

13.11 Division of Land; Caleb's Mountain (Joshua 13–19, portions of which are printed below)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *generation*: all of the people born and living at about the same time (think parents, grandparents, *etc.*)
- *to cast lots*: tossing stones or other small objects into one's lap or a container and then randomly choosing an object one at a time to determine the will of God
- *inheritance*: in Israel's case, the territory in the Promised Land allotted to each family that was to be kept in the family perpetually

Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 13:1 Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the Lord said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess. . . . 6 I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. 7 Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.” . . . 33 To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the Lord God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.

14:1 These are the inheritances that the people of Israel received in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel gave them to inherit. 2 Their inheritance was by lot, just as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses for the nine and one-half tribes. 3 For Moses had given an inheritance to the two and one-half tribes beyond the Jordan, but to the Levites he gave no inheritance among them. 4 For the people of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. And no portion was given to the Levites in the land, but only cities to dwell in, with their pasturelands for their livestock and their substance. 5 The people of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses; they allotted the land.

6 Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. 8 But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the Lord my God. 9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’ 10 And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. 11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. 12 So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.”

13 Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. 14 Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.

15:13 According to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). 14 And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the descendants of Anak. 15 And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir. Now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher. 16 And Caleb said, "Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter as wife." 17 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. . . .

17:3 Now Zelophehad the son of Hephher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters, and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 They approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the leaders and said, "The Lord commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our brothers." So according to the mouth of the Lord he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father. 5 Thus there fell to Manasseh ten portions, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which is on the other side of the Jordan, 6 because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance along with his sons. The land of Gilead was allotted to the rest of the people of Manasseh. . . .

18:1 Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.

2 There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned. 3 So Joshua said to the people of Israel, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you? 4 Provide three men from each tribe, and I will send them out that they may set out and go up and down the land. They shall write a description of it with a view to their inheritances, and then come to me. 5 They shall divide it into seven portions. Judah shall continue in his territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall continue in their territory on the north. 6 And you shall describe the land in seven divisions and bring the description here to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the Lord our God. 7 The Levites have no portion among you, for the priesthood of the Lord is their heritage. And Gad and Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan eastward, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave them."

8 So the men arose and went, and Joshua charged those who went to write the description of the land, saying, "Go up and down in the land and write a description and return to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the Lord in Shiloh." 9 So the men went and passed up and down in the land and wrote in a book a description of it by towns in seven divisions. Then they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh, 10 and Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the Lord. And there Joshua apportioned the land to the people of Israel, to each his portion. . . .

19:49 When they had finished distributing the several territories of the land as inheritances, the people of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun. 50 By command of the Lord they gave him the city that he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he rebuilt the city and settled in it.

51 These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel distributed by lot at Shiloh before the Lord, at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

Introduction/Review:

Israel, led by Joshua, had driven a wedge between the northern and southern nations when they destroyed Jericho, Ai, and Bethel. Then they fought against five kings and captured their cities in the south. A great horde of soldiers with horses and chariots, so many that their numbers were compared to the sand on the seashore, intended to defeat Israel in the north. However, as usual, God fought for Israel, and all these, like the others, were destroyed. Although some territory remained unconquered, much of it was controlled by Israel.

Story:

Now it was time to apportion the land so that each of the tribes would get sufficient space for its people to settle. Families within a tribe gained land for themselves, which the Bible calls their inheritance. This inheritance would continue to be owned by that family perpetually, generation after generation.

Tribes getting an inheritance

Eleazar the high priest, Joshua, and the heads of tribes divided the land by lot. Two and one-half tribes had already received their inheritance from Moses. Those tribes were Reuben, Gad, one-half Manasseh. Where was their territory? [On the eastern side of the Jordan.] What kings had they dispossessed in order to get that land? [Sihon and Og.] Og was a giant. Do you remember how long his iron bed was? [Over 13 feet.]

How many tribes of Israel were there? [Twelve.] However, the tribe of Joseph, according to the double-portion-for-the-oldest-son principle (in this case, the oldest son of the favored wife), was actually two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh. That made a total of thirteen tribes in Israel.

One of these tribes did not get its own big chunk of land like the others. That tribe was Levi. Someone might think, “That’s not fair!” However, Levi did get cities, and the Levites were to be supported by the tithes and offerings of the rest of the people. It doesn’t matter what we think because this is what God said would happen way back in Genesis when Jacob/Israel himself blessed his sons. Simeon and Levi had slain all the men in the city of Shechem. Because of that, Jacob/Israel had said, “Simeon and Levi are brothers; . . . in their anger they killed men. . . . Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce. . . . I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel” (Genesis 49:5–7).

So Levi and Simeon would be scattered. Simeon had a portion of land inside Judah’s inheritance. ✓We don’t hear much about Simeon in the Bible after this division of land. We will learn more about the Levites in our next lesson.

Caleb’s inheritance

Do you remember Caleb? He was the spy who, with Joshua, more than forty years before had believed that God would give the land to Israel. Remember that the other ten spies had discouraged the people and had caused God to add forty years to their journey to the Promised Land.

Caleb was now eighty-five years old, ✓just like Joshua. He had waited all these forty-five years, had fought in the recent battles for the land, and now wanted to fight for his own personal land. He came to Joshua, saying, “Moses promised me an inheritance in the land I walked on because, as he said, I ‘wholly followed the Lord my God.’ I’m now eighty-five years old. I am as strong as I was forty-five years ago. Now give me this mountain, this one with giants and large, walled cities. If the Lord is with me, I’ll be able to drive them out as the Lord said.”

So, just as Moses and the Lord had promised, Joshua gave him the area and city known as Hebron [locate on map below]. Its former name was Kirjath-Arba, named after its most important giant, Arba. Arba had been the father of Anak, whose name became the name for the giants—Anakim. Do you think Caleb was able to drive out the giants? Absolutely! Because Caleb “wholly followed the Lord his God,” he defeated *three* giants!

It was about this time that the whole congregation moved the tabernacle from Gilgal to Shiloh [locate], where it remained a long time.

Seven tribes’ inheritance

The tribe of Judah had received its land but hadn’t driven out the Jebusites at Jerusalem [locate]. Ephraim also had its land as did the western half of the tribe of Manasseh. Let’s do the math: 2 ½ tribes on the east plus 2 ½ tribes on the west equals how many tribes? [Five.] How many total tribes were to get land? [Twelve.] How many more tribes needed to get their land? [12 – 5 = 7.] That’s right—seven tribes.

Joshua sort of scolded those seven tribes who still hadn’t conquered land for themselves. He said, “How long are you going to be slack in getting your land? Take three men from each of your seven tribes.” How

many is that? [3 x 7 = 21.] Joshua continued, “You twenty-one men survey the remaining land. Write down descriptions of it, and bring them back to me. We will divide that land by casting lots.”

That’s what they did. They surveyed the land, divided it into seven parts, wrote down their findings in a book, and brought this information back to Joshua. Then, at the door of the tabernacle at Shiloh, Joshua drew lots for the land of these seven tribes.

Having received their land, those tribes were then responsible for conquering their territory. ✓Sadly, many of those people chose just to live with the enemy in their land rather than rid themselves of the enemy. What do you think might happen to those tribes who live with the enemy? Perhaps they will ignore God’s warning against the gods of the enemy and be turned away from worshiping the one true God.

Zelophehad’s inheritance

Before we finish this lesson, we will talk about five sisters. It usually isn’t polite to snicker at strange names, but we will allow you to chuckle if you wish, for the names of these ladies were Mahlah, Noah (sounds like a boy’s name), Hoglah (was she an Israelite pig farmer?), Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father’s name was Zelophehad (pronounced zeh LOW fuh had). Zelophehad’s daughters approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua and the leaders of Israel because they had no brothers and the land of their father, which would normally go to sons, was to go to them since Zelophehad had only daughters. This was according to the command of the Lord during Moses’ lifetime. Rather than get territory with the half tribe of Manasseh on the eastern side of the Jordan, they wanted land west of Jordan—with the other half tribe of Manasseh. Joshua and the leaders granted their request.

Joshua’s inheritance

One more thing: When Joshua, Eleazar, and Israel’s leaders had finished distributing the inheritances of the land, the people of Israel gave an inheritance to Joshua himself. The Lord commanded them to give him a city that he requested, which was Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, for he was from the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua rebuilt his city and lived there the rest of his life, which was twenty-five more years.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

“One should also note the exception to the law which permitted inheritance through the daughter if no sons were available and she married within her tribe. The daughters of Zelophehad had petitioned Moses for a special exception, which was granted when they entered the land under Joshua. . . . The claims of Christ rely upon this peculiar exception granted to the family of Zelophehad in the Torah. Heli, Mary’s father, ✓apparently had no sons, and Mary married within the tribe of Judah. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, of the house and lineage of David and carrying legal title to the line, but without the blood curse of Jeconiah” (Chuck Missler in an article, “Why a Virgin Birth?”).
- Like Caleb, we can be victorious if we “wholly follow the Lord our God.”

Activities:

- Play dough: the shapes of various tribes’ inheritance; mountain; glass of milk; grapes; bee; honeycomb
- Snack: Grapes and milk
- Play “Find the Tribe.” The teacher will call out the name of a tribe. Drawing a student’s name by casting lots, the teacher will ask the selected student find the tribe’s territory on a map (refer to the last two maps found below).
- Sing “I Want That Mountain” by Bill Harvey. Here is a link to sheet music for this song: <https://musescore.com/user/14273151/scores/3119291>. The teacher might wish to sing only the chorus.

- Review the names of the twelve tribes of Israel by singing “09.04–10.08 Jacob,” stanza 4, found on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Review questions: (Game: Draw a mountain on a chalk board. Mark with five equidistant points on each mountain side if competing as teams. Otherwise mark ten equidistant points on one side of the mountain. Print on cardstock and cut out the two clipart mountain climbers found below. For team competition, move the climbers up the mountain on one side or the other with each correct answer. If not playing with teams, students will move the climber up ten elevations.)
 1. Who divided the lands for the tribes? [Joshua, Eleazar, and the leaders.]
 2. Who wanted his inheritance to be a certain mountain? [Caleb.]
 3. What was the challenge involved with Caleb’s inheritance? [There were giants (Anakim) there.]
 4. How old was Caleb (and probably Joshua)? [Eighty-five.]
 5. How healthy was Caleb? [He was as strong as he had been forty-five years earlier.]
 6. How many giants did Caleb destroy? [Three.]
 7. In what new town was the tabernacle set up? [Shiloh.]
 8. How many tribes still did not have their inheritance? [Seven.]
 9. How was the problem of land for the seven tribes solved? [Twenty-one men surveyed the land and wrote down the description. Joshua, Eleazar, and the leaders assigned the land by lot.]
 10. Trick question: Why did Zelophehad’s daughters, not his sons, get territory in the Promised Land? [Zelophehad had no sons.]

Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

- Joshua 24:14–17 (or any portion thereof): [Joshua said,] “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.”
- Or Joshua 1:5, 7–9; 24:14, 15, 20, 24–26 (KJV), learning one section at a time throughout lessons on the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth and using the song, “Keeping Covenant,” found on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.

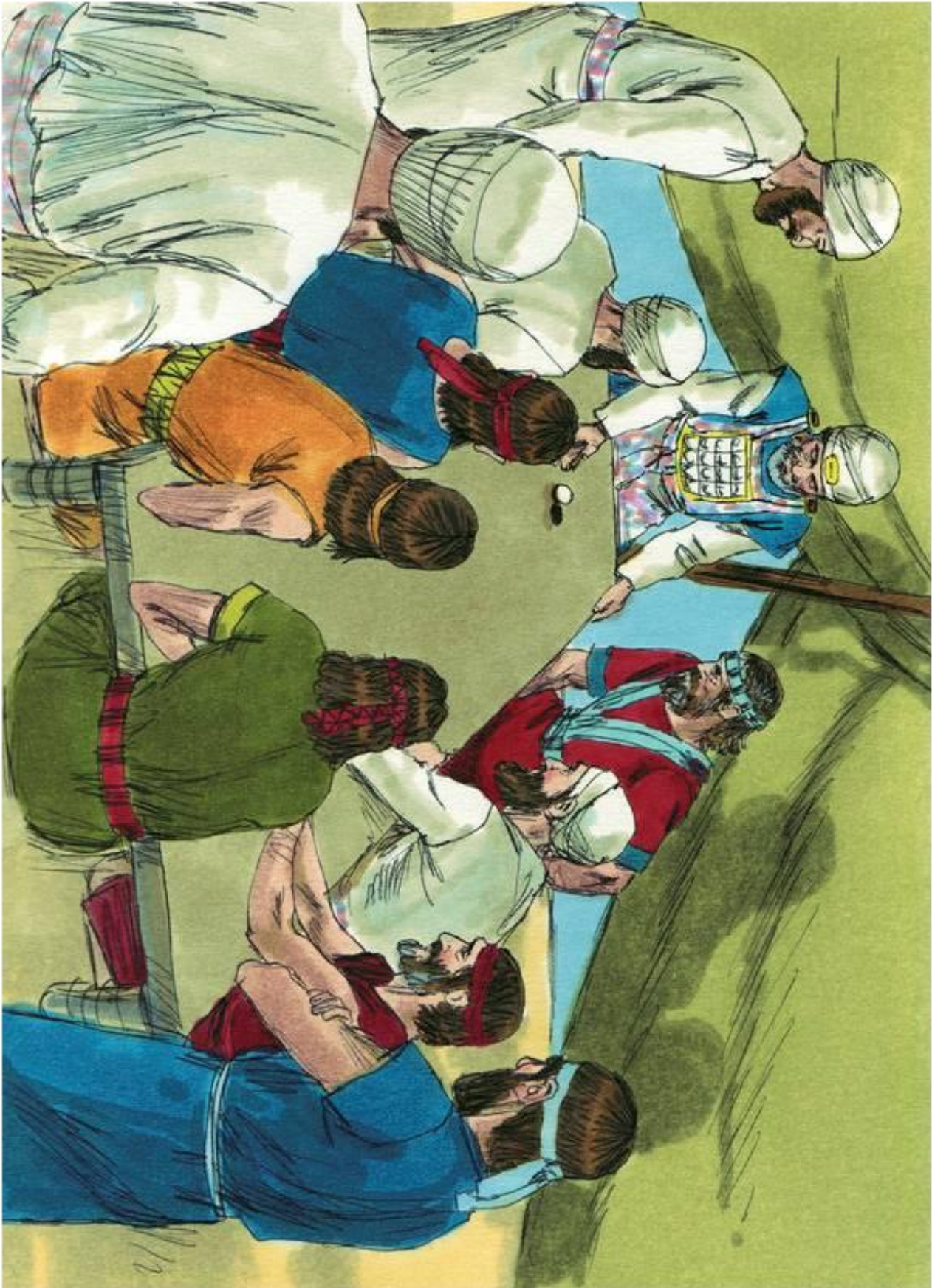
Handwork:

- Draw a mountain with milk, honey, and grapes.

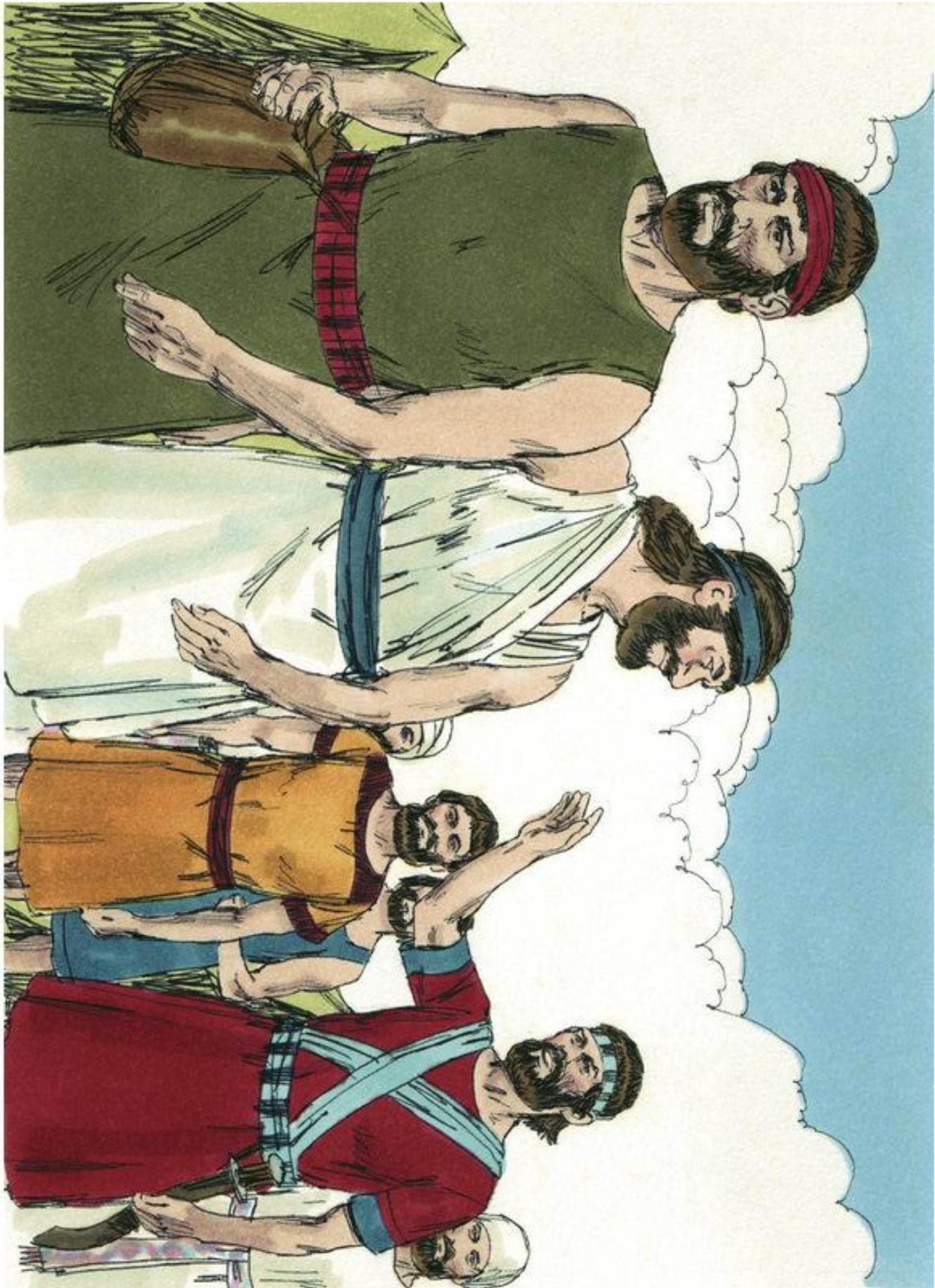
to cast lots

inheritance











**LIMITS OF ISRAELITE SETTLEMENT AND THE
LAND YET TO BE CONQUERED**

JOSH. 13:1-7; 15:63; 16:10; 17:11-18
JUDG. 1:1-3:6

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City specified by Judges 1 as not taken by Israel
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Limit of Israelite control
- Areas yet to be conquered





THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL

JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



