

# Joshua 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give out from among you three men for each tribe: and I will send them, and they shall rise, and go through the land, and describe it according to the inheritance of them; and they shall come again to me.

## Analysis

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**Give out from among you three men for each tribe**—Joshua initiates a systematic land survey, requiring each tribe to send representatives (Hebrew anashim, אנשים, 'men of standing'). The command **describe it according to the inheritance** uses katav (כתב, 'to write/inscribe'), indicating a formal written survey. This anticipates property rights and covenant boundaries.

This reflects godly order: inheritance isn't random but deliberate, documented, and fair. The survey establishes legal ownership—a principle underlying biblical land theology. Every tribe participates, ensuring transparency and accountability. God's gifts require responsible stewardship and proper administration.

## Historical Context

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This survey occurred at Shiloh circa 1400 BC, after initial conquest but before full settlement. Ancient Near Eastern land grants required surveys and written records. The seven remaining tribes (besides Judah and Joseph) needed territory allocated by lot before the LORD.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's careful ordering of inheritance challenge chaotic or lazy approaches to spiritual blessings?
2. What areas of your life need better documentation and accountability before God?

## Interlinear Text

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הָב וְ	לְכֶם	שְׁלֹשָׁה	אֲנָשִׁים	לְשֵׁךְ	וְאֶשְׁלַח
Give out	H0	from among you three	H376	for each tribe	and I will send
H3051		H7969		H7626	H7971
וְיָקֻמוּ	וְיֵלְכוּ	בְּאֶרֶץ	וְיִכְתֹּב	אוֹתָהּ	
them and they shall rise	and go	through the land	and describe	H853	
H6965	H1980	H776	H3789		
לְפִי	נַחֲלָתָם	וְיָבֹאוּ	אֵלַי:		
it according	to the inheritance	of them and they shall come	H413		
H6310	H5159	H935			

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