

/Let us begin with the fifteenth lecture on Joshua. / I will lecture on Joshua chapter 16 and 17. / Chapter 16 is about the allotment for the descendants of Joseph.

/Verses 1-4 are about the borders of allotment the descendants of Joseph received. / Last time in chapter 15, the tribe of Judah received the best allotment first. / Then here in chapter 16, Joseph received the best.

*/Please read 16:1. / The allotment for Joseph began at the Jordan, east of the springs of Jericho, and went up from there through the desert into the hill country of Bethel.*

/Even though Reuben was the firstborn, he lost the rights of the eldest because of his sin. / Thus, Joseph received the rights of firstborn. / Why Joseph? / Of course this happened according to God's words.

/God gave Joseph the rights of firstborn with His absolute sovereignty. / But Joseph had the faith, deserving to receive such a blessing. / He honored his parents. / God promised the blessing of long life to those who honor their parents.

/We should serve God with all our heart / and honor our parents. / Joseph honored his parents / and lead his brothers well with love. / He was also a devout man.

/In today's time, God gives the blessing of the firstborn to faithful people. / The Lord is always saying, "It will be done by your faith." / If we live in faith before God sincerely, we can receive much grace and blessing like Joseph received.

/He trusted in His absolute sovereignty. / He was sold as a slave to Egypt. / He could have blamed God and his brothers. / But he did not. / He instead trusted that God had sent him to Egypt for a reason.

/When we begin to trust in the sovereignty of God, we stop complaining or getting disheartened. / We should trust that God is in charge of everything that is happening. / Joseph had unchanging, constant faith.

/He always kept his faith when he received his father's love, / when he became a slave, / and when he went to prison out of false accusation. / His circumstances changed many times, / but Joseph kept his faith.

/He was able to receive the blessing of the firstborn with such a faith. / He also lived a clean life. / When he was a slave in Potiphar's house, / Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him. / She tried to lure him to sleep with her.

/But he refused strongly. / He said, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" / There are many temptations of sin these days. / This world is filled with sin.

/Despite such sins around us, / we should live a clean life, and so we will receive His grace and blessing. /Living a pure life is a sign of owning a very deep faith.

/When we do not compromise ourselves with the world / and sin / and when we do not walk on the wicked path / but live clean before God, He sees us precious. / Joseph saved his brothers during the famine. / He could have revenged for what

his brothers had done to him.

/But he did not even though he was in a high place. He delivered them with the heart of the Lord. / He told his brothers, / “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here / because it was to save lives / that God sent me ahead of you.”

/He then provided all the food to his brothers / and later he led them to the land of Goshen, in which he served them well. / He could have used his position / to revenge their betrayal. / But he did not. Truly he is a man who won evil with good.

/God saw his faith and gave him the blessing of the firstborn. / In verses 5-10, /we can read about the inheritance of tribe of Ephraim, a son of Joseph. / Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. / But God gave Ephraim the allotment first before Manasseh.

*/Verses 4-5. / So Manasseh and Ephraim, the descendants of Joseph, received their inheritance. This was the territory of Ephraim, according to its clans: The boundary of their inheritance went from Ataroth Addar in the east to Upper Beth Horon*

/The land of tribe of Ephraim was located at the center of Canaan. / But its borders were near the inheritance of Benjamin and Dan. / Even though Manasseh was the firstborn, Ephraim received the inheritance first.

/It happened / because it was the sovereignty of God. / Everything is happening under the sovereignty of God. / God gave blessing and grace to Ephraim. / We should not complain or blame God for anything.

/This is because God works out everything in His sovereignty according to our faith. / Everything in this world is happening under the sovereignty of God. / Also, the reason Ephraim received the allotment first is because his faith was superior.

/He was more ready to receive the blessing than Manasseh. / The Scripture says/ that the first will be the last, the last will be the first. / Even though Ephraim was the younger one, thus behind Manasseh, / he received the inheritance first under the sovereignty of God.

/But even so, Manasseh could not complain or blame anything. / This is because God made it happen. / If we believe in His providence and sovereignty today, / we won't complain or blame for anything.

/However, in verse 10, the tribe of Ephraim committed a mistake after they took the land. / What was it?

*/Verse 10. / They did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer; to this day the Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labor.*

/They did not dislodge the Canaanites. / We can learn from this that we should always be careful after we receive blessing from God. / Even a humble and obedient person/ may refuse to obey Him when something is going very well.

/We should be careful after we taste success. / It is easy for a man to become proud after being successful. / Leaving the Lord gets easier, / as well as

disobeying His commands. / The tribe of Ephraim should have completely obeyed His words, after they received the blessing.

/The Canaanites that they did not dislodge/ become a thorn in the later part of their life. / If we have a thorn in our hand or foot, / we need to pluck it out. / Otherwise, it would constantly prick us.

/The Israelites failed to dislodge the Canaanites, / so they become thorns and afflicted the Israelites. / They harassed the Israelites, / pricking them like a thorn / and opposing them, / like an enemy.

/By not driving them out/ the Israelites did not obey His words properly. / The tribe of Ephraim may thought / that they can make well use of the Canaanites.

/But what was more important was pleasing God by obeying His words. / We should not obey only a half of His command. / We should obey all of His commands, doing the best we can.

/Ephraim's mistake shows us that they were careless in obeying little things. / Little things have more tendency to become a snare. / "The Canaanites are few, they can't do us any harm." / They might thought that, but that little mistake brought huge suffering in the end.

/When a house is on fire, / it does not start big. / One little flame gets larger, that it burns down the entire house. / We should be careful that we do not miss out even the little things.

/Ephraim's mistake was that it did not do its best. / The Israelites were continuing to conquer the land of Canaan. / They should do their best till they conquer every land.

/If soccer players / play hard only for a few minutes in the game / and become lazy later in the game, / they won't be able to win. / They can win the game / only when they do their best till the referee blows the whistle.

/The same goes for our life today. / We should do everything until God says, "You can stop now." / We should leave everything to God. / And when we begin to do our best in our given situation, we can receive help from God.

/The tribe of Ephraim received many blessings, / but they failed to obey Him completely / and became careless with little things. / Thus, they committed a huge mistake. / We should not for a single moment let our defense down in our spiritual battle.

/It is easy for us to miss out on the little things / and be lazy in the comforts of our life. / It is easy for us to live the life we want to live, more than obeying His commands.

/This is why man of faith can be our teacher, / as well as the man of disobedience. / We should not walk the path of failure, / but of success.

/Next in chapter 17, / we can read about the allotment of the rest of the tribe of Manasseh.

*/Please read 17:1. / This was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh as Joseph's firstborn, that is, for Makir, Manasseh's firstborn. Makir was the ancestor of the Gileadites, who had received Gilead and Bashan because the Makirites were great soldiers.*

*/Manasseh is the firstborn of Joseph. / The half of the tribe received the allotment first in the east of the Jordan River. / This chapter is about the allotment of the other half of the tribe of Manasseh. / The other half received the allotment in the past. / But they should not stop there, / but keep pressing till they take everything God promised.*

*/We should not limit ourselves when it comes to the things that God promised us. / We ought to live and enjoy the life as God allowed us. / In verses 2-6, the daughters of Zelophehad received the allotment too.*

*/Verse 3. / Now Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons but only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.*

*/Zelophehad died in the wilderness. / He had no sons, but only daughters. /His daughters requested Joshua / to give the land not only to men, but also to women as well.*

*/In Jewish country, all the men take the allotment. / But God allowed Joshua to give the allotment to the daughters. / Why?*

*/He is teaching us that women can participate in the inheritance of God. / Women or men, given rights are equal. / Women also have the right to take the Kingdom of God. / All the believers in Jesus are one.*

*/Men are saved by believing in Jesus, / as well as women. / The same goes for receiving blessing. They need to obey His words first. / Poor or rich, people can go to Heaven only when they are saved by Jesus.*

*/Men and women can all enter heaven through faith in Christ. / God also allowed the allotment to the daughters / in order for the tribe to continue to have its descendants.*

*/If their request was not granted, / their tribe would have been cut off. / Anyone can take the inheritance of heaven once they accept Jesus in their heart. / Another reason He allowed it so / was to teach us that the inheritance of God passes down to generations and generations.*

*/The inheritance of Kingdom lasts forever. / The line of faith continues on and on. / Even if the world is destroyed today, the line of faith will last forever. / The job of families and churches today is to leave faith as their inheritance to their descendants.*

*/Parents should pass their faith to their children. / More than the material prosperity, / they should leave their children with faith to serve God. / The best inheritance in a family is faith.*

*/Even if parents do not have anything in worldly sense, / if they serve God with*

all their heart, their house will be blessed for generations and generations. / The daughters of Zelophahad requested for the land. / They knew that they have to pray for it even if it was promised to be given during the time of Moses.

/God told through Moses that the daughters of Zelophahad be given the land. /God promised them already, / but He caused them to pray for it to receive it. / Even today, we should hold onto His words and always pray upon it.

/If a believer does not pray, he or she will live a life with many losses. / There are no limits to prayer. / We should always pray that His words be realized in our life.

/Everything that God allowed is bound to happen. / The daughters were always sure of His words. / They remembered His promise. / They remembered what Moses told them.

/So they asked for the land. / It is important today that we know His words. / His words should not just be based on our knowledge. / We should pray that His words will come true.

/We should strive that His words will be our fruit. / The daughters pleaded to Joshua, while they hold on to His words. / "Grant us the inheritance too!"

/Joshua gave the inheritance because he knew they were asking for it with confidence in the Word of God. / Next in verses 7-13, the half of Manasseh's tribe is mentioned.

*/Verse 7. / The territory of Manasseh extended from Ashei to Mikmethath east of Shechem. The boundary ran southward from there to include the people living at En Tappuah.*

/By south, it was near the tribe of Ephraim and Dan. / By north, Issachar, / Zebulun, / and Asher. / These tribes were in vicinity of Manasseh. / Another important fact here is that / every tribe has its own place God ordained.

/They cannot just decide by saying, "I want to live in south. I want to live in the northern area." / They all have places God chose for them. / In our church today, / Christ is the head of our church / and we are the members.

/We should do our best in our given places. / Those who work outside their places are those who break the order. / God is a God of order.

/There should be order in our house, / church, / and country. / How confusing and chaotic our life be without any order? /Especially for us believers of Jesus, we all have places God ordained for each of us.

/Thus, we should take our responsibility in our given position. / In our church today, / there is a place for pastors, / elders, / deacons, /and other members.

/Thus, a healthy church / is one in which its members do their best in their given position. / If the Israelites tried to take the land as much as they wanted by their greed, / they would have fought and blamed others.

/Thus, to get rid of the possibility of resentment and conflict / and to prevent any tribe from taking the land as they please, / the lands were distributed by drawing

lots. / They should receive the land they drew and believe it came from God.

/Even if they received a bad land compared to others, / they should not complain and say, "We've got a bad land." / They ought to believe that it is the land God allowed them. / And the land will turn fertile once they serve Him well there.

/It is the same today. / There are people who live in a wealthy environment, / while some the opposite. / But who is the very one who allowed such circumstances? / We should believe that all came from God.

/We should never complain. / If we serve Him well in our given circumstance, our place will turn good. / At times, out of human foolishness, we blame Him. / "Why did you grant me such harsh situation?"

/"Why did you not give me such a land?" / Those who do not know God think that bad luck caused them to be in their position. / But for us, we know that God grants us the exact circumstance we need. / We should trust in the sovereignty of God.

/We should take the circumstance we are in as the land He gave us. / When we begin to live our given circumstance with faith, our place will turn into blessing. / Many people try to live outside the given border, / but they cannot live a prosperous life, breaking the will of God.

/We should learn from this chapter / that every circumstance in our life is granted by God. /When we begin to live our life in thanksgiving, regardless of our situation, / God will grant us more blessing and grace. / The other half of the Manasseh tribe / failed to completely drive out the Canaanites as well.

*/Verses 12-13. / Yet the Manassites were not able to occupy these towns, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that region. However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor but did not drive them out completely.*

/They failed to serve God completely as well. / The Canaanites were determined to live in the land. / They were determined to not leave the land but live there.

/The Canaanites become a snare to the Israelites later on, harassing the Israelites very much. /We should get rid of every element of sin after we give our life to Jesus. / We should be sure to repent even our little sins.

/True repentance is cutting off sin and turning to God. / God said that we ought to get rid of even a form of evil. / Evil thought, / knowledge, / or ideology, we should get rid of them.

/We should not let sin root in us. / Sin is bound to grow without stopping. / Small sin becomes larger later on. / I cannot emphasize enough how many people failed because of such little sins.

/We should get rid of every element of sin. / Little sin intercepts God's blessing. / We should get rid of every element of our old self every day.

/Even for a saved believer, there are still elements of old self in him. / We must exterminate that in us.

/In verses 14-18, we can read that Joshua accepts the request of the tribe of

Joseph. / What did they ask for?

*/Verse 14. / The people of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for an inheritance? We are a numerous people, and the LORD has blessed us abundantly."*

/What did they ask for? / God blessed them and made them prosperous. / But the land was too small for that large tribe. / Therefore, they ask Joshua.

/They say that they have become a tribe of numerous people, / so they cannot live in the given allotment. / Give us more land, large enough for us to live. / How did Joshua reply? / It is written in verse 15.

*/Verse 15. / "'If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites."*

/"Go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites." / God granted us His grace today. / On the other side of the coin, we also should exert to expand our territory.

/We should daily live with a frontier spirit, which Joshua was requiring them to own. /Churches should be constructed in parts of the world / to spread the Gospel even in the remotest part of the earth. / There are many sufferings and sacrifices entailed to frontier spirit.

/But concerning the things God allowed us, there are things that we should strive for. / We should not just keep on asking God again and again, without doing anything. / We should have this frontier spirit and step forward for the Gospel to be spread all throughout the world.

/When God told the tribe of Joseph to go into the forest and take the land, He meant them to strive and work and eat for themselves. / God has granted them much grace for a long time. / "You strive yourselves, / work hard, / and expand your territory."

/There are things that God does, while there are things that we should do on our own. / We should not only eat the things that God provide for us, but also toil and eat our own sweat. / We Christians should have adventurous spirit.

*/Verse 16. / The people of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have chariots fitted with iron, both those in Beth Shan and its settlements and those in the Valley of Jezreel."*

/The people living in the land of Canaan are very strong. / They had chariots fitted with iron. / But the tribe of Joseph was confident that they can win them.

*/Verse 17. / But Joshua said to the tribes of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh —"You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment."*

/Joshua encouraged them with faith. / They became a tribe of great number of people. / How did this happen? / God was with them. / A man becomes powerful when God is with him. / Acts 1:8.

/Believers have great power because the Holy Spirit is with them. / The believers have power because they have faith. / We can daily win our spiritual battle / once

we continue to have this power.

/We should fight and defeat sin, / Satan, / and the world. / We can also manage our calling when we have the strength.

/With this I now end the fifteenth lecture on Joshua. / Thank you.