

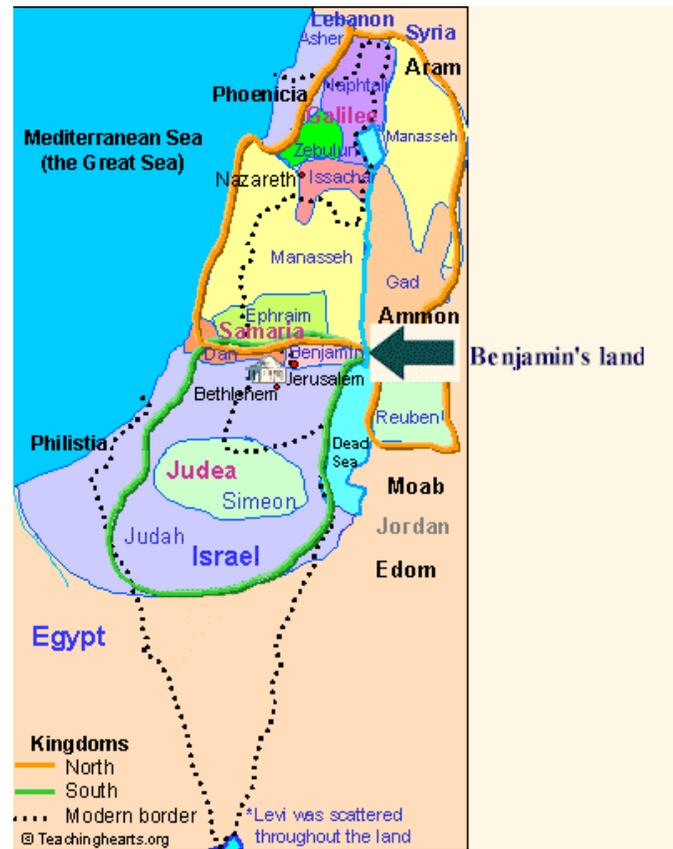
**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
April 27, 2016**

- ✓ **Joshua 18:1-19:9.** The allotments for the remaining tribes.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 12:1-10.** Suffering.
- ✓ **Psalms 56.** Deliverance so one may walk with the Lord.

COMMENTS:

Joshua 18:1-19:9. The first ten verses provide an introduction, which is followed by the allotment of territory of Benjamin (18:11-28) and Simeon (19:1-9). Note the signs of trouble in the introductory section in 18:3: *So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?"*

Seems as if there is a problem with apathy and listlessness. We see that today on a massive scale in contemporary Christianity as far as the Whole Truth, Total Truth of God’s Word. People are so worn out from chasing the world that they have little time or energy for being serious about the spiritual life. Perhaps in the back of their minds they are thinking they will enjoy their secular life—a secular life that may contain lip service to the Lord and trust in Him for protection—and someday in the future get serious about God. In other words, when they are through chasing the world. However, such thinking is nothing short of delusion for every passing day that is lost in God’s plan of advancing spiritually is a day that the enemy and his vices become further entrenched in the life—as illustrated on another level with Joshua’s fear of the Canaanites returning and becoming more entrenched in the land. How many parents believe that when they have time after raising kids, then they will get serious about the Lord only to end up with empty meaningless life with little to no desire to study the Word, love the Lord, and look forward to eternal glory with Him? How many “empty” parents are filled with loneliness because they put their own kids before the Lord and now that their kids are gone, they feel they no longer have much purpose. As far as that goes, how many believers these days really sit down and think long and hard—meditate—on the next phase of their lives with the Lord instead of being obsessed with this world fretting about loneliness, disease, age, death? Take it from the Lord, “redeem the time” for every day counts forever. We do not have time to waste for we are made for eternity.



2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Although no one knows precisely what Paul's thorn in the flesh was, it was likely a health issue (ophthalmia, malaria). We are not told exactly how he received this thorn, whether it was part of the corrupted world or induced by Satan himself. In either case, God is not the direct or efficient cause. He may have permitted the illness as part of the corrupted world or He may have permitted Satan to induce the illness as with Job. God never directly brings in evil suffering, not even to make someone humble. Again, one must make a distinction between why God permits something and what one can gain from it. Paul learned to gain greater spiritual perspective. I have noted that there are three sources of suffering: (1) suffering for righteousness, (2) suffering for divine discipline, and (3) suffering that is part of the natural and corrupted order, like bad genes. In this case we can definitely see the first one ("for Christ's sake") and the possibility of the third one. While I am on the subject, the joy that a believer gains from suffering for righteousness, here as well as in James and Romans 5:1-5, are inextricably connected with the eternal perspective and anticipation of future glory. It does not apply to things like general suffering like headaches and flats, which is why no sane person rejoices over having a flat or personal problems that have nothing to do with suffering for Christ.

Psalms 56. This is a song of trust ascribed to the time of David's visit to Gath (see 1 Sam. 21:10; Ps. 34). David asserted that even though his enemies waited to destroy him, he trusted confidently in the Lord who knew his sufferings. His confidence led him to anticipate praising God for deliverance from this danger. Although the psalms are often cited as examples of testing (with the implication that God sent the test to make the believer stronger), does it really make sense to view God as sending evil suffering to David so David would turn to Him and praising Him for being so wonderful? Note the intimacy of God's attitude in verse 8: the image of David's tears being collected in a wineskin is a beautiful depiction of God remembering his suffering. Because of that fact, he could say with full confidence. "God is for me." Note how his love for the Lord translated to love for His Word in verse 10. David did not want to be delivered simply for the sake of deliverance, he wanted to be delivered from evil so he "could walk in the light of life," which is just another way of describing walking with the Lord.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don