

נחלות שבטי ישראל

In the Book of Numbers we read:

ויתן להם משה לבני-גד ולבני ראובן ולחצי שבט מנשה בן-יוסף, את-ממלכת סיחן מלך האמרי, ואת-ממלכת עוג מלך הבשן: הארץ לעריה בגבלת-ערי הארץ סביב.

“And Moses gave to them, to the children of Gad, and to the children of Reuben, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land, according to the cities thereof with their borders, even the cities of the land round about” (Num 32:33; see also: Deu 29:7; Jos 13:8-32).

The inheritances (by lot) of the tribes of Judah and of Joseph’s sons (Ephraim and the western half tribe of Manasseh), are described in Jos 15:1-63 and Jos 16:1-17:13 respectively. We also read in the Book of Joshua:

רק לשבט הלוי לא נתן נחלה: אשי יהוה אלהי ישראל הוא נחלתו, כאשר דבר-לו.

“Only to the tribe of Levi he gave no inheritance; the offerings of *YHWH*, the God of Israel, made by fire are his inheritance, as He spoke unto him” (Jos 13:14).

Now we read in the Book of Joshua:

ויותרו בבני ישראל, אשר לא-חלקו את-נחלתם-שבעה שבטים.

“And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance” (Jos 18:2).

Then Joshua said to the people:

הבו לכם שלשה אנשים לשבט; ואשלחם, ויקמו ויתהלכו בארץ ויכתבו אותה לפי נחלתם-ויבאו אלי.

והתחלקו אתה לשבעה חלקים: יהודה יעמד על-גבולו מנגב, ובית יוסף יעמדו על-גבולם מצפון.

ואתם תכתבו את-הארץ שבעה חלקים, והבאתם אלי הנה; ויריתי לכם גורל פה לפני יהוה אלהינו.

“Appoint for you three men for each tribe; and I will send them, and they shall arise, and walk through the land, and describe it according to their inheritance; and they shall come to me.

And they shall divide it into seven portions: Judah shall abide in his border on the south, and the house of Joseph shall abide in their border on the north.

And you shall describe the land into seven portions, and bring the description hither to me; and I will cast lots for you here before *YHWH* our God” (Jos 18:4-6).

וילכו האנשים ויעברו בארץ, ויכתבוה לערים לשבעה חלקים על-ספר; ויבאו אל-יהושע אל-המחנה שלה.

וישלך להם יהושע גורל בשלה לפני יהוה; ויחלק-שם יהושע את-הארץ לבני ישראל כמחלקתם.

“And the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven portions in a book, and they came to Joshua unto the camp at Shiloh.

And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before *YHWH*; and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions” (Jos 18:9-10).

We are also told that the first lot came out to the tribe of **בנימין** - “**Benjamin**” (Jos 18:11); the second to the tribe of **שמעון** - “**Simeon**” (Jos 19:1); the third to **זבולון** - “**Zebulun**” (Jos 19:10); the fourth to **יששכר** - “**Issachar**” (Jos 19:17); the fifth to **אשר** - “**Asher**” (Jos 19:24); the sixth to **נפתלי** - “**Naphtali**” (Jos 19:32); and the seventh to **דן** - “**Dan**” (Jos 19:40).

Yet traditionally, it is assumed that the map of the tribes of Israel is the following:



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