

Joshua 18:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD: and there Joshua divided the land unto the children of Israel according to their divisions.

Analysis

Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD: and there Joshua divided the land unto the children of Israel according to their divisions— The sacred moment: divine allocation occurs. **Before the LORD** means at the tabernacle, likely involving the Urim and Thummim through Eleazar. Joshua serves as covenant mediator, but God determines each inheritance.

According to their divisions (machleqotam, מַחְלֵקָתָם) respects tribal distinctions. Unity doesn't erase identity—God blesses diversity within covenantal unity. Each tribe receives custom-fit inheritance matching their character and calling. This prefigures believers' varied spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Historical Context

This lot-casting concluded the land distribution process begun years earlier. It resolved potential conflicts by divine authority, preventing civil war. The ceremony at Shiloh's tabernacle sanctified Israel's settlement pattern for generations.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you discern God's specific calling for you within the broader body of Christ?
2. What role does community leadership play in helping individuals discover their divine inheritance?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה לְפָנֶיךָ בְּשֵׁל הַמִּשְׁלָךְ גּוֹזֶל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְלֹא מִתְשַׁלֵּךְ
cast H0 And Joshua lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD
H7993 H3091 H1486 H7887 H6440 H3068

וְיִתְפָּרֵא לְבָנֶיךָ בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוָשֻׁעַ אֶת הָרָקֶדֶן וְיִתְפָּרֵא
divided H8033 And Joshua H853 the land unto the children of Israel
H2505 H3091 H776 H1121 H3478

פְּמַחְלָקָתָם:

according to their divisions

H4256

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:19 (Parallel theme): And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

Colossians 1:12 (Parallel theme): Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Joshua 18:6 (References Lord): Ye shall therefore describe the land into seven parts, and bring the description hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.