professional—God must remain at the center. Before we take possession of the things God has promised us, we need to establish His presence as the foundation of our lives. If we prioritize everything else but neglect our time with Him, our spiritual inheritance can go unclaimed.

Where is your Shiloh? Is there a place in your life where you intentionally meet with God, seek His direction, and align your heart with Him? Whether it's a physical space or simply a posture of daily surrender, having a Shiloh mindset means keeping God at the center of all you do.

The Seven Tribes Who Delayed: A Call to Action

In verse 3, Joshua confronts the remaining seven tribes with a piercing question:

"How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?" (Joshua 18:3)

These tribes had been given land by God, yet they had not stepped forward to claim it. Whether out of hesitation, complacency, or fear, they delayed taking what was rightfully theirs.

Personal Application:

God has given each of us incredible spiritual promises—victory over sin, joy, peace, purpose, and power through the Holy Spirit. Yet, many believers today are sitting on unclaimed promises. Like the Israelites, they remain in a state of waiting when God is calling them to move forward.

Are there areas in your life where you've hesitated to step into what God has for you?

- Maybe there's a calling you feel God nudging you toward, but you keep putting it off.
- Perhaps God has given you a promise, but doubt has kept you from walking in faith.

- You might know God is asking you to surrender an area of your life, but you haven't fully given it over to Him.

Joshua's words echo into our lives today: "How long will you wait?" God has already provided the land—it's time to take possession of it!

Defining the Boundaries: Walking in God's Provision

To move forward, Joshua instructed them to survey the land, define its boundaries, and divide it among the tribes. They needed to be intentional about what they were claiming.

Personal Application:

Sometimes, we don't fully embrace God's promises because we haven't clearly identified what He has given us. We need to define the spiritual territory God has given us:

- What does victory look like in your life?
- What areas of spiritual growth is God calling you to pursue?
- What promises from His Word do you need to stand on today?

Just as Israel needed to map out their inheritance, we need to be intentional about our faith. God has already provided, but we must take the steps to claim it.

Benjamin's Inheritance: Positioned for Purpose

In verse 11, we see the tribe of Benjamin receiving its inheritance. The land they received was significant—it encompassed Jerusalem and stretched to the north, including Bethel and other key locations.

This is a reminder that God strategically places us where He wants us. He didn't give Benjamin land randomly. He positioned them for a purpose.

Personal Application:

Where has God placed you? Your family, your job, your community—none of it is by accident. God has placed you there with intention.

Maybe you don't always understand why you're in a certain season or location, but trust that God is positioning you for something greater. Instead of longing for someone else's portion, ask God to help you fully embrace where He has placed you and use it for His glory.

Moving Forward in Faith

Joshua 18 is a call to action. The land was there. The promises were given. But it was up to the people to step forward and claim them.

God has already made a way for us. He has already secured the victory. The question is: Are we willing to step forward and take hold of it?

Let's determine today that we will:

- Keep God at the center of our lives (Shiloh first!)
- Stop delaying and step into what God has promised
- Define our spiritual inheritance and take practical steps to claim it
- Trust God's placement and embrace His purpose for our lives

May we not be like those who hesitated, but like those who boldly take possession of all that God has for us.

"Lord, help me not to delay in claiming the promises You have given me. Show me where I have been hesitant, and give me the courage to step forward in faith. I want to walk fully in Your plans, embracing everything You have for me. Let me keep You at the center of my life and trust Your perfect placement. In Jesus' name, Amen."