

03 – Joshua 13:1-21:45 – Dividing the land

Why waste the paper?

Joshua ... not primarily a book of conquest

... ultimately about God’s righteous judgement,

So far in the story

ch 13, role change from “leading the military charge” to heading up the “land title deeds office”

Why is it in Scripture?

1) God is trustworthy to his promises

Joshua 21:43-45. *“Not one of the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled”.*

2) God’s big story

Eg: Joshua 16:1-4 ...people called the Arkites.

Hushai an Arkite is one of King David’s closest advisors (2 Sam 16:15ff).

The central passage - Joshua 18:1-10

... move from Gilgal to Shiloh.

... the ‘tent of meeting’ is set up.

God directed promise fulfilling giving of land title deeds.

... failures to trust in and take hold of the good promises of YHWH.

The example of Caleb’s trust

chapter 14

- Deut 1:28 not a ‘soft asset’

... it was a ‘well fortified place, filled with scary big people’ (Deut 1:28).

A question raised

Does the passage contradict itself when it says, “God has given them all the land and kept all his promises” and then it says, “There is still a lot of land to be taken”?

For us today

1) God’s promises are always trustworthy

... a word of caution.

The promises of land that God makes to his people in the OT under the Old covenant ARE NOT always the same promises God makes to us today under the New covenant.

3 things to look at in application

Firstly, is this a promise made in a stage of salvation history that is not universally a promise that is applied across all stages of salvation history.

Secondly ... we should ensure we do not twist that promise by spiritualising it

Finally, by getting ‘the timing of the promise being fulfilled’ wrong.

2) Taking hold of God’s promises is vital

“How is our trust in God’s promises demonstrated in our daily lives?”