

God's Faithfulness to Fulfill His Promises (Joshua 21:43 - 45)

Sunday, Nov. 24/13

*Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed...(21:45)*

Introduction: In the distribution of the land among the twelve tribes of Israel we see many dimensions of the mercy and grace of God that the Church of Jesus Christ is to incarnate today.

A. The Church: Sanctified by the Promises of God (*Division of the Land* - Ch. 15 - 19; cf. Gen 49)

- Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin.
- Compromise and its Consequences (13:12 - 13; 15:63; 16:10; 17:12 - 13; Judges 1:19 - 36)

B. The Church: Sanctuary of the Mercies of God (*Cities of Refuge* - Ch. 20)

- "...we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged." (Heb. 6:18)
- "...freely you have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8)

C. The Church: Servants in the Ministry of God (*Towns for the Levites* - Ch. 21)

- "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Questions for Reflection:

1. What might we learn about compromise from Israel's history of taking possession of the land?
2. How is our Church like a city of refuge? How is it not? What people we should be looking for?
3. As the 'scattered church' all week long how are we to resemble the Levites?