

Joshua 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men arose, and went away: and Joshua charged them that went to describe the land, saying, Go and walk through the land, and describe it, and come again to me, that I may here cast lots for you before the LORD in Shiloh.

Analysis

Joshua charged them that went to describe the land, saying, Go and walk through the land—The verb halak (הָלַךְ, 'walk/go throughout') implies thorough inspection, not casual observation. They must **describe it** (katav, write it down) with precision. This commission requires personal experience: they cannot report secondhand knowledge.

That I may here cast lots for you before the LORD in Shiloh establishes Shiloh as Israel's worship center. The tabernacle resided there (18:1), making it the covenant nation's spiritual capital. Their work would enable sacred allocation at God's dwelling place.

Historical Context

Shiloh, centrally located in Ephraim, served as Israel's religious center for over 300 years until destroyed circa 1050 BC (Jeremiah 7:12). This survey mission took weeks, traversing hostile territory to map unconquered lands for future tribal settlement.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What spiritual task has God given you that requires personal experience rather than theoretical knowledge?
2. How does reporting 'before the LORD' (in His presence) change the quality of your work?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּחֲלֹךְ וְאַתָּה יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וְלֹא מֵזַע
arose And the men and walk charged and Joshua H853 and walk
H6965 H582 H1980 H6680 H3091 H1980

בָּאָזֶן וַיַּחֲלֹךְ וְאַתָּה יְכַתֵּב וְלֹא
and describe H853 the land saying and walk and walk the land
H3789 H776 H559 H1980 H1980 H776

אֲשֶׁל יְהֹוָה וְלֹא יְכַתֵּב וְלֹא
and describe H853 it and come again H413 H6311 to me that I may here cast
H3789 H7725 H7993

בְּשִׁלֹּה: וְהִנֵּה לְפָנֶיךָ גּוֹעַל לְכָם
H0 lots for you before the LORD in Shiloh
H1486 H6440 H3068 H7887

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:19 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

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.

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