

Joshua 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The methodology combines human survey (katav, written description) with divine selection (goral, גורל, 'lot/sacred lot'). **Before the LORD** (lifnei YHWH) indicates this isn't gambling but sacred discernment.

Casting lots acknowledged God's sovereignty over inheritance (Proverbs 16:33). Human work (surveying) prepares for divine decision (allotment). This models decision-making: gather facts diligently, then submit to God's will. The apostles used lots similarly when replacing Judas (Acts 1:26).

Historical Context

Lot-casting at the tabernacle involved the Urim and Thummim (priestly implements) under Eleazar's oversight. This sacred method prevented tribal disputes and ensured each believed their inheritance came from God, not human favoritism.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you balance diligent preparation with trusting God's sovereign direction in decisions?
2. What modern practices help believers discern God's will corporately, as lots did for Israel?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	תְּכַתֵּב	אֶת	הָאָרֶץ	שִׁבְעָה	חֵלקֶי
H859		H853	H776	H7651	H2506
	Ye shall therefore describe		the land	into seven	parts
	H3789				
וְהֵבֵאתָ	אֵלַי	יְהוָה	וְיָרֵךְ	יְתִי	לְךָ
H935	H413	H2008		H3384	H0
and bring		the description hither to me that I may cast			
לוֹטֹט	פֹּה	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	
H1486	H6311	H6440	H3068	H430	
lots	for you here before	the LORD	our God		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 14:2 (References Lord): By lot was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes, and for the half tribe.

Joshua 18:10 (References Lord): 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.