

I. Inheritance for the Nations (vv 16-17, 20).**A. Inheritance for the Kenites (v 16)**

- 1) *The descendants of the Kenite, Moses's father-in-law*
 - a) The history (Gen 25:2).
 - b) Their inclusion through marriage to Moses
 - c) Their refusal to come into the nation of Israel (Ex 18:27).
 - d) Their return into Israel (Num 10:29-31)
- 2) Their inheritance
- 3) Such is the hope of all those who follow Christ.

B. Inheritance for faithful Judah and Simeon (vv 17, 20)

- 1) Judah/Simeon capture the land, devoted to destruction (v 17)
- 2) The holiness of God (Dt 13:14b-16)
- 3) The wrath of God at the Day of the Lord (2 Pt 3:10)
- 4) The grace of God in Pentecost (Acts 2:3-4)

C. Inheritance for Caleb (v 20)

- 1) Caleb as not an Israelite by birth (Num 32:12; Gen 15:19, 36:11).
- 2) Yet, through faith, He enters the rest (Jsh 15:13)
- 3) So do all those who believe upon God's covenant have their portion in Christ, the faithful Judah (Gal 3:28-29)

D. Christ is the Light to the Nations (Isa 49:6)**II. The Wicked Flee the City of Destruction Half-Heartedly (vv 22-26).****A. Exposition from the Text**

- 1) *The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them* (v 22) — Though separate they were unfaithful (vv 27, 29). *Use*, So it is that the company of saints strengthens us and is an aid to our sanctification.
- 2) *The house of Joseph sorted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz)* (v 23; Gen 28:12-13)
- 3) The Spy and Destruction of Luz (vv 24-25)
- 4) Whereas Rahab helped Israel out of true faith, this man aided Joseph out of expediency.

B. Doctrines from the Text

- 1) The Lord has ordained and uses a variety of means to accomplish His will (Gen 50:20)
- 2) The wicked often care most for their own comfort, which is a cause of the restraining of sin. (Mt 13:22)
- 3) Those who love the world will seek to perpetuate worldliness (Prov 26:11)

- 4) The wicked are not particularly inventive (Eccl 1:9; 1 Chr 12:32)

- 5) All Luzes will eventually be replaced with Bethels.

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to be content with God's providence, including the seemingly messy means He uses to accomplish His will.
- 2) Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

III. Israel's Half-Hearted War Against Sin (vv 18-19, 21, 27-36).**A. Judah's Lack of Faith (vv 18-19)**

- 1) Judah captures 3 out of 5 Philistine cities (v 18) (Phil 3:8)
- 2) Judah unable to take over the chariots of iron (v 19)

B. The Slippery-Slope Failures of Israel (vv 21, 27-36)

- 1) Allowing the Canaanites to Dwell among the Israelites (vv 21, 27-30):
 - a) 'Peaceably' living among one another, as with Benjamin (21) and Ephraim (29) (Ex 23:32-33)
 - b) Or by subjecting the Canaanites to forced labour as slaves, as with Manasseh (27-28) and Zebulun (30) (Mt 6:24; 1 Sam 15:22-23a; Rom 6:12)
- 2) The Israelites Dwelling among the Canaanites: As with Asher (31-32) and Naphtali (v 33) (Ex 34:13; 1 Cor 10:20)
- 3) The Israelites Serving the Canaanites, as in the case of the tribe of Dan (vv 34-36)
 - a) Dan pressed back by the Amorites into the hill country, but are aided by Ephraim and Manasseh (v 34; Gal 6:1)
 - b) The Amorites establish their boarder (v 36). *Use*, When the Kingdom of Christ abdicates her responsibility, the Kingdom of Satan will seek to advance.

C. Concluding Uses from the Text

- 1) As regards our Justification, we may take comfort that even weak faith brings one into the land of inheritance (Eph 2:8-9)
- 2) As regards our Sanctification:
 - a) We may take comfort that the Lord is with us in our sanctification. (Heb 13:5)
 - b) We may take comfort that the Lord is with the Church in Her mission (Mt 28:19-20)
 - c) We must remember that sanctification is never complete this side of glory (1 Jn 1:8-9)
- 3) As regards our Glorification, we may take comfort that Christ has conquered all His enemies, so that there shall be neither sin, nor curse, nor death in Heaven (Rev 21:3-4)