

Let us begin the seventeenth lecture. / Today's words are chapters 19 and 20. / Chapter 19 talks about the allotment of seven tribes. / The lands were distributed to them after Joshua casted lots.

/This was to make everything fair. /It was also to distribute according to His will. / Verses 1-9 are about the allotment of the tribe of Simeon.

*/Please read verse 1. / The second lot came out for the tribe of Simeon according to its clans. Their inheritance lay within the territory of Judah.*

/The remaining land of Canaan was divided into seven parts according to the casted lots. / The first part went to the tribe of Benjamin based on chapter 18. / "The second lot" here in 19:1 means after the Benjamin tribe.

/However, the inheritance of the tribe of Simeon came from the territory of Judah. /The inheritance of Simeon lay within the tribe of Judah. / Their land is situated at the southern part of the land of the tribe of Judah.

/The "Beersheba" in verse 2 is the place where Jacob dug the well. / 19 towns were given to the tribe of Simeon, as written in verses 2-8.

*/Verse 9. / The inheritance of the Simeonites was taken from the share of Judah, because Judah's portion was more than they needed. So the Simeonites received their inheritance within the territory of Judah.*

/God gave a lot of portions to Judah. / This was in fulfillment of Jacob's prayer. / God let the meek ones take many lands. / Why did God give a lot of portions to Judah?

/This is because the Judah tribe was composed of meek people / and of people who strive in helping other people. / The tribe had more lands than they needed.

/So God told them to share the land with the Simeonites. / They obeyed without any complaints.

/If they were greedy, / they would have easily responded, "We cannot give you this land because this is the land God allowed us." / What can we learn from this? / We can learn that we should serve others as much as we received.

/Why did God give us many grace and blessings? / For us to eat well and be happy for ourselves? / He gave us many things, so that we will share and help others. /God is pleased with such acts.

/Some have a lot, but ignorant of the fact they have many, living only for themselves. / But the blessed ones by God are those who give. / "Judah!" /"You have many lands!" / "Share that with Simeonites!"

/The tribe did not get greedy but obeyed the words. / What kind of people are blessed by God today? / We need to remember that the Judah tribe received many blessings in order for them to use those for God and for others.

/We should use our materials for God / and for our brothers and sisters in need. / Also for the Gospel as well. / God said that blessings are upon those who give.

/God will fill our needs abundantly when we serve and share our things to others. /In verses 10-16, / we can read about the allotment of tribe Zebulun.

*/Verse 10. / The third lot came up for Zebulun according to its clans. The boundary of their inheritance went as far as Sarid.*

*/God mentioned the boundary of the tribe of Zebulun. / He gave the entire area of Galilee hills into their hands. / Its territory was / by south it went as far as Sarid (verse 10). / By west, it went as far as Jokneam (verse 11). /*

*/By east, Daberath (verse 12). / And by north, it went as far as Hannathon (verse 14). / God gave the land according to its clans.*

*/Verse 16. / These towns and their villages were the inheritance of Zebulun, according to its clans.*

*/What does this teach us? / The tribe received the land by God's grace, not by their efforts. We can learn from here that God gives out of His grace. / Of course, there are things that are earned by ourselves. / But here in this case, they received the land according to His plan.*

*/When God gave the towns and villages according to its clans, / we can learn that we are to live "according to the things God gave us." / People are prone to blame and complain when things do not go as they planned. / But everyone should live according to the plan of God.*

*/Sometimes the Lord gives us much. / Sometimes He gives us little. / Regardless of what we received, we should live with what the Lord decided to give us. / What else can we learn from this?*

*/God gave the towns and villages according to their clans. / God gave each family just as they needed. / This is His amazing grace. / Next, we can read the allotment of Issachar in verses 17-23.*

*/Verse 17. / The fourth lot came out for Issachar according to its clans.*

*/The fourth one to receive the allotment was the tribe Issachar. /They received wide plain field in Jezreel. / Why? / God gave them the land that was best fitted for farming.*

*/There are various jobs in this world even today. / God gave jobs to each of us based on our abilities, / according to our gifts, / and capacities. / We should then give thanks to Him and believe that He gave us the most appropriate job.*

*/We should not compare with others. / We should believe that God gave us according to our needs. / He knows all of our situations and needs. /This is how God gave all tribes their lands. / All people their right jobs / and places.*

*/Thus, let us not compare ourselves with one another. / Let us trust that God gave us exactly what we need. / Issachar's allotment was fulfilled according to the prophesy of Jacob. / The world may change but God's words never change.*

*/The Bible today is His words of prophecy. / Past, present, and future / are all in the hands of God. / This is why we need to pray, holding unto His words.*

*/"May Your Words come true to me today!" / We got to trust that His words will come true and obey Him. / In verses 24-31, / Asher receives their inheritance.*

*/Verse 24. / The fifth lot came out for the tribe of Asher according to its clans.*

/The tribe of Asher received their land per clan. / They received the land from Tyre to Sidon. / The lands are main producer of olive oil. / God gave them the most fitting land for them.

/We should learn to be contented and grateful with the works God gave us. /We should believe that God lets us live in the best place. / The same goes for our job as well.

/So whatever we are doing and wherever we are, / we should believe that it is part of His plan. / Let us give thanks to God / and be faithful to what we are doing in our given circumstances, / glorifying Him.

/Verses 32-39/ are about the inheritance of Naphtali.

*/Verse 32. / The sixth lot came out for Naphtali according to its clans:*

/The tribe of Naphtali received the inheritance according to its clans as well. / They are given the lands that are at the end of northern area of Israel. / It was mostly hills of Galilee. / This happened just as God said.

/God led them to the most appropriate land. /Next in verses 40-48, / we can read about the allotment the tribe of Dan received.

*/Verse 40. / The seventh lot came out for the tribe of Dan according to its clans.*

/By east, it was near the Benjamin tribe, / while by south, it was near the tribe of Judah. / By north, it was near the tribe of Ephraim, / while the Mediterranean Sea was near its west. / The tribe of Dan was a very strong and brave tribe.

/But they did not enjoy their blessing because of their sins. / No matter how strong and brave a tribe is, / their sin will destroy them. / And in verses 49-51, / Joshua receives an inheritance.

*/Verses 49. / When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them,*

/Joshua distributed all the lands to all the tribes. / He got it last. / He is an excellent leader. / He could have thought of himself and took the land first. / Joshua was very humble, / and he thought of others first.

/He did not do anything according to His will but followed the commands of God. / Today in our generation is in need of leaders like Joshua. / Leaders who think of his or her members first / and who knows how to show kindness to others.

/Not only was he pure and frugal, / he was also peaceful. / He obeyed God's words and distributed the lands to the people graciously. / We need such leaders today.

/Leaders ought to show kindness to the weak / and think of their members first. / They should lead the people sacrificially. / This is why Joshua is a symbol of Jesus. / Jesus came to this earth in human body.

/Jesus did not live for Himself. / He obeyed the word of God very faithfully / and served the people here. / He said Himself / as He was washing the feet of His disciples, "Do as I do to you."

/He said, "I came to serve / not to be served." / Jesus did not value His life for us. / We should be like Joshua / and Jesus, / serving many people. / In this way, Joshua obeyed God's commands.

*/Verse 50. / as the LORD had commanded. They gave him the town he asked for—Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there.*

/ He built up the town and he was very strict in obeying the word of God. / We saved believers / ought to obey Him, in order for our territory to be expanded. / All of the tribes took the land with faith and obedience.

/"He built up the town and settled there."/ We need to obey His words whatever our situation is. / We need to ask ourselves what God asks us of us today in our given situation.

/We should fulfill His holy will through our obedience. / In verse 51, it is written, "And so they finished dividing the land."

*/Verse 51. / These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel assigned by lot at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting. And so they finished dividing the land.*

/Priest Eleazar / and Joshua the son of Nun took the calling faithfully. / The priest was a spiritual leader/ while Joshua was a political leader. / They both took His commands and divided the land wisely.

/They divided the land so there would be no conflict. / Joshua took the job very seriously until the end. / The verse says, "And so they finished dividing the land." / We ought to do our best in our calling today.

/They could have stopped from dividing the land if they were tired. / But they handled the command until the end. / Jesus also finished His calling here in this earth and died on the cross.

/What did He say at the cross? / "It is finished." / Though He lived a short life here, / He achieved God's will / and finished all duties God entrusted Him.

/Apostle Paul confessed the same too. / Near his death, / he said, "**I have** fought the good fight, / **I have finished** the race, / **I have** kept the faith."

/He valued the Gospel more than anything else. / He gave all of his life for evangelizing the world. / Until he died, / he took his calling.

/Why did God send us here? / What is the calling given to each of us today? / We need to live for the glory of God here in this earth/ and for the Gospel until we enter Heaven.

/Our health, / freedom, / grace and blessing / we received all for us to live for the Gospel. / What did Jesus say before He ascended to Heaven after His resurrection?

/"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."/ He also

commanded them to teach God's words. / He also said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you / and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

/In whatever we do in this world, / we got to take up our calling as witnesses of Jesus.

/Now in chapter 20, we can learn about the Cities of Refuge.

/Please read 20:1-2. / *Then the LORD said to Joshua: "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses,*

/It is written, "Then the LORD said to Joshua." / God is working in any generation through His servants. / He first gave commands to Moses / then Joshua.

/Even today, God is proclaiming His words through His servants. /In verse 2, / it is written, "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses." / The "Cities of Refuge" / means drawing people. / What kind of people took refuge here? / The answer is written in verse 3.

*/Verse 3. / so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.*

/Who can enter in the Cities of Refuge? / "anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there." / "Accidentally and unintentionally." / People who killed someone not intentionally / but by mistake can flee to the city.

/God built the City of Refuge system in order for others to preserve life. / "The avenger of blood" / refers to the relatives or other family members who would avenge the dead. / It would be easy for one to avenge a person who unintentionally killed a person.

/What does this teach us? / It is that God values life. / God's love is well manifested through this. / God is a God of love.

/He does not want His people to be destroyed. / He does not want His people to lose their lives out of such accidents. / God values one's life very much. / He made the City of Refuge system to preserve life.

/Who is our eternal Cities of Refuge? / Jesus. / There is forgiveness in Jesus, / as well as eternal life. / True freedom is in Jesus.

/Through our faith in Jesus we can possess eternal life and resurrection. / What was the regulation in the Cities of Refuge? / It is mentioned in verses 4-5.

*/Verse 4. / When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them.*

/Those who flee to the city will have to be permitted by the elders at the entrance of the city gate. / Thus, they will have to state their case before the elders at the entrance of the gate. / Then they will judge their case. / They will ask questions like, "What did they do to flee to the Cities of Refuge?"

/Did they kill a person intentionally or unintentionally? / The elders will make

the decision after they state their case. / The elders are the ones to judge their case.

/If they are let in, they are not to be sent outside.

*/Verse 5. / If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbor unintentionally and without malice aforethought.*

/When they have entered into the city, / even when the avenger of blood pursues them, / the elders must not surrender them. / This is because they killed one out of mistake, not out of hate.

/Why did God forbid the surrender of the fugitives? / Because the avengers will revenge the lost ones. / The Cities of Refuge were meant for God to protect people, not to avenge people. / He made such a system to protect people's lives.

/The avengers would have easily killed the fugitives if the elders surrendered them. / God protected them/ because they did not murder intentionally; they killed out of mistake.

/When can the fugitives be freed from the City? / When the high priest dies.

*/Verse 6. / They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled."*

/Once they flee to the Cities of Refuge, / they are not destined to live in the city forever. / They can come outside after the death of the high priest. / What can we learn from this?

/That God values life very much. / The system is meant to protect those who killed out of mistakes. / God values one life more important than the world. / No matter how wicked a man is, if he returns to God in repentance, He will give him life.

/It also teaches us that our refuge is God. / God is the maker / and builder of the Cities of Refuge. / God has made refuges in our lives.

/We can also learn that God is the One who forgives our sins. /No one can forgive our sins but God. / In verses 7-9, there are several Cities of Refuge.

*/Verses 7-8. / So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. East of the Jordan (on the other side from Jericho) they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh.*

/As written in verse 7, / there are three Cities of Refuge at west and east. / Why six? / In order for the people to flee easily. God showed His love through this.

/If it was in a faraway place, people would have difficulty fleeing to it. / There is also a possibility of being caught in the midway before getting there. / Our God took care of things, even the details. / In our life, we meet many temptations on the way.

/God has given us enough strength to overcome our temptations. / He has made the escape route already. / We have to serve our loving God, thanking Him for His grace. / And in verse 9, it is written that the Cities of Refuge was both for Gentiles and Jews.

*/Verse 9. / Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.*

/It is not only for the Israelites, / but also for foreigners residing among the Israelites. / Love of God does not show salvation only to one nation. / This teaches us that God's love is infinite.

/All people, whether they are Jews, / Gentiles, / or other nations, can take refuge in the Cities of Refuge. / It transcends race / and gender. / What can we learn from the Cities of Refuge?

/First, Jesus Christ is our Cities of Refuge. / One can enter into the Cities of Refuge only when one acknowledges one's sin. / Only people who are aware of their sinful state seek Jesus. / "I am a sinner."

/"I will die because of my sins. I am bound for Hell." / "I cannot solve my problem of sin on my own." / Those who understand that can believe that Jesus is their Savior.

/Second, we are safe only in Jesus. / He is our eternal City of Refuge. / There is no condemnation in Him. / All of our sins are forgiven in Him.

/There are many religions today in the world. / But the only Savior is Jesus. / Only the blood of Jesus can declare our sins forgiven. / There is no other way.

/We can be forgiven and be saved after we believe in Jesus. / Jesus completed the path to Redemption, paving a path for people to get saved. / We can be saved and have life – eternal life – just by believing in Jesus, our Cities of Refuge.

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