

# 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

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**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, מַחֲלֵקוֹתָם) 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

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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

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיִּשְׁלַךְ      לְהָם      יְהוֹשֻׁעַ      גֹּבַל      לְבָשֵׁל      לִפְנֵי      יְהוָה  
**cast**      <sup>H0</sup>      **And Joshua**      **lots**      **for them in Shiloh**      **before**      **the LORD**  
H7993           H3091      H1486      H7887      H6440      H3068

וַיִּחְלֶק      שָׁם      יְהוֹשֻׁעַ      אֶת      הָאָרֶץ      לִבְנֵי      יִשְׂרָאֵל  
**divided**      <sup>H8033</sup>      **And Joshua**      <sup>H853</sup>      **the land**      **unto the children**      **of Israel**  
H2505           H3091           H776      H1121      H3478

כַּמְחֲלָקָתָם:

**according to their divisions**  
H4256

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.