

Joshua Chapter 17 Commentary

1 ¶ There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh; for he was the firstborn of Joseph; to wit, for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead: because he was a man of war, therefore he had Gilead and Bashan. 2 There was also a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh by their families; for the children of Abiezer, and for the children of Helek, and for the children of Asriel, and for the children of Shechem, and for the children of Hephher, and for the children of Shemida: these were the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph by their families. 3 But Zelophehad, the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but daughters: and these are the names of his daughters, Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 And they came near before Eleazar the priest, and before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the princes, saying, The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brethren. Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among the brethren of their father. 5 And there fell ten portions to Manasseh, beside the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side Jordan; 6 Because the daughters of Manasseh had an inheritance among his sons: and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead. 7 ¶ And the coast of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethah, that lieth before Shechem; and the border went along on the right hand unto the inhabitants of Entappuah. 8 Now Manasseh had the land of Tappuah: but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim; 9 And the coast descended unto the river Kanah, southward of the river: these cities of Ephraim are among the cities of Manasseh: the coast of Manasseh also was on the north side of the river, and the outgoings of it were at the sea: 10 Southward it was Ephraim's, and northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea is his border; and they met together in Asher on the north, and in Issachar on the east. 11 And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Endor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries. 12 Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities; but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. 13 Yet it came to pass, when the children of Israel were waxen strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute; but did not utterly drive them out. 14 ¶ And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto? 15 And Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country, and cut down for thyself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the giants, if mount Ephraim be too narrow for thee. 16 And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Bethshean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel. 17 And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, even to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, Thou art a great people, and hast great power: thou shalt not have one lot only: 18 But the mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong.

The boundaries of Manasseh are defined. They say we have grown in number, and we need more property. Joshua gives them the mountains adjacent to their possessed possession. They ask for even more, but Joshua tells them, you say you are a great people, go forth and take what you have been given and it will be enough.

The lesson for us; Manasseh was given plenty of property for their habitation, however, they had not worked diligently to possess all the property given to them. They wanted something easy to possess to be handed to them. Each Christian is given certain gifts and blessings. How many times do we ask God for more blessings, when we have not put forth the effort, to possess those things God has already given us? We may ask for more, but God has promised to provide our needs, not our wants. Just as Joshua tells Manasseh; you have enough if you will get busy and do the work necessary to possess your given territory. Wherefore, if we fully exercise in the gifts, and blessings, we have already received, it will be enough.

Many Christians do not receive the fulness, of the blessings they have been given, because they are lackadaisical in their Christian lives. We think, because we have been given salvation and eternal life in Christ, that God is just going to open heaven and give us everything we need and want with no effort of our own. This is simply not true. Why? Because it is hard work to be a Christian. Here are just a few examples of things we leave unpossessed:

- It takes great effort; to fight the daily warfare, therefore we fail to fully live our spiritual lives, and we do not possess, all that we have been given to possess.
- It takes time and effort; to go to the Lord each day in prayer. Remember, God tells us in: ***Jas 4:1-3; 1 ¶ "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*** God knows our needs, but he expects us to ask for them in humble prayer, recognizing where our blessings come from.
- It takes time and effort; to spend time giving thanks to God, for the blessings we receive each day.
- It takes time and effort to seek out and assist those in need, which is the manifestation of being a true Christian as seen in Matthew chapter 25. This is doing the work of an evangelist. Do you understand; being an evangelist, as all Christians are to be, requires more than just telling others about our great Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ? It requires that we work at being a true friend to those in need. It requires that we expend great effort to help those in need, whether it be a natural or a spiritual need. We cannot provide spiritual needs if we have not spent the time necessary to prepare ourselves to be spiritual ministers to others.

It takes time and effort to read and study God's word of truth, and herein are many spiritual blessings left unpossessed.