

Josh 13:1-7 **Lands Yet To Be Conquered – Command of Yehowah**

Joshua is old and Yehowah gave him a command to conquer the remainder of the land.

¹ Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

Specific lands yet to be conquered – With the promise of God to help accomplish it

² This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the **Philistines** and all that of the **Geshurites**, ³ from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines--the **Gazites**, the **Ashdodites**, the **Ashkelonites**, the **Gittites**, and the **Ekronites**; also the **Avites**; ⁴ from the south, all the land of the **Canaanites**, and **Mearah** that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites; ⁵ the land of the **Gebalites**, and all **Lebanon**, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath; ⁶ all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians--them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you. ⁷ Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Joshua is old and Yehowah gave him a command to conquer the remainder of the land.

✧ ¹ Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

✧ When Joshua was old, God gave him instructions concerning the land remaining for Israel to take possession.

Specific lands yet to be conquered – With the promise of God to help accomplish it

✧ ² This is the land that yet remains:

From the South [Joshua 13:2-3]

✧ All the territory of the **Philistines**

✧ All that of the **Geshurites**

✧ From **Sihor**, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of **Ekron** northward (which is counted as Canaanite);

✧ Sihor also called Shihor is a river on the Eastern border of Egypt, probably the one called the "River of Egypt" and the "Brook of Egypt" mentioned as the southern boundary of the Promised Land. [Genesis 15:18, Numbers 34:5, Joshua 15:4, 2 Kings 24:7] Some have guessed it to be Wady-el 'Arish.

✧ Ekron is the northern most of the five major cities of the Philistines, **Gaza**, **Ashdod**, **Ashkelon**, **Gath** of the Gittites, and **Ekron**.

✧ The **Avites** were nomadic people scattered throughout the Shephelah (lower hills of Judea) as far as Gaza.

To the North [Joshua 13:4-7]

✧ All the land of the **Canaanites**, and **Mearah** that belongs to the Sidonians as far as **Aphek**, to the border of the Amorites. [Joshua 13:4]

✧ The **Canaanites** were the first inhabitants of the land of Canaan (Promised Land) who was a son of Ham the son of Noah. [Genesis 10:6]

✧ Canaan received the curse from Noah when Ham violated his drunken father. [Genesis 9:20-26]

✧ The land of Canaan extended from Sidon to Gaza. [Genesis 10:19]

✧ **Mearah** belonging to the Sidonians is an area of caves east of Sidon.

- ✧ **Aphek** is listed with "to the border of the Amorites," which would suggest Aphek is eastward toward Syria and east of the Sea of Galilee.
- ✧ The land of the **Gebalites**, and all **Lebanon**, toward the sunrise, from **Baal Gad below Mount Hermon** as far as the **entrance to Hamath**, all the inhabitants of the mountains from **Lebanon** as far as the **Brook Misrephoth**, and all the **Sidonians** [Joshua 13:5-6]
 - ✧ The Gebalites were from a north Lebanon Phoenician city about 5 miles north of Beirut, and experts as masons and stone cutters. [1 Kings 5:18, Ezekiel 27:9]
 - ✧ The term "**All the land of Lebanon**" indicates that God originally intended for Israel to possess land far beyond the borders they eventually possessed. During the Kingdom age when Messiah Jesus reigns a thousand years the borders will be the full land promised to Israel.
 - ✧ From **Baal Gad below Mount Hermon** as far as **Hamath** indicates that from Mount Hermon northward was land originally included.
 - ✧ **Hamath** is a Syrian city about 125 miles north of Damascus about the same longitude as the island of Cyprus. That would certainly include all of Lebanon and a great part of Syria as the text indicates.
 - ✧ It would certainly include all the inhabitants of the **mountains of Lebanon** and all the **Sidonians**.
 - ✧ The **Brook Misrephoth** is believed to be waters from hot springs called burning waters near Sidon.
- ✧ **Them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.** Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh." [Joshua 13:6-7]
 - ✧ God promised to deliver it all into the hands of Israel.
 - ✧ The command is to divide the land to the 9 ½ tribes of Israel.
 - ✧ The closest Israel came to possessing all the promised land was during the reign of Solomon. [1 Kings 4:24-25]
 - ✧ The complete possession of the Promised Land will be during the Kingdom reign of Messiah. [Ezekiel 47:13-20]