

Joshua 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall divide it into seven parts: Judah shall abide in their coast on the south, and the house of Joseph shall abide in their coasts on the north.

Analysis

They shall divide it into seven parts—The remaining land is apportioned equally among seven tribes. Judah keeps their southern territory, Joseph (Ephraim/Manasseh) the central highlands. This division reflects covenant fairness: each tribe receives proportionate inheritance. The Hebrew *chalaq* (חָלַק, 'to divide') suggests both separation and distribution.

Geographic specificity matters in Scripture. God cares about details—boundaries, measurements, documented allocations. This prefigures the New Covenant where believers receive 'an inheritance incorruptible' (1 Peter 1:4), also carefully measured by divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

The seven parts represented western Palestine's remaining unconquered territory. Archaeological surveys confirm these regions had mixed Canaanite populations requiring ongoing conquest. Judah's south and Joseph's central position were already established.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed attention to land allocation reflect His care for your specific circumstances?
2. What does equal distribution among tribes teach about fairness and justice in covenant community?

Interlinear Text

עַל	יַעֲמֹד וְ	יְהוּדָה הַ	חֵלֶק יִם	לְשִׁבְעָה הַ	אֶת־הָ	יְהִתְחַלֵּק וְ
	shall abide	Judah	parts	it into seven	H853	And they shall divide
	H5975	H3063	H2506	H7651		H2505
עַל	יַעֲמֹד וְ	יֹסֵף הַ	וְבֵית־	מִן־הַ	גִּבּוֹלֵם	
	shall abide	of Joseph	and the house	on the south	in their coast	
	H5975	H3130	H1004	H5045	H1366	
				מִן־הַ	גִּבּוֹלֵם	
				on the north	in their coast	
				H6828	H1366	