

Joshua 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven parts in a book, and came again to Joshua to the host at Shiloh.

Analysis

The men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven parts in a book—The obedience is immediate and thorough. **Described it by cities** (be'arim, בְּאָרִים) means they catalogued urban centers—strategic strongholds defining regions. **In a book** (sefer, סֵפֶר) indicates a formal written record, likely a scroll.

This 'book' becomes Israel's first land registry, a legal document defining inheritance boundaries. Scripture values written records—from Moses' law to John's Revelation. God works through documentation and order, not chaos. Their return **to Joshua to the host at Shiloh** completes their mission faithfully.

Historical Context

Ancient land surveys typically described boundaries by cities and natural landmarks. This 'book' may have resembled Mesopotamian boundary stones or Egyptian land records. Creating such a document required literacy and cartographic skill rare in that era.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritual insights or experiences should you document for yourself and others?
2. How does faithful completion of assigned tasks demonstrate covenant obedience?

Interlinear Text

לְעָרִים יְמִינָה וְבָאָזְנָה תְּלַכֵּד
H1980 And the men and passed through the land and described it by cities
H582 H5674 H776 H3789 H5892

אֶל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ עַד אֶל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל
H7651 H2506 H5921 H5612 H935 H413 H3091 H413
into seven parts in a book and came again to Joshua

שְׁלָה: בְּמִתְּחִנֵּן הַ
to the host at Shiloh
H4264 H7887

Additional Cross-References

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.

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