

Judges 1:21-36 **Benjamin, Joseph, Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, Dan**

**Benjamin**

21 But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

**Joseph took Bethel**

22 And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them. 23 So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel. (The name of the city was formerly Luz.) 24 And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. 26 And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day.

**Manasseh**

27 However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. 28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.

**Ephraim**

29 Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

**Zebulun**

30 Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute.

**Asher**

31 Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob. 32 So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

**Naphtali**

33 Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them.

**Dan**

34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute. 36 Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Original command and promise

Exodus 23:20-33

**20** "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. **21** Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. **22** But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. **23** For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off. **24** You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars. **25** So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. **26** No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

**27** "I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. **28** And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you. **29** I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. **30** Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. **31** And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. **32** You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. **33** They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you." NKJV

Deuteronomy 7:17-24

**17** "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'-- **18** you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: **19** the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. **20** Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. **21** You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you. **22** And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. **23** But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed. **24** And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. NKJV

Joshua 13:1-7

**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. **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

Joshua 21:43-45

**43** So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. **44** The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And **not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45** Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass. NKJV

Joshua 23:3-5

**3** You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you. **4** See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward. **5** And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you. NKJV

- ✧ With these commandments and this experience as eyewitnesses of the fact that God is able to do everything He has promised, the Children of Israel had no excuse for any failure to drive out the inhabitants of the land as commanded.
- ✧ With the experience at Ai, the Children of Israel knew that where few failed, yet in great force they prevailed. [Joshua 7:2-5, 8:1-29]
- ✧ Therefore, they should have enlisted the armies of neighboring tribes and trusting in God, they should have driven out all the inhabitants of the land as God had commanded, knowing that God had promised success if they did it little by little relentlessly.

### Benjamin

- ✧ But the children of **Benjamin** did not drive out the **Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem**; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. [Judges 1:21]
  - ◇ Judah conquered Jerusalem and burned the city. [Judges 1:8]
  - ◇ Benjamin failed to drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem, leaving them to dwell among the Benjamites until King David defeated them. [Judges 1:21, 2 Samuel 5:6-10]
  - ◇ The apparent contradiction between these texts is explained by the fact that the boundary of Judah and Benjamin split the city of Jerusalem leaving the southern half in the territory of Judah, and the northern half in the territory of Benjamin.
  - ◇ The walled part of the city was in the territory of Benjamin and too well defended to be subdued until David found a way into the city through the water shaft.
  - ◇ God had said they were to drive the inhabitants of the land out entirely and He would be with them and enable them. They should have teamed up with other tribes and accomplished the task as God commanded.

### Joseph took Bethel

✧ And the house of **Joseph** also went up against **Bethel**, and the LORD was with them. So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out **Bethel**. (**The name of the city was formerly Luz**).  
[Judges 1:22-23]

✧ And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy." So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. [Judges 1:24-25]

✧ And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day. [Judges 1:26]

### Manasseh

✧ However, **Manasseh** did not drive out the inhabitants of **Beth Shean** and its villages, or **Taanach** and its villages, or the inhabitants of **Dor** and its villages, or the inhabitants of **Ibleam** and its villages, or the inhabitants of **Megiddo** and its villages; for the **Canaanites** were determined to dwell in that land. [Judges 1:27]

✧ And it came to pass, **when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute**, but did not completely drive them out. [Judges 1:28]

### Ephraim

✧ Nor did **Ephraim** drive out the **Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer**; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. [Judges 1:29]

### Zebulun

✧ Nor did **Zebulun** drive out the inhabitants of **Kitron** or the inhabitants of **Nahalol**; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute. [Judges 1:30]

### Asher

✧ Nor did **Asher** drive out the inhabitants of **Acco** or the inhabitants of **Sidon**, or of **Ahlab**, **Achzib**, **Helbah**, **Aphik**, or **Rehob**.<sup>32</sup> So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. [Judges 1:31-32]

### Naphtali

✧ Nor did **Naphtali** drive out the inhabitants of **Beth Shemesh** or the inhabitants of **Beth Anath**; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them. [Judges 1:33]

### Dan

✧ And the Amorites forced the children of **Dan** into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute.

Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.  
[Judges 1:34-36]

✧ God is not pleased by putting the people of the land under tribute as He would have been if the Children of Israel had obeyed His commandment.

✧ As Samuel said to king Saul:

**"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD?**

**Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.**

**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.**

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." [1 Samuel 15:22-23]

- ✧ This was to accomplish the **Judgment of God** against a very sinful wicked generation.
- ✧ God also used nations of mankind to carry out His judgments against the nations of Israel.
- ☆ The people of the land were to be destroyed because their iniquity had reached its zenith.

[Genesis 15:16]

Leviticus 18:24-30

24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; **for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.** 25 **For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.** 26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you 27 **(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled),** 28 lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. 29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. 30 Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God.' " NKJV

Remember the flood at the time of Noah, as well as Sodom and Gomorrah at the time of Lot.  
[Genesis 6:5—8:22, 19:23-25]