

Land Allotment

for

Judah

Joshua 15:1-63

Land Allotment for Judah

Text:

Joshua 15:1-63,

- 1. The allotment for the tribe of Judah, clan by clan, extended down to the territory of Edom, to the Desert of Zin in the extreme south.**
- 2. Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the Salt Sea,**
- 3. crossed south of Scorpion Pass, continued on to Zin and went over to the south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it ran past Hezron up to Addar and curved around to Karka.**
- 4. It then passed along to Azmon and joined the Wadi of Egypt, ending at the sea. This is their southern boundary.**
- 5. The eastern boundary is the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. The northern boundary started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan,**
- 6. went up to Beth Hoglah and continued north of Beth Arabah to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.**
- 7. The boundary then went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor and turned north to Gilgal, which faces the Pass of Adummim south of the gorge. It continued along to the waters of En Shemesh and came out at En Rogel.**
- 8. Then it ran up the Valley of Ben Hinnom along the southern slope of the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem). From there it climbed to the top of the hill west of the Hinnom Valley at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.**
- 9. From the hilltop the boundary headed toward the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, came out at the towns of Mount Ephron and went down toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim).**
- 10. Then it curved westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, ran along**

the northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is, Kesalon), continued down to Beth Shemesh and crossed to Timnah.

11. It went to the northern slope of Ekron, turned toward Shikkeron, passed along to Mount Baalah and reached Jabneel. The boundary ended at the sea.

12. The western boundary is the coastline of the Great Sea. These are the boundaries around the people of Judah by their clans.

13. In accordance with the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)

14. From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai—descendants of Anak.

15. From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher).

16. And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher."

17. Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage.

18. One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What can I do for you?"

19. She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

20. This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, clan by clan:

21. The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev toward the boundary of Edom were: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

22. Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

23. Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

24. Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

25. Hazor Hadattah, Kerioth Hezron (that is, Hazor),

26. Amam, Shema, Moladah,

- 27. Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet,**
- 28. Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,**
- 29. Baalah, Iim, Ezem,**
- 30. Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah,**
- 31. Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,**
- 32. Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain and Rimmon—a total of twenty-nine towns and their villages.**
- 33. In the western foothills: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,**
- 34. Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam,**
- 35. Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,**
- 36. Shaaraim, Adithaim and Gederah (or Gederothaim)—fourteen towns and their villages.**
- 37. Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad,**
- 38. Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel,**
- 39. Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,**
- 40. Cabbon, Lahmas, Kitlish,**
- 41. Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah and Makkedah—sixteen towns and their villages.**
- 42. Libnah, Ether, Ashan,**
- 43. Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,**
- 44. Keilah, Aczib and Mareshah—nine towns and their villages.**
- 45. Ekron, with its surrounding settlements and villages;**
- 46. west of Ekron, all that were in the vicinity of Ashdod, together with their villages;**
- 47. Ashdod, its surrounding settlements and villages; and Gaza, its settlements and villages, as far as the Wadi of Egypt and the coastline of the Great Sea.**
- 48. In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,**
- 49. Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (that is, Debir),**
- 50. Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,**
- 51. Goshen, Holon and Giloh—eleven towns and their villages.**
- 52. Arab, Dumah, Eshan,**
- 53. Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah,**

- 54. Humtah, Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) and Zior—nine towns and their villages.**
- 55. Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,**
- 56. Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,**
- 57. Kain, Gibeah and Timnah—ten towns and their villages.**
- 58. Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor,**
- 59. Maarath, Beth Anoth and Eltekon—six towns and their villages.**
- 60. Kirith Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim) and Rabbah—two towns and their villages.**
- 61. In the desert: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah.**
- 62. Nibshan, the City of Salt and En Gedi—six towns and their villages.**
- 63. Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah. (NIV)**

Introduction:

- I. In this chapter, Coffman wrote, we have: ...
 - A. An outline of the borders of Judah's territory in ideal terms (verses 1-12), ...
 - B. an account of Caleb's occupation of Hebron and Debir (verses 13-19), and ...
 - C. a statistical list of the cities awarded to Judah.

- II. Philbeck via Coffman gives this approximation of Judah's borders: "It ran from the lower tip of the Dead Sea southwest to Kadesh-Barnea, and thence northwest to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the southern

border. The northern border followed the line a traveler would normally follow in going from the northern tip of the Dead Sea (where the Jordan River enters) to the Mediterranean, Judah's land included all the territory between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean as restricted by the north and south borders. This included all the land of the Philistines. It did not include Jerusalem, but lay south of that city."

III. The allotment of the land to Israel was spoken of in terms of "inheritance" and "gift", but, after the seven and one-half (7 ½) year war under the command of Joshua, the land had to be taken hill by hill, village by village, and house by house and this took generations to accomplish, longer than it should have taken due to lack of dedicated obedience by the Israelites. (Ziese)

IV. Ziese described Judah's boundaries as follows: ...

- A. The southern boundary ran from the south end of the Dead Sea westward through the desert to the Mediterranean Sea.
- B. The eastern boundary was the Dead Sea.
- C. The western boundary was the Mediterranean Sea.
- D. The northern boundary is more difficult to identify beginning at the mouth of the Jordan River at the Dead Sea, continued over the Central Ridge (just south of Jerusalem), and from there down to the Mediterranean.

Commentary:

Judah's Southern Border

Joshua 15:1, The allotment for the tribe of Judah, clan by clan, extended down to the territory of Edom, to the Desert of Zin in the extreme south. (NIV)

I. The land allotment for the tribe of Judah, ...

A. Due to the defections of Reuben, Simeon and Levi, the right of primogeniture fell to Reuben whose land allotment is here assigned first.

B. Judah inherited the southernmost territory. (Ziese)

II. clan by clan, ...

A. That is, family by family, each family/clan having descended from a common ancestor.

III. extending down to the territory of Edom, ...

A. Edom; that is, Esau, was the twin brother of Jacob, later named Israel.

B. The territory of Edom “included the region beginning in the north at the River Zered, a natural boundary also for southern Moab, and extending southward to the Gulf of Aqabah. At times it included mountain ranges and fertile plateaus on the east and west of the Arabah, the desert valley south of the Dead Sea.” (Youngblood)

IV. to the Desert of Zin, ...

A. “The Wilderness of Zin stretched along the extreme southern limits of the Promised Land.” (Youngblood)

A. Numbers 31:21, Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, "This is the requirement of the law that the LORD gave Moses: (NIV)

B. Numbers 20:1, In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. (NIV)

V. in the extreme south.

Joshua 15:2, Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the Salt Sea, (NIV)

I. Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the Salt Sea, ... (Dead Sea)

Joshua 15:3, crossed south of Scorpion Pass, continued on to Zin and went over to the south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it ran past Hezron up to Addar and curved around to Karka. (NIV)

I. crossed south of Scorpion Pass, ... (the ascent of Akrabbim)

A. Akrabbim (scorpions) was an ascending slope and mountain pass located on the southeast border of Judah near the Dead Sea and the Wilderness of Zin. It abounded in scorpions. (Youngblood)

II. continued on to Zin and, ...

A. Zin, a wilderness area, located west of the Arabah, south of the Salt Sea, and northwest of the Gulf of Aqabah, and was on the southern boundary of the tribe of Judah. (Bromiley)

III. went over to the south of Kadesh Barnea.

A. “Kadesh Barnea (consecrated) was a wilderness region between Egypt and the land of Canaan.” (Youngblood)

1. “Kadesh Barnea was situated on the edge of Edom and was located seventy (70) miles from Hebron and fifty (50) miles from Beersheba in the Wilderness of Zin.” (Youngblood)

2. It was from Kadesh Barnea that Moses sent spies into Canaan, ten (10) of whom returned a negative report while only two (2) of whom returned a positive report.

IV. Then it ran past Hezron, ...

A. Hezron was a town on the southern border of Judah between Kadesh Barnea and Addar. (Bromiley)

V. up to Addar and, ...

A. Addar was a town on the southern border of Judah, the same as Hazar-Addar. (Bromiley)

VI. curved around to Karka.

A. The exact location of Karka is not known. It was a border town of the territory of Judah. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:5, The eastern boundary is the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. The northern boundary started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan, (NIV)

I. It then passed along to Azmon and, ...

A. Azmon was located on the southwest border of Judah between Hazar Addar and the “Brook of Egypt”.

1. **Numbers 34:4, 5, cross south of ScorpionPass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon, where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Sea. (NIV)**

II. joined the Wadi of Egypt, ...

A. “*Wadi* is a valley, ravine, or riverbed that usually remains dry except during the rainy season; a stream that flows through such a channel.” (Youngblood)

III. ending at the sea; that is, the Mediterranean Sea.

IV. This is their southern boundary.

Judah’s Eastern Boundary

Joshua 15:5a, The eastern boundary is the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. (NIV)

I. The eastern boundary is the Salt Sea, ... (Dead Sea)

II. as far as the mouth of the Jordan, the point at which the Jordan River enters the Dead/Salt Sea.

Judah's Northern Boundary

Joshua 15:5b, The northern boundary started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan, (NIV)

I. The northern boundary started from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan, ...

Joshua 15:6, went up to Beth Hoglah and continued north of Beth Arabah to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. (NIV)

I. went up to Beth Hoglah and, ...

A. Beth Hoglah was located about four (4) miles southeast of Jericho.

II. and continued north of Beth Arabah, ...

A. Beth Arabah was located southeast of Jericho. (Youngblood)

III. to the Stone of Bohan, ...

A. The Stone of Bohan was a boundary marker on the northeast frontier of Judah. (Bromiley)

IV. son of Reuben.

A. Bohan was a son of Reuben. (Bromiley)

Joshua 15:7, The boundary then went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor and turned north to Gilgal, which faces the Pass of Adummim south of the gorge. It continued along to the waters of En Shemesh and came out at En Rogel. (NIV)

I. The boundary then went up to Debir, ...

A. Debir was located on Judah's northern border near the Valley of Achor.

II. from the Valley of Achor and, ...

A. The Valley of Achor was located near Jericho. (Youngblood)

1. It was here that Achan was stoned to death. (Youngblood)

III. turned north to Gilgal, ...

A. This Gilgal (wheel or circle) was the common name given to all the Israelite encampments, and may or may not be the Gilgal at which the Israelites first encamped following the crossing of the Jordan River which Gilgal appears to have been on Benjamin's northern boundary. (Pulpit Commentary)

IV. which faces the Pass of Adummim, ...

A. "This pass lead down from the hill country surrounding Jerusalem to the lowlands of Jericho and the Jordan River valley near the boundary between Benjamin and Judah." (Youngblood)

V. south of the gorge, river, summer torrent, which is thought to be the Wadi Kelt, south of Riha. (Pulpit Commentary)

VI. It continued along to the waters of En Shemesh, ...

A. "This spring served as a landmark on the border between Judah and Benjamin. It is thought to have been located east of Bethany on the Jerusalem-to-Jericho road." (Youngblood)

VII. and come out at En Rogel.

A. “En Rogel (launderer’s well) was located on the border between Judah and Benjamin, east of Jerusalem, near the Valley of the son of Hinnom.” (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:8, Then it ran up the Valley of Ben Hinnom along the southern slope of the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem). From there it climbed to the top of the hill west of the Hinnom Valley at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim. (NIV)

I. Then it ran up the Valley of Ben (son of) Hinnom, ...

A. The Valley of Hinnom was a deep, narrow ravine west and south of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

1. The Valley of Ben (the son of) Hinnom (Gehenna in Greek) became an unsavory place. (Youngblood)

II. along the southern slope of the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem).

1. Jebus was an early name for Jerusalem and its original inhabitants were known as Jebusites. (See Youngblood).

III. From there it climbed to the top of the hill west of the Hinnom Valley, ...

IV. at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.

A. The Valley of Rephaim was located between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:9, From the hilltop the boundary headed toward the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, came out at the towns of Mount Ephron and went down toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim). (NIV)

I. From the hilltop the boundary headed toward the spring of the waters (springs) of Nephtoah, ...

A. Springs in an arid land were essential.

1. The waters (springs or fountains) were located on the Judah/Benjamin border. (See Youngblood).

II. came out at the towns of Mount Ephron and, ...

A. Mount Ephron was a ridge of mountains between Nephtoah and Kirjath Jearim on the Judah/Benjamin border. (Youngblood)

III. went down toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim).

A. Baalah (Kiriath Jearim) was a town located near Gezer which originally was a fortified city that belonged to the Gibeonites. (Youngblood)

1. Baalah may have been an old Canaanite “high place”, a place of idolatrous worship of Baal. (Youngblood)

2. Baalah was on the western part of the boundary line between Judah and Benjamin. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:10, Then it curved westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, ran along the northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is, Kesalon), continued down to Beth Shemesh and crossed to Timnah. (NIV)

I. Then it curved westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, ...

A. This Mount Seir was located on the northern border of the territory of Judah about twelve (12) miles west of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

II. ran along the northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is, Kesalon), ...

A. Kesalon (Chesalon)/Mount Jearim was on the northern boundary of Judah about nine (9) miles west of Jerusalem.

III. continued down to Beth Shemesh and, ...

A. Beth Sehmesh (house of the sun god) was a town in the Valley of Sorek about fifteen (15) miles west of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

IV. crossed to Timnah.

A. Timnah was a city on the northern border of Judah. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:11, It went to the northern slope of Ekron, turned toward Shikkeron, passed along to Mount Baalah and reached Jabneel. The boundary ended at the sea. (NIV)

I. It went to the northern slope of Ekron, ...

A. Ekron was the northernmost of the five (5) chief cities of the Philistines and was located near the Mediterranean Sea about thirty-five (35) miles west of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

1. Ekron was on Judah's northwestern border.

II. turned toward Shikkeron, ...

A. Shikkeron (a form of Shieron) was a city west of Jerusalem on the northern border of Judah. (Youngblood)

III. passed along to Mount Baalah and, ...

1. Baalah (lady, mistress) is the feminine form of Baal and Mount Baalah was located between Ekron and Jabneel, which marked Judah's boundary at this point. (Youngblood and Bromiley)

2. Jabneel (or Jabneed) was the place at which the northern border of Judah met the Mediterranean. (Coffman)

a. Jabneel was located seven (7) or eight (8) miles south of Joppa. (Coffman)

3. "Judah did not subdue the Philistines who remained powerful enemies of Israel right down to the times of David and Solomon. As many have pointed out, these boundaries were more ideal than actual, dealing with what God had promised Israel rather than being restricted to what Israel was able to possess," Coffman wrote.

a. Numbers 34:3-5, " 'Your southern side will include some of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. On the east, your southern boundary will start from the end of the Salt Sea, cross south of Scorpion Pass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon, where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Sea. (NIV)

IV. reached Jabneel.

A. Jabneel (Jabneeb) was a city on the northern border of Judah, the same place as the Philistine city of Jabneh, (Youngblood) the place at which Judah's northern border reached the Mediterranean Sea. (Coffman)

V. The boundary ended at the sea, that is, the Mediterranean Sea.

Judah's Western Boundary

Joshua 15:12, The western boundary is the coastline of the Great Sea. These are the boundaries around the people of Judah by their clans. (NIV)

I. The western boundary is the coastline of the Great Sea; that is, the Mediterranean Sea.

II. These are the boundaries around the people of Judah by their clans, families descended from common ancestors.

Caleb's Inheritance

Joshua 15:13, In accordance with the LORD's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.) (NIV)

I. In accordance with the LORD's command to him, ...

A. God commanded and Joshua obeyed!

II. Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—

A. Joshua and Caleb were the two faithful spies that brought back a

favorable report in regard to Israel's ability, with God's help, to take possession of Canaan at that time.

III. Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron.

A. Hebron was located about nineteen (19) miles south southwest of Jerusalem on a sloping hill. (Bromiley)

1. The ancient name for Hebron was Kiriath Arba (city of the four) which was named for Arba, one of the giant Anakim.

IV. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)

A. The Anakites were giants, fierce warriors.

Joshua 15:14, From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai—descendants of Anak. (NIV)

I. From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites—

A. Anakites/Anakim were pre-Israelite inhabitants of Canaan, descendants of Arba. (Bromiley)

1. The Anakites were formidable warriors, giants, tall people.

2. **Judges 1:10, 20, They advanced against the Canaanites living in Hebron (formerly called Kiriath Arba) and defeated Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai. As Moses had promised, Hebron was given to Caleb, who drove from it the three sons of Anak. (NIV)**

3. **Numbers 13:22, 28, They went up through the Negev**

and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. (NIV)

4. 2 Samuel 21:16, 18, And Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels and who was armed with a new sword, said he would kill David. In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha. (NIV)

II. Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai—

III. descendants of Anak.

A. Anak was a son of Arba. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:15, From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher). (NIV)

I. From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher).

A. Debir was a town in the Judean hill country south of Hebron.

B. Names of this location have varied; visibly, Debir, Kiriath Sepher, Kirjath Sepher and Kirjath Sanuah. (Youngblood)

Joshua 15:16, And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher." (NIV)

I. And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher." (Debir)

A. **Judges 1:11-15, From there they advanced against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher). And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher." Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage. One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What can I do for you?" She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." Then Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. (NIV)**

Joshua 15:17, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage. (NIV)

I. Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; ...

A. Kenaz was Caleb's brother making Othniel Caleb's nephew.

1. Coffman concluded that both Caleb and Othniel were sons of Kenaz, making Othniel Caleb's younger brother. If this is correct, Caleb's daughter married her uncle.

B. Othniel became a judge of Israel.

1. Judges 3:7-11, The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs. The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died. (NIV)

II. so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage.

A. Acsah married her first cousin, perhaps her uncle.

Joshua 15:18, One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What can I do for you?" (NIV)

I. One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field; that is, a field with springs of water.

II. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, ...

III. "What can I do for you?"

A. This is a question many loving fathers have asked?

Joshua 15:19, She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. (NIV)

- I. She (Acsah, "Anklet") replied, "Do me a special favor.
- II. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water."
- A. Negev (Negeb) was the dry, parched desert or wilderness area in the southern part of the territory allotted to Judah. (Youngblood)
- B. Water in the desert was necessary for survival.
- C. Caleb's daughter was really saying, "You have given me a dry or an arid estate," Coffman wrote.
 - 1. "Therefore, she requested springs which her father willingly gave her," Coffman further wrote.

III. So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

Note: There were well over one hundred (100) towns allotted to Judah. These places were often known by different names. They were also subject to different spellings in the various versions of the Bible.

Judah's Inheritance, Clan by Clan

Joshua 15:20, This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, clan by clan: (NIV)

I. This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah, clan by clan: ...

Judah's Southernmost Towns

Judah 15:21-32, The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev to-ward the boundary of Edom were: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, Hazor Hadattah, Kerioth Hezron (that is, Hazor), Amam, Shema, Moladah, Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, Baalah, Iim, Ezem, Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain and Rimmon—a total of twenty-nine towns and their villages. (NIV)

I. The southernmost towns of the tribe of Judah, ...

II. in the Negev (Negeb) toward the boundary of Edom were: ...

III. Towns: ...

A. Kabzeel, ...

1. Kabzeel (God gathers) was a city in Judah near the border of Edom. (Youngblood)

B . Eder, ...

1. Eder (flock) was a town of southern Judah which was located four (4) or five (5) miles south of Gaza. (Youngblood)

C. Jagur, ...

1. Jagur (he dwells) was a town in southeastern Judah, near the border with Edom. (Youngblood)

D. Kinah, ...

1. Kinah (lamentation) was a city on the southern boundary of Judah, probably not far from the Dead Sea. (Youngblood)

E. Dimonah, ...

1. Dimonah (Dibon) was a city in the Negeb (southern wilderness) of Judah, near Edom. (Youngblood)

F. Adadah, ...

1. Adadah was a city in southern Judah “toward the border of Edom”. (Youngblood)

G. Kedesh, ...

1. Kedesh (holy) was a city in southern Judah. (Youngblood)

H. Hazor, ...

1. This Hazor (enclosure), not to be confused with the city by the same name in northern Palestine, was a city in the southern desert of Judah. (See Youngblood)

I. Ithnan, ...

1. Ithnon (constant) was a city in southern Judah near Hazor. (Youngblood)

J. Ziph, ...

1. Ziph was a city in the Maon district of Judah about four (4) miles southeast of Hebron.

K. Telem, ...

1. Telem (a lamb) was a city in southern Judah.

L. Bealoth, ...

1. Bealoth (possessors) was a town in southern Judah and may be the same town as Baalath Beer.

a. **Joshua 19:8, and all the villages around these towns as far as Baalath Beer (Ramahin the Negev). This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Simeonites, clan by clan. (NIV)**

M. Hazor-Hattah, ...

1. Hadattah (new) is a word describing Hazor, a city in the territory of Judah called Hazor-Hadattah in the NRSV, NASB, REB, NIV, but treated as two separate cities in the KJV and NKJV. (Youngblood)

N. Kerioth Hezron (that is, Hazor), ...

1. Kerioth-Hezron was a city of Judah near Edom, (Youngblood). The AV takes the Hebrew as indicating two places, Kerioth and Hezron. (Bromiley)

O. Amam, ...

1. Amam was an unidentified town in southern Canaan assigned to Judah. (Youngblood) This is the only mention of Amam in the Old Testament.

P. Shema, ...

1. Shema was the name of a city in the Negev, in southern Judah, near the border of Edom. (Youngblood)

Q. Moladah, ...

1. Moladah (origin) was a city in southern Judah, about 14 (14) miles southwest of Beersheba.

R. Hazar Gaddah, ...

1. Hazar Gaddah was a village in southern Judah between Moladah and Heshmon. (Youngblood)

S. Heshmon, ...

1. Heshmon was a town in southern Judah between Moldah and Beersheba. (Youngblood)

T. Beth Pelet, ...

1. Beth Pelet (house of escape) was a town in the Negeb of Judah, toward the border of Edom. (KJV reads Beth-phelet). (Youngblood)

U. Hazar Shual, ...

1. Hazar Shual (village of the jackal) was a town in southern Judah. (Youngblood)

V. Beersheba, ...

1. Beersheba (well of the seven or well of the oath) was the chief city in the Negev, was located midway between the Mediterranean Sea and the southern end of the Dead Sea, and was considered to be the southern extremity of the Promised Land. (Youngblood)

W. Biziothial,

1. Biziothial (a form of Bizjothjah) was a town in southern Judah near Beersheba. (Youngblood)

X. Baalah, ...

1. Baalah (lady, mistress) was a town in southern Judah near the border with Edom. It was also called Balah and Bilhah. (Youngblood)

Y. Iim, ...

1. Iim, a form of Ijim (heaps, ruins), was a city in southern Judah.

Z. Ezem, ...

1. Ezem (mighty) was a village in the Negeb of Judah situated south of Beersheba near the border of Edom.

AA. Eltolad, ...

1. Eltolad was a town in southern Judah. Eltolad was also called Tolad. (Youngblood)

BB. Kesil, ...

1. Kesil, a form of Chesil, was a village in southern Judah. (Youngblood)

CC. Hormah, ...

1. Hormah (complete destruction) was a Canaanite city in southern Judah, near Ziklag on the border of Edom. Originally this city was called Zephath. (Youngblood)

DD. Ziklag, ...

1. Ziklag was a city in the Negev, or southern Judah. Ziklag was about twenty (20) miles southwest of Gaza. (Youngblood)

a. 1 Samuel 27:1-12, But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand." So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maoch king of Gath. David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal. When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a

place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months. Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites." He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.' " And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant forever." (NIV)

b. 1 Chronicles 12:1-22, These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors who helped him in battle; they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left- handed; they were kinsmen of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin): Ahiezer their chief and Joash the sons of Shemaah the

Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berakah, Jehu the Anathothite, and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the Thirty, who was a leader of the Thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite, Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah and Shephatiah the Haruphite; Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer and Jashobeam the Korahites; and Joelah and Zebadiah the sons of Jeroham from Gedor. Some Gadites defected to David at his stronghold in the desert. They were brave warriors, ready for battle and able to handle the shield and spear. Their faces were the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles in the mountains. Ezer was the chief, Obadiah the second in command, Eliab the third, Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, Jeremiah the tenth and Macbannai the eleventh. These Gadites were army commanders; the least was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand. It was they who crossed the Jordan in the first month when it was overflowing all its banks, and they put to flight everyone living in the valleys, to the east and to the west. Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also came to David in his stronghold. David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in peace, to help me, I am ready to have you unite with me. But if you have come to betray me to my enemies when my hands are free from violence, may the God of our fathers see it and judge you." Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the Thirty, and he said: "We are yours, O David! We are with you, O

son of Jesse! Success, success to you, and success to those who help you, for your God will help you." So David received them and made them leaders of his raiding bands. Some of the men of Manasseh defected to David when he went with the Philistines to fight against Saul. (He and his men did not help the Philistines because, after consultation, their rulers sent him away. They said, "It will cost us our heads if he deserts to his master Saul.") When David went to Ziklag, these were the men of Manasseh who defected to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu and Zillethai, leaders of units of a thousand in Manasseh. They helped David against raiding bands, for all of them were brave warriors, and they were commanders in his army. Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God. (NIV)

EE. Madmannah, ...

1. Madmannah was a town in the southern wilderness of Judah near Ziklag, perhaps the same place as Beth Marcaboth.
 - a. **1 Chronicles 4:31, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri and Shaaraim. These were their towns until the reign of David. (NIV)**

FF. Sansannah, ...

1. Sansannah (thornbush) was a city in the Negev, the extreme southern part of Judah.

GG. Lebaoth, ...

1. Lebaoth (man of heart), the same as Beth Lebaoth (house of lionesses), was located in southern Judah near Sharuhem. (Youngblood)

HH. Shilhim, ...

1. Shilhim was a city in southern Judah. (Youngblood)

II. Ain and, ...

1. Ain was a city originally assigned to Judah and is here as well as elsewhere on occasion associated with Rimmon. (Youngblood)

JJ. Rimmon—

1. Rimmon (pomegranate) was a town in southern Judah located about nine (9) miles northeast of Beersheba. (Youngblood)

KK. a total of twenty-nine (29) towns and their villages.

Note: The number given here is twenty-nine (29), but, in fact, thirty-six (36) places are named. This is also reflected in the LXX. (Coffman)

Judah's Western Foothills Towns

Joshua 15:33-47, In the western foothills: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, 34. Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, Shaaraim, Adithaim and Gederah (or Gederothaim)—fourteen towns and their villages. Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, Cabbon,

Lahmas, Kitlish, Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah and Makkedah—sixteen towns and their villages. Libnah, Ether, Ashan, Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, Keilah, Aczib and Mareshah—nine towns and their villages. Ekron, with its surrounding settlements and villages; west of Ekron, all that were in the vicinity of Ashdod, together with their villages; Ashdod, its surrounding settlements and villages; and Gaza, its settlements and villages, as far as the Wadi of Egypt and the coastline of the Great Sea. (NIV)

I. In the western foothills: ...

A. Eshtaol, ...

1. Eshtaol was located in the Shephelah (lowland country) of Judah. Samson was buried at Eshtaol. (Youngblood)

a. **Judges 16:31, Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years. (NIV)**

B. Zorah, ...

1. Zorah was a city in the Shephelah (lowland country) of Judah. (Youngblood)

a. Zorah was the home of Manoah, the father of Samson. (Youngblood)

C. Ashnah, ...

1. Ashnah was a village in the Shephelah, or lowland plain of Judah. (Youngblood)
 - a. **Joshua 15:33, In the western foothills: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, (NIV)**
2. Ashnah was also the name of another village farther south in the Shephelah. (Youngblood)
 - a. **Joshua 15:43, Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, (NIV)**

D. Zanoah, ...

1. Zanoah was a city in the Shephelah, or low hill country of Judah, and is thought to have been located about three (3) miles southeast of Beth Shemesh. (Youngblood)

E. En Gannim, ...

1. En Gannim was a city in the lowlands of Judah near Zanoah and Tappuah. (Youngblood)

F. Tappuah, ...

1. Tappuah was a city in the lowland of Judah. (Youngblood)

G. Enam, ...

1. Enam (two fountains) was a village in the lowlands of Judah near Jarmuth, probably the same place as Enaim. (Youngblood)

H. Jarmuth, ...

1. Jarmuth was a city in the lowlands of Judah, formerly belonging to the Amorites, whose king, Piram, was killed by Joshua. (Youngblood)

I. Adullam, ...

1. Adullam was a city in the Shephelah, or lowland, of Judah, situated southwest of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

J. Socoh, ...

1. Socoh (Soco, Sochoh) was a city in the lowland of Judah and is thought to have been located about fourteen (14) miles southwest of Bethlehem. (Youngblood)

K. Azekah, ...

1. Azekah was a fortified city of Judah near Socoh, situated in the lowland country between Lachrish and Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

L. Shaarim, ...

1. Shaarim (Sharaim) was a city in the lowlands of Judah. (Youngblood)

M. Adithaim and, ...

1. Adithaim was a city in the Shephelah, or lowland, of Judah. (Youngblood)

N. Gedereth (or Gederothaim)—

O. fourteen (14) towns and their villages.

Note: This second group was “in the lowlands” and numbers fourteen (14) cities.

P. Zenam, ...

1. Zenan was a city of Judah in the Shephelah of Lachish and may be the same place as Zaanan. (Youngblood)

Q. Hadashah, ...

1. Hadashah was a village in the lowlands of Judah. (Youngblood)

R. Migdal Gad, ...

1. Migdol Gad was a town in or near the Shephelah, or lowland plain, of Judah, perhaps near Lachish. (Youngblood)

S. Dilean, ...

1. Dillean was a town in the Shephelah (lowland) of Judah near Lachish. (Youngblood)

T. Mizpah, ...

1. This Mizpah was a city of Judah in the Shephelah, or lowland plain. (Youngblood)

2. Six (6) places in the Old testament were named Mizpah. (Youngblood)

U. Joktheel, ...

1. Joktheel was a city in the lowlands of Judah. (Youngblood)

V. Lachish, ...

1. Lachish was an ancient walled city in the lowlands of Judah located about thirty (30) miles southwest of Jerusalem and about fifteen (15) miles west of Hebron. (Youngblood)

W. Bozkath, ...

1. Bozkath (Boseath) was a town between Eglon and Lachish. Bozkath was the birthplace of Adaiah, the mother of King Josiah. (Youngblood)

X. Eglon, ...

1. Eglon (young bull) was an Amorite city in the western Shephelah (lowlands). (Youngblood)

Y. Cabbon, ...

1. Cabbon was a town in the Shephelah, or lowland plain, of Judah near Eglon and Lachish. (Youngblood)

Z. Lahmas, ...

1. Lahmas was a city in the Shephelah, or lowland, of Judah. It is thought to have been located about two and one-half (2.5) miles east of Lachish. (Youngblood)

AA. Kitlish, ...

1. Kitlish (Kithlish, Chitlish) was a city in the Shephelah, or lowland plain, of Judah. (Youngblood)

BB. Gederoth, ...

1. Gederoth (sheepfolds) was an unidentified town in the Shephelah, or foothills, of Judah. (Youngblood)

CC. Beth Dagon, ...

1. Beth Dagon (House of the god [Dagon]) was a town in the lowlands of Judah near Philistine territory. (Youngblood)

DD. Naamah and ...

1. Naamah (pleasant) was a city in the lowlands of Judah located some estimated twenty-two (22) miles west of Jerusalem.

EE. Makkedah—

1. Makkedah (place of shepherds) was a royal city of the Canaanites near which Joshua killed the five (5) kings of the Amorites who had formed a military alliance against the Israelites. (Youngblood)

FF. sixteen (16) towns and their villages.

1. These were located on the intermediate plateau called the shephelah.

GG. Libnah, ...

1. Libnah (whiteness) was a Canaanite city captured by Joshua and allotted to the tribe of Judah, but was later assigned to the Aaronites as a Levitical city. (Youngblood)

HH. Ether, ...

1. Ether was a village of the tribe of Judah. (Youngblood)

II. Ashan, ...

1. Ashan (smoke) (Chorashan, Bor Ashan) was a Levitical city in the Shephelah, or low country, of Judah and is thought to have been located about five (5) miles northwest of Beersheba. (Youngblood)

JJ. Iphtah, ...

1. Iphtah ([God] breaths through) (a form of Jiphtah) was a city in the Shephelah (lowland plains) of Judah. (Youngblood)

KK. Ashnah, ...

1. Ashnah was the name of two (2) cities both located in the Shephelah, or lowland plain, of Judah, one city being located farther south than the other. (Youngblood)

LL. Nezib, ...

1. Nezib was a city in the Shephelah, or lowland plain, of Judah and was located about twenty-five (25) miles southwest of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

MM. Keilah, ...

1. Keilah was a fortified city in the lowland plain of the territory of Judah located some eighteen (18) miles southwest of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

NN. Aczib (Achzib) and, ...

1. Aczib (falsehood) was a town in the Shephelah, the lowland of western Judah, probably the same town as Chezib and Chozeba. (Youngblood)

a. **Genesis 38:5, She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him. (NIV)**

b. **1 Chronicles 4:22, Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, who ruled in Moab and Jashubi Lehem. (These records are from ancient times.) (NIV)**

OO. Mareshah—

1. Mareshah was a fortified city in the lowlands of Judah. (Youngblood)

PP. nine (9) towns and their villages.

1. This group of towns and the next group lay between the Shephelah and the coast. (Coffman)
2. These are non-Philistine towns while the next group are Philistine cities. (Coffman)

QQ. Ekron, with its surrounding settlements and villages; ...

1. Ekron was the northernmost of the five (5) cities of the Philistines, near the Mediterranean Sea and about sixty-six (66) miles west of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

RR. west of Ekron, all that were in the vicinity of Ashdod, together with their villages; ...

SS. Ashdod, its surrounding settlements and villages; and ...

1. Ashdod was one of the five (5) principal Philistine cities, situated three (3) miles from the Mediterranean coast and twenty (20) miles north of Gaza and was located on the highway connecting Egypt and Syria. (Youngblood)

TT. Gaza, its settlements and villages, as far as the ..

1. Gaza was one of the five (5) principal cities of the Philistines. Gaza was the southernmost city of Canaan and was situated on the great caravan routes between Mesopotania and Egypt at the junction of the trade route from Arabia. (Youngblood)

UU. Wadi of Egypt and, ...

1. Wadi in Arabic can be translated brook, a stream that is usually dry except during the rainy season. (Youngblood)
2. The Wadi/Brook of Egypt is mentioned five (5) times in the Old Testament and best corresponds with the Wadi el-Arish located at the foot of the central mountain group of the Sinai Peninsula. (Bromiley)

VV. the coastline of the Great Sea, the Mediterranean Sea.

Note: These were the westernmost cities in Judah toward the Mediterranean. (Coffman)

Judah's Hill Country Towns

Joshua 15:48-60, In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (that is, Debir), Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, Goshen, Holon and Giloh—eleven towns and their villages. Arab, Dumah, Eshan, Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, Humtah, Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) and Zior—nine towns and their villages. Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, Kain, Gibeah and Timnah—ten towns and their villages. Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, Maarath, Beth Anoth and Eltekon—six towns and their villages. Kiriath Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim) and Rabbah—two towns and their villages. (NIV)

I. In the hill country:

A. Shamir, ...

1. Shamir was a city in the hill country of Judah which was located thirteen (13) miles southwest of Hebron. (Youngblood)

B. Jattir, ...

1. Jattir was a city located in the hill country of Judah about thirteen (13) miles southwest of Hebron. (Youngblood)

C. Socoh, ...

1. Socoh (Sochoh, Soco) was a city in the lowland of Judah which was located about fourteen (14) miles southwest of Bethlehem. (Youngblood)

D. Dannah, ...

1. Dannah was a village in the hill country of Judah between Socoh and Kirjath Sepher.

E. Kiriath (Kirjath) Sannah (that is, Debir),...

1. Kiriath Sannah was a city in the mountain country of Judah. This city is also called Debir and Kirjath Sephen. (Youngblood)

a. **Joshua 21:15, Holon, Debir, (NIV)**

b. Kiriath Sannah was populated by giants, the Anakim.

2. Kiriath Sannah became a Levitical city. (Youngblood)

F. Anab, ...

1. Anab was a town in the mountains of Judah which was located about thirteen (13) miles southwest of Hebron. (Youngblood)
- 2.

G. Eshtemoh, ...

1. Eshtemoh (Eshtemoa) was a town about nine (9) miles south of Hebron in the hill country of Judah. Eshtemoh became a city assigned to the priests and a city of refuge. (Youngblood)

H. Anim, ...

1. Anim was a town in the hill country of Judah and was located about ten (10) miles south of Hebron. (Youngblood)

I. Goshen, ...

1. This Goshen was a town in the mountains of southwest Judah which is not to be confused with the districts in Egypt nor southern Palestine of the same name. (Youngblood)

J. Holon and, ...

1. Holon (Hilen) was a town in the hill country of Judah west of Hebron. (Youngblood)

K. Giloh—

1. Giloh was a town in the hill country. (Youngblood)
2. Giloh was the home of the traitor Ahithophel and the place he committed suicide. (Youngblood)
 - a. **2 Samuel 15:12, While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his**

hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing. (NIV)

L. eleven (11) towns and their villages.

1. These towns and villages were located in the hill country.

M. Arab, ...

1. Arab was a village in the hill country of Hebron allotted to the tribe of Judah after the conquest of Canaan by Joshua. (Youngblood)

N. Dumah, ...

1. Dumah was a town in the hill country of Judah located eight (8) miles southwest of Hebron.

O. Eshan, ...

1. Eshan was a village in the hill country of Judah. The exact location of Eshan is not definitely known, but it is thought that Eshan was located about ten (10) miles southwest of Hebron. (Bromiley)

P. Janim, ...

1. Janim (Janum) (he slumbers) was a village in the hill country of Judah. (Youngblood)

Q. Beth Tappuah, ...

1. Beth Tappuah (house of apricots) was a town in the hill country of Judah located about four (4) miles northwest of Hebron. (Youngblood)

R. Aphekah, ...

1. Aphekah was a village in the hill country of Judah. (Youngblood)

S. Humtah, ...

1. Humtah was a town in the hill country of Judah near Hebron. (Youngblood)

T. Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) and, ...

1. Kiriath (Kirjath) Arba (city of the four) was the ancient name for Hebron.

2. Near this city was the Cave of Machpelah in which Abraham and Sarah were buried.

a. Genesis 25:5-11, Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east. Altogether, Abraham lived a hundred and seventy- five years. Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from

the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi. (NIV)

3. Kiriath Arba was located in the hill country of Judah about twenty (20) miles southwest of Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

U. Zior—

1. Zior was a city in the hill country of Judah, near Hebron. (Youngblood)

V. nine (9) towns and their villages.

1. These towns and villages were the northernmost of the hill country cities, lying just south of Jerusalem. (Coffman)

W. Maon, ...

1. Maon was a city in the mountain country of Judah, near Carmel.

X. Carmel, ...

1. Carmel (garden/orchard of God) was a town in the hill country of Judah and was located about eight (8) miles southeast of Hebron. (Youngblood)

Y. Ziph, ...

1. Ziph was a city in the Maon district of Judah located some four (4) miles southeast of Hebron. (Youngblood)

Z. Juttah, ...

1. Juttah was a town in the hill country of Judah and was located about five (5) miles southwest of Hebron. Juttah became a Levitical city of Refuge.

AA. Jezreel, ...

1. Jezreel was a city in the hill country of Judah, near Jokdeam and Zanoah, and was probably located on the Plain of Dibleh. (Youngblood)

BB. Jokdeam, ...

1. Jokdeam was a city in the hill country of Judah. (Youngblood)

CC. Zanoah, ...

1. Zanoah was a city in the highlands of Judah and was located about one and one-third (1.3) miles northwest of Juttah. (Youngblood)

DD. Kain, ...

1. Kain (Cain) was a town in the mountain country of Judah. (Youngblood)

EE. Gibeah and, ...

1. This Gibeah was a small unidentified city in the territory of Judah. (Youngblood)

FF. Timnah—

1. Timnah was a city in the hill country of Judah and was likely located about four (4) miles east of Beit Nettif. (Youngblood)

GG. ten (10) towns and their villages.

1. These ten (10) towns and villages were located along the plains of Esdraelon. (Coffman)

HH. Halhul, ...

1. Halhul was a town in the hill country of Judah and was located about four (4) miles north of Hebron.

II. Beth Zur, ...

1. Beth Zur (house of rock) was a city in the mountains of Judah on the road from Beersheba to Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

JJ. Gedor, ...

1. Gedor (wall) was a town in the hill country of Judah. (Youngblood)

KK. Maarath, ...

1. Maarath was a city in the hill country of Judah, between the cities of Gedor and Beth Anoth. (Youngblood)

LL. Beth Anoth and, ...

1. Beth Anoth (house of the goddess/Anoth) was a town in the hill country of Judah, near Hebron. (Youngblood)

MM. Eltekon, ...

1. Eltekon (founded by God) was a village in the hill country of Judah between Bethlehem and Hebron. (Youngblood)

NN. six towns and their villages.

OO. Kiriath Baal (that is, Kirjath Jearim/Kiriath Jearim) and, ...

1. Kiriath Baal (city of forests) was a fortified city that originally belonged to the Gibeonites. Kiriath Baal was on the western boundary line between Judah and Benjamin. Kiriath Baal was located some eight (8) miles northwest of Jerusalem on the Jaffa Road. (Youngblood)

PP. Rabbah—

1. Rabbah (great) was a city in the hill country of Judah which may have been located five (5) miles east of Gezer on the road to Jerusalem. (Youngblood)

QQ. two (2) towns and their villages.

Judah's Desert Towns

Joshua 15:61-63, In the desert: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, Nibshan, the City of Salt and En Gedi—six towns and their villages. Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah. (NIV)

I. In the desert:

A. Beth Arabah, ...

1. Beth Arabah (house of the desert) was a city in the wilderness of Judah near the territorial boundary between Judah and Benjamin at the north end of the Dead Sea southeast of Jericho.

B. Middin, ...

1. Midden was a town or village in the Wilderness of Judah, near the Dead Sea. (Youngblood)

C. Secacah, ...

1. Secacah (thicket) was a city in the Valley of Achor in the Wilderness of Judah, near the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. (Youngblood)

D. Nibshan, ...

1. Nibshan was a town in the wilderness of Judah, on the shore of the Dead Sea. (Youngblood)

E. the City of Salt and, ...

1. The City of Salt was a city in the Wilderness of Judah probably not far from En Gedi, perhaps about ten (10) miles south of Jericho. Some place the City of Salt much farther south, near the southern or southwestern end of the Dead Sea, in the Valley of Salt. (Youngblood)

E. En Gedi—

1. En Gedi (spring) was an oasis on the barren western shore of the Dead Sea about thirty-five (35) miles southeast of Jerusalem. En Gedi was watered by a hot spring yielding an abundance of fresh water. (Youngblood)

F. six (6) towns and their villages.

Judah and the Jebusites

I. Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites, ...

II. who were living in Jerusalem; ...

A. Evidently the task of conquering Jerusalem was left to David.

III. to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah.

Note: In this list of one hundred nineteen (119) cities and towns are duplications; for example, there are two (2) Ziph's (vv. 34, 35), two (2) Zanoah's (vv. 34, 56), two Ashnah's (vv. 33, 43), and two (2) Socoh's (vv. 35, 48). (Coffman)

Conclusion:

I. Tribal land allotments specified the exact borders of each tribe's inheritance.

A. They also gave the bases on which any tribal border dispute could be resolved.

B. The designated borders specified the land each tribe was responsible for fully conquering.

II. Caleb, always the valiant, faithful, courageous patriot, took possession of his inheritance vanquishing its giant inhabitants.

A. Caleb's daughter shared her father's courage.

B. Othniel, likewise valiant, was given Accsah, Caleb's daughter, to wife as a reward for capturing Kiriath Sepher.

III. Judah's enemies were formidable.

A. Judah was unable to dislodge the Jebusites and continued to dwell as neighbors until at least the time the book of Joshua was written.

B. Our spiritual enemies are also formidable, but we cannot accommodate their evil ways.

Questions

On

Joshua 15:1-63

1. According to Coffman, what are the main topics addressed in Joshua 15? _____

2. According to Philbeck via Coffman, what were the general boundaries of the territory allotted to Judah? _____

3. Give the boundaries of Judah's inheritance as described by Ziese. _____

4. Why was Judah's inheritance determined first? _____

5. What is a “Wadi”? Identify the “Wadi of Egypt.” _____

6. For what is the Valley of Achor remembered? _____

7. Locate and list activities associated with the Valley of Ben Hinnom.

8. Why did Judah not subdue the Philistines? Explain how Judah’s boundaries were more *ideal* than *actual*. _____

9. Why was Caleb given a special inheritance? What was that inheritance?

10. What announcement did Caleb make regarding Debir? _____

11. Who accepted Caleb's challenge? How was this person related to Caleb? _____

12. What else is known about this person? _____

13. What request did Acsah make of her husband? What request did Acsah make of her father? How do these two requests relate to each other? Why didn't Acsah just ask her father and not involve her husband?

14. What is the Negev/Negeb? Why was Acsah's request so very important?

15. How many cities, towns and villages are listed as being within Judah's inheritance? _____

16. Define and locate the *Shephelah*. _____

17. Within Judah's borders were two places named _____,
two named _____, and two named _____.

18. What purpose did the boundaries of each tribe's inheritance serve?

19. What accommodations did Judah make with the Jebusites? Did God approve of these accommodations? Why or why not? _____

20. Was Jerusalem within Judah's boundaries? If not, how close to Jerusalem was Judah's border? _____

Answers

To

Questions

On

Joshua 5:1-63

1. According to Coffman, what are the main topics addressed in Joshua 15?
(A) An outline of the borders of Judah's territory in ideal terms (vs. 1-12); (B) An account of Caleb's occupation of Hebron and Debir (vs. 13-19); (C) A statistical list of the cities awarded to Judah. (vs. 20-63)
2. According to Philbeck via Coffman, what were the general boundaries of the territory allotted to Judah? **From the southern edge of the Dead Sea southwest to Kadesh Barnea, northwest to the Mediterranean Sea. The northern border ran from the north tip of the Dead Sea at the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, all the territory between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.**
3. Give the boundaries of Judah's inheritance as described by Ziese. **The southern boundary ran from the southern end of the Dead Sea westward to the Mediterranean Sea. The Dead Sea was the eastern border and the Mediterranean Sea the western border. The northern boundary began at the junction of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, then westward over the Central Ridge to the Mediterranean Sea.**

4. Why was Judah's inheritance determined first? **Judah was promised pre-eminence over the other tribes in Jacob's blessing. (Genesis 49:9-10.)**

5. What is a "Wadi"? Identify the "Wadi of Egypt." **A "wadi" is a river bed that is dry in the summer and carries water during the winter rainy season.**

6. For what is the Valley of Achor remembered? **It is the location where Achan and his family were stoned because he disobeyed God's command.**

7. Locate and list activities associated with the Valley of Ben Hinnom. **This was a valley west and south of Jerusalem. Pagan inhabitants practiced child sacrifice there. The valley became known as the "Valley of Slaughter."**

8. Why did Judah not subdue the Philistines? Explain how Judah's boundaries were more *ideal* than *actual*. **The Philistines remained powerful enemies of Israel down to the times of David and Solomon. The boundaries were what God promised Israel rather than what they were able to possess.**

9. Why was Caleb given a special inheritance? What was that inheritance? **God blessed Caleb because of his faithfulness when he and Joshua brought back a favorable report about Israel's ability to possess Canaan. His portion was from the territory of Judah, Kiriath Arba, which is Hebron.**

10. What announcement did Caleb make regarding Debir? **He promised his daughter Acsah in marriage to the one who attacked and captured Kiriath Sepher, which is Debir.**

11. Who accepted Caleb's challenge? How was this person related to Caleb? Othniel, son of Kenaz, accepted Caleb's challenge. Kenaz was Caleb's brother, making Othniel Caleb's nephew.

12. What else is known about this person? He became a judge of Israel. They had peace for forty years during his reign.

13. What request did Acsah make of her husband? What request did Acsah make of her father? How do these two requests relate to each other? Why didn't Acsah just ask her father and not involve her husband? Acsah asked Othniel to ask her father for a field with springs of water. Acsah was the person who asked her father for the land with springs. This was a dry, arid land, so springs of water made them much more valuable. Perhaps Othniel did ask and received land without water.

14. What is Negev/Negeb? Why was Acsah's request so very important? The Negev is a dry, arid region of Southern Palestine. Any water resource is very valuable in the desert.

15. How many cities, towns and villages are listed as being within Judah's inheritance? 119

16. Define and locate the *Shephelah*. The Shephelah references the lowland plains of Judah; the country between the mountains of Judah and the maritime plain to the Mediterranean Sea.

17. Within Judah's borders were two places named Ziph, two named Zanoah Ashnah, and two named Socoh.

18. What purpose did the boundaries of each tribe's inheritance serve? They identified the territory each tribe was to occupy. The boundaries gave basis on which any border dispute could be resolved. They defined the land each tribe was responsible for conquering.

19. What accommodations did Judah make with the Jebusites? Did God approve of these accommodations? Why or why not? They were not able to conquer Jerusalem, thus giving the Jebusites control. All of the people the Israelites did not displace caused them trouble for many years up to the time of David. God did not approve of these accommodations. The accomodations were disobedience to God's command, and a manifest lack of faith that God would fight with them to defeat the Jebusites.

20. Was Jerusalem within Judah's boundaries? If not, how close to Jerusalem was Judah's border? Yes, Jerusalem was within Judah's boundaries