

Exegetical Notes, Joshua 13:1-7
“The Job Was Done – OR WAS IT?”

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Joshua 13:1-7

Verses 1-5

When Joshua had grown old the LORD said to him, “You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.

²“This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites, ³from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite though held by the five Philistine rulers in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron; the territory of the Avvites ⁴on the south; all the land of the Canaanites, from Arah of the Sidonians as far as Aphek¹ and the border of the Amorites; ⁵the area of Byblos; and all Lebanon¹ to the east, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

- Joshua was between 90 and 100 years old.
- Though God had given Israel control over large portions of the Promised Land, there were pockets which were not yet under Israeli control. Those areas are listed here.

Verses 6-7

⁶“As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim that is, all the Sidonians, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you ⁷and divide it as an inheritance among the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh.”

- God assures Joshua of victory over these areas and urges him to bring them under Israeli control. These areas are to be included in the territory divided among the tribes of Israel.

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