

## Joshua 16-17: Inheritance for Sons and Daughters

**Getting started:** When you hear the word *inheritance*, do you think blessing or curse? What shapes your thinking that way?

**Read 16:1-4, 9-10**                      **Inheritance for Joseph's sons**

1. What were the names of Joseph's sons? Why did Joseph's sons receive each receive a portion while every other son of Jacob received only one? (vv. 1-4, Genesis 48:20-21). What precedent is there in Scripture for giving a double portion to one son? (Deut. 21:17)
2. What struggle did these two tribes share in common with the other tribes? (vv. 9-10, see also 15:63) What strategy did they choose instead for dealing with the Canaanites?
3. Based on your Bible knowledge and personal experience, what problem(s) would arise from allowing Canaanites to remain alive? A NT parallel to the Canaanites might false teachers in the church. What are we instructed to do with them? (Romans 16:17-18)

**Read 17:3-6**                      **Inheritance for Zelophehad's daughters**

4. What problem did the daughters of Zelophehad bring to the elders of Israel? (vv. 3-4) What command did Moses give concerning their father's inheritance? What stipulation were they to follow to secure their inheritance? (Num. 36:6-7)

5. How much territory was given Manasseh besides the land of Gilead and Bashan east of the Jordan (vv. 5-6)? Why did this tribe receive an inheritance on both sides of Jordan? (see also 17:14 and Genesis 49:22, 25).

**Read 17:12-18**                      **Inheritance is too Small**

6. What problem motivated Manasseh to ask Joshua for more territory? (vv. 12-14) What did Joshua suggest the tribe do? (v. 15)
7. Name the complaints that Manasseh made to Joshua regarding their inheritance (v. 16).
8. How did Joshua reply to Ephraim and Manasseh? (v. 17). What responsibilities did Joshua put back on their shoulders? (v. 18) How does God want us to respond when He puts things on our shoulders? (see Pr. 24:10).

**Going Deeper**

In our text, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were given inheritances that they would have to work to possess. The NT teaches that we too have received an inheritance (Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:4). What is our inheritance and in what sense are we to work for it? (check Phil. 2:12-15; Heb. 12:14; James 2:17)