

THE LEVITICAL CITIES

Joshua 21

(Josh 21), “Then came near the heads of the fathers of the Levites unto Eleazar the priest, and unto Joshua the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel; {2} And they spake unto them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, The LORD commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle. {3} And the children of Israel gave unto the Levites out of their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their suburbs. {4} And the lot came out for the families of **THE KOHATHITES**: and the children of Aaron the priest, which were of the Levites, had by lot out of the tribe of Judah, and out of the tribe of Simeon, and out of the tribe of Benjamin, thirteen cities. {5} And the rest of the children of Kohath had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Ephraim, and out of the tribe of Dan, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh, ten cities. {6} And the children of **GERSHON** had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities. {7} The children of **MERARI** by their families had out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities. {8} And the children of Israel gave by lot unto the Levites these cities with their suburbs, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses. {9} And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are here mentioned by name, {10} Which the children of Aaron, being of the families of the **KOHATHITES**, who were of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot. {11} And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it. {12} But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, gave they to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession. {13} Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Libnah with her suburbs, {14} And Jattir with her suburbs, and Eshtemoa with her suburbs, {15} And Holon with her suburbs, and Debir with her suburbs, {16} And Ain with her suburbs, and Juttah with her suburbs, and Bethshemesh with her suburbs; nine cities out of those two tribes. {17} And out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs, Geba with her suburbs, {18} Anathoth with her suburbs, and Almon with her suburbs; four cities. {19} All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their suburbs. {20} And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites which remained of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their lot out of the tribe of Ephraim. {21} For they gave them Shechem with her suburbs in mount Ephraim, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Gezer with her suburbs, {22} And Kibzaim with her suburbs, and Bethhoron with her suburbs; four cities. {23} And out of the tribe of Dan, Eltekeh with her suburbs, Gibbethon with her suburbs, {24} Aijalon with her suburbs, Gathrimmon with her

suburbs; four cities. {25} And out of the half tribe of Manasseh, Tanach with her suburbs, and Gathrimmon with her suburbs; two cities. {26} All the cities were ten with their suburbs for the families of the children of Kohath that remained. {27} And unto the children of **GERSHON**, of the families of the Levites, out of the other half tribe of Manasseh they gave Golan in Bashan with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Beeshterah with her suburbs; two cities. {28} And out of the tribe of Issachar, Kishon with her suburbs, Dabareh with her suburbs, {29} Jarmuth with her suburbs, Engannim with her suburbs; four cities. {30} And out of the tribe of Asher, Mishal with her suburbs, Abdon with her suburbs, {31} Helkath with her suburbs, and Rehob with her suburbs; four cities. {32} And out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Hammothdor with her suburbs, and Kartan with her suburbs; three cities. {33} All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their suburbs. {34} And unto the families of the children of **MERARI**, the rest of the Levites, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with her suburbs, and Kartah with her suburbs, {35} Dimnah with her suburbs, Nahalal with her suburbs; four cities. {36} And out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with her suburbs, and Jahazah with her suburbs, {37} Kedemoth with her suburbs, and Mephaath with her suburbs; four cities. {38} And out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Mahanaim with her suburbs, {39} Heshbon with her suburbs, Jazer with her suburbs; four cities in all. {40} So all the cities for the children of Merari by their families, which were remaining of the families of the Levites, were by their lot twelve cities. **{41}** All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty and eight cities with their suburbs. {42} These cities were every one with their suburbs round about them: thus were all these cities. {43} And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. {44} And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. {45} There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."



INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND OF CANAAN ARE FOUND IN THE BOOK OF NUMBERS, CHAPTERS 33-35. The Book of Numbers was given **by God through Moses** PRIOR TO ISRAEL CROSSING the Jordan river into the Land of Canaan (Num 36:13).

IN NUMBERS 33

THE METHOD FOR DETERMINING DISTRIBUTION OF

THE LAND between the tribes of Israel was to be **BY USE OF LOTS** (v. 54)

- S **"LOTS" WERE** objects of some type that were cast down and used to determine a decision apart from human predispositions. THE WORD FOR **"LOT"** OCCURS **70 TIMES** in the **O.T.**, and **SEVEN TIMES** in the **N.T.** For example, **MATTHIAS** was chosen to replace **JUDAS** as one of the twelve disciples **BY CASTING "LOTS"** (Acts 1:26).
- S **"LOTS" WERE** used to make a decision **SEPARATE FROM human predispositions**. **CASTING A "LOT" WOULD BE SIMILAR TO DRAWING STRAWS**, or **PICKING NAMES FROM A HAT**, in order to determine which **five soldiers** would be chosen for a dangerous mission. The very nature of casting lots **ELIMINATED HUMAN BIAS**.
- S THE USE OF **"LOTS"** TO DIVIDE THE LAND **PREVENTED FAVORITISM** toward any individual tribe. **IF GOD WANTED** a certain tribe to have a certain partial of the land, God would have to intervene in the process.

IN NUMBERS 34

GOD DESIGNATED **THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROMISED LAND**
(information regarding borders is taken from the **Bible Knowledge Commentary**)

◆ **SOUTHERN BORDER**

- "34:1-5. from the end of the Salt Sea (the Dead Sea) westward south of Scorpion Pass (perhaps Naqb es-Safa, about 20 miles southwest of the Dead Sea) to the Desert of Zin and to Kadesh Barnea, 65 miles southwest of the Dead Sea. From there the border extended northwesterly to Hazar Addar (4 or 5 miles away) and Azmon (3 miles away). There it joined the Wadi of Egypt (Wadi el-Arish) and continued northwestward to the Mediterranean Sea, about 50 miles south of Gaza." (**Bible Knowledge Commentary**)

◆ **WESTERN & NORTHERN BORDERS**

- "34:6-9. The **western** border was the Mediterranean (the Great Sea). The **northern** border extended from the Mediterranean near Mount Hor (Ras Shakkah?), not the Mount Hor where Aaron died (33:38) but a northern peak about 10 miles north of the Phoenician city of Byblos. The border ran eastward to Lebo Hamath (cf. 13:21), about 50 miles north of Damascus, on to Zedad (northeast of Lebo Hamath about 30

miles) and Ziphron (10 miles farther east), and ended at Hazar Enan, 70 miles northeast of Damascus.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

◆ EASTERN BORDER

- “34:10-15. The eastern border commenced in the north at Hazar Enan, went south to Shepham (site unknown), Riblah (70 miles north of Damascus), and on to the east of the Sea of Kinnereth (later called the Sea of Galilee; see comments on Josh. 11:2) and on to the Salt Sea.” (Bible Knowledge Commentary)
- **A PICTURE SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.**

IN NUMBERS 34:17ff

- § **THE DESIGNATED PERSONS RESPONSIBLE** for overseeing the casting of lots and the distribution of the land are identified. THOSE PERSONS INCLUDE **ELEAZAR**, THE PRIEST, **JOSHUA** THE SON OF NUN, and **ONE REPRESENTATIVE** from the twelve tribes of Israel.

IN NUMBERS 35

GOD GAVE **INSTRUCTION** regarding **CITIES OF REFUGE** and **THE LEVITICAL CITIES**. **THE FOCUS** of this message is on the *Levitical cities*.

(Num 35:1-2a niv), “On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the LORD said to Moses, {2} **“COMMAND** the Israelites to **GIVE THE LEVITES TOWNS** to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess . . . ”

OUR TEXT — **JOSHUA 21**

ONE MAJOR DIFFERENCE between the account in **NUMBERS 35** and **JOSHUA 21** is **THE TIME PERIOD THEY ADDRESS**. **NUMBERS 35** was given **prior to** Israel crossing into the Promised Land. **JOSHUA 21** was given **AFTER** Israel had already conquered the Promised Land and the land was being distributed among the twelve tribes.

(V. 1-2), “Then came near the heads of **THE FATHERS OF THE LEVITES** unto **Eleazar** the priest, and unto **Joshua** the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel;

{2} And they spake unto them **at Shiloh** in the land of Canaan, saying, ‘The LORD commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle.’” (Num 34:17ff)

- **LIKE CALEB**, THE LEVITES came in obedience to the **commands** of God **TO CLAIM** God’s **promise**.

(V. 3), “And the children of Israel gave unto THE **LEVITES** out of their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their suburbs.”

S IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND **WHO THE LEVITES WERE**. **ALL PRIESTS** in Joshua’s day WERE LEVITES, but **NOT ALL LEVITES WERE PRIESTS**. Another way to say that is, where you find a priest in the Book of Joshua, you also find a Levite. But remember, not every Levite was a priest.

S THE **LEVITES and PRIESTS** have been **HIGHLIGHTED MANY TIMES** IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA:

- 1) The Levites who were priests **BORE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT** when Israel **CROSSED THE JORDAN RIVER** (Jos 3:3).
- 2) **THE PRIESTS** bore the ark of the covenant and blew the rams horns when Israel marched around **JERICHO** (Jos 6:8).
- 3) The Levites who were priests bore the ark to **MOUNT GERIZIM AND MOUNT EBAL** when the blessing and cursings were given (Josh 8:33).
- 4) THE LEVITES were not given an **ALLOTMENT OF LAND** as were the other tribes of Israel. They were **GIVEN CITIES** in which to dwell and God was their inheritance in a very unique way (Josh 14:3-4; Josh 18:7).

- **LEVI WAS** the **THIRD-BORN SON OF JACOB**. He was **ONE OF TWELVE SONS OF JACOB**. His mother’s name was **LEAH**.
- THE **LEVI TES** WERE THE **DESCENDANTS OF LEVI**.
- THE **TRIBE OF LEVI** was divided into **THREE FAMILIES** according to THE **THREE SONS OF LEVI: GERSHON, KOHATH AND MERARI**. (The *Ancestral Chart* taken from the Bible Knowledge Commentary provides a good visual.) The Levites play a significant role in O.T. history.
- **GREAT DETAIL IS RECORDED** in the Bible regarding the tribe of

Levi. Consider **FIVE DETAILS** related to the Levites.

#1. THE LEVITES DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES AT MOUNT SINAI

- S **A PARTICULAR ACT OF FAITH BY THE LEVITES ELEVATED THEIR TRIBE AMONG THE ISRAELITES.**
- S WHILE ISRAEL WAS CAMPING AT Mt. **SINAI**, Moses received the *O.T. LAW*. Moses stayed up on Mt. Sinai for such a long time that the Israelites below made a golden calf and committed idolatry. When Moses came down from the mount, he **THREW the stone table** to the ground and broke it. He took their golden calf, **ground it into POWER**, scattered it in the water and made the Israelites **DRINK IT**. Moses then cried out, “. . . Who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me . . . ” (Exo 32:26). The folks who responded in obedience to God were the **SONS OF LEVI**. They gathered themselves around Moses and obeyed the Lord. The Levites stood head and shoulders above the other tribes of Israel on that particular day of testing.

#2. THE LEVITES WERE CHOSEN BY GOD

(Num 8:14 niv), “. . . The Levites **SHALL BE MINE.**”

(Num 8:16 niv), “. . . **THEY** are wholly **GIVEN UNTO ME** from among the children of Israel; . . . ”

(Num 3:12 niv), “**I {God} HAVE TAKEN THE LEVITES** from among the Israelites **IN PLACE OF THE FIRST MALE OFFSPRING** of every Israelite woman. **THE LEVITES ARE MINE.**”

- S **GOD REQUIRED THE FIRST MALE OF EVERY WOMB OF BOTH MAN AND ANIMAL FOR HIMSELF.**
(Num 18:15-16 niv), “The first offspring of every womb, both man and animal, that is offered to the LORD is yours. But you **must redeem** every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals. {16} When they are a month old, you must redeem them at the redemption price set at **FIVE SHEKELS OF SILVER**, . . . ”
- S **(Num 8:18 niv)**, “And **I HAVE TAKEN THE LEVITES** for all **THE FIRSTBORN** of the children of Israel.”
- S **THE LEVITES** served as God’s substitute for the firstborn of Israel.

- #1. THE LEVITES WERE **DISTINGUISHED** AT MOUNT SINAI
#2. THE LEVITES WERE **CHOSEN BY GOD**

#3. THE LEVITES WERE SET APART FOR SPECIAL SERVICE

CONSIDER **FIVE AREAS OF SERVICE** ASSIGNED TO THE LEVITES:

1) THE LEVITES **ASSISTED AARON** IN CARRYING OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TABERNACLE

(Num 3:5-6), "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, {6} Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him."

2) THE LEVITES TOOK CARE OF ALL THE **FURNISHINGS** OF THE TABERNACLE

(Num 1:50), "But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle."

(Num 3:7), "And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle."

3) THE LEVITES **CARRIED THE TABERNACLE** THROUGH THE WILDERNESS.

(Deu 10:8), "At that time THE LORD SEPARATED the tribe of Levi, **TO BEAR THE ARK** of the covenant of the LORD, . . . "

S **THE DUTIES** of the Levites were **DIVIDED ACCORDING** to the **THREE FAMILIES** of Levi. This information is **QUITE DETAILED** (Numbers 3).

THE KOHATHITES

"Elizaphan was leader (Num 3:30). At the building of the Tabernacle they numbered **8,600 men** (3:28), with **2,750 qualified** for active service (4:36). They camped on the **SOUTH SIDE** of the Tabernacle (3:29). **THEIR DUTY** was to have charge of the **Ark**, the table of **the bread** of the Presence, the **lampstands**, the **altars** of burnt offering and of incense, the **sacred vessels** used in the service, and **the veil** (3:31; 4:4-15)." (Unger's Bible Dictionary)

THE GERSHONITES

"Eliasaph was leader (Num 3:24). They numbered **7,500 men**, with **2,630 qualified** for active service (3:22; 4:40). They camped on the **West side** of the Tabernacle (3:23). Their duty was to have charge of **curtains**, the **tent**

(i.e., above the planks), the **coverings** and **the hanging for the door** of the Tabernacle, the hangings of the court and the court **entrance**, their **CORDS** and instruments of service, also the work of **taking down** and **setting these up** (3:25-26; 4:22-28).” (Unger’s Bible Dictionary)

THE MERARITES

“Zuriel was leader (Num 3:35). They numbered **6,200 men**, with **3,200 qualified** for active service (3:34; 4:44). They camped on the **North side** of the Tabernacle (3:35). Their duty was to have charge of the **frames, bars, pillars**, and **sockets** of the Tabernacle; also the **pillars** of the court, their sockets, pegs, cords, and tools pertaining thereto (3:36-37; 4:29-32). Owing to the **heavy** nature of the materials they had to carry, **four wagons** and **eight oxen** were assigned to them; and in the march both they and the Gershonites followed immediately after the standard of Judah, and before that of Reuben, that they might set up the Tabernacle before the arrival of the Kohathites (7:8).”

(Unger’s Bible Dictionary)

- 1) **ASSISTED AARON**
- 2) **TOOK CARE OF ALL THE FURNISHINGS**
- 3) **CARRIED THE TABERNACLE**

4) **THE LEVITES TAUGHT & GUARDED GOD’S WORD**

- **(Deu 33:9-10 niv)**, “. . . HE {THE LEVITES} **WATCHED OVER YOUR WORD** and **GUARDED YOUR COVENANT**. {10} He **TEACHES YOUR PRECEPTS** to Jacob and **YOUR LAW** to Israel. He **OFFERS INCENSE** before you and **WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS** on your altar.”
- **(Lev 10:11 niv)**, “. . . You must **TEACH** the Israelites **ALL THE DECREES** the LORD has given them through Moses.”
- **(Deu 31:9-13)**, “. . . In the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**, {11} When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt **READ THIS LAW BEFORE ALL ISRAEL** in their hearing. {12} **GATHER THE PEOPLE** together, **men**, and **women**, and **children**, and thy **stranger** that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and

that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: {13} And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and **LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD** your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

- **KING JEHOSEPHAT SENT OFFICIALS AND LEVITES THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF JUDAH TO TEACH THE BOOKS OF THE LAW.**

(2 Chr 17:8-9), "And with them **HE SENT LEVITES**, even Shemaiah, and Nathaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. {9} **AND THEY TAUGHT** in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, **AND TAUGHT THE PEOPLE.**"

THE RESULTS WERE:

(2 Chr 17:10), "And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat."

- **(Neh 8:9)**, "And NEHEMIAH, . . . and EZRA the priest the scribe, **AND THE LEVITES** that **TAUGHT THE PEOPLE** . . . "

- **KING HEZEKIAH SAID TO THE LEVITES**

(2 Chr 29:3-5), "He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. {4} And he brought in **THE PRIESTS AND THE LEVITES**, and gathered them together into the east street, {5} And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and **carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.**"

- 1) **ASSISTED AARON**
- 2) **TOOK CARE OF ALL THE FURNISHINGS**
- 3) **CARRIED THE TABERNACLE**
- 4) **THE LEVITES TAUGHT & GUARDED GOD'S WORD**

- 5) **THE LEVITES LED IN WORSHIP**

(Deu 10:8), "At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD **TO MINISTER UNTO HIM**, and **TO BLESS IN HIS NAME**, unto this day."

- S **DURING THE REIGN OF HEZEKIAH, THE LEVITES AND PRIESTS NOT ONLY TAUGHT GOD'S WORD, THEY LED IN SINGING AND WORSHIP.** The passage is worth reading.

(2 Chr 30:21-22), "And the children of Israel that

were present at Jerusalem kept **THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD** seven days with great gladness: and **THE LEVITES AND THE PRIESTS PRAISED** the LORD day by day, **SINGING WITH LOUD INSTRUMENTS** unto the LORD. {22} And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, **OFFERING PEACE OFFERINGS**, and **MAKING CONFESSION** to the LORD God of their fathers."

◆ **AN INTERESTING NOTE**

(Num 8:24-25 niv), "This applies to the Levites: Men **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD** or more shall come to take part in the work at the Tent of Meeting, {25} but at the **AGE OF FIFTY, THEY MUST RETIRE** from their regular service and work no longer."

- #1. THE LEVITES WERE **DISTINGUISHED** AT MOUNT SINAI
- #2. THE LEVITES WERE **CHOSEN BY GOD**
- #3. THE LEVITES WERE **SET APART FOR SPECIAL SERVICE**

#4. THE LEVITES PROVIDED THE PRIESTS FOR ISRAEL

- S ALL PRIESTS WERE LEVITES, BUT NOT ALL LEVITES WERE PRIESTS.
- S **THE PRIESTS OF JOSHUA'S DAY** were **DESCENDANTS OF** the tribe of Levi. More specifically, the priests were from **THE FAMILY OF KOHATH**. More specific even than that, the priests were descendants of Aaron.

- S **THROUGH THE FAMILY OF KOHATH** would eventually be born two boys by the names of **MOSES and AARON**. Aaron would become the first **HIGH PRIEST FOR ISRAEL**. (THE **ANCESTRAL CHART** from the *Bible Knowledge Commentary* is helpful in grasping the lineage of Levi)

- #1. THE LEVITES **DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES** AT MT. SINAI
- #2. THE LEVITES WERE **CHOSEN BY GOD**
- #3. THE LEVITES WERE **SET APART FOR SPECIAL SERVICE**
- #4. THE LEVITES **PROVIDED THE PRIESTS** FOR ISRAEL

#5. THE LEVITES' INHERITANCE DIFFERED FROM

THE OTHER TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

- S THE TWELVE TRIBES were given specific allotments of land which they owned. On their land the twelve tribes would make a living and provide for their families. They would raise crops and animals in order to meet their physical needs for life.
- S THE LEVITES' INHERITANCE WAS DIFFERED FROM THE OTHER TRIBES OF ISRAEL. THE LEVITES' INHERITANCE WAS **FOURFOLD**:

(1) THE LEVITES HAD **A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

(Deu 10:9), “Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.” (also Num 18:20)

- S HOW WOULD THE LEVITES EVER SURVIVE **WITHOUT LAND**? How would they put **FOOD** on their tables and take care of their families? How would they ever have **A HOME** in which to live since they had no inheritance in the land?
- S A PRINCIPLE WE CAN DEDUCE from God's promise to the Levites IS — **WHEN GOD GUIDES, GOD PROVIDES**. God takes care of those He calls. It is true that God used **A DIFFERENT MANNER** to provide for the Levites than He used to provide for the other tribes.

(1) **A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

THE LEVITES WERE GIVEN

(2) **FORTY-EIGHT CITIES** SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE LAND

(Num 35:6 niv), “**SIX OF THE TOWNS** YOU GIVE THE LEVITES will be **CITIES OF REFUGE**, to which a person who has killed someone may flee . . . ”

(Num 35:6b-7 niv), “. . . In addition, give them **FORTY-TWO OTHER TOWNS**. {7} **IN ALL** you must give the Levites **FORTY-EIGHT TOWNS**, together with their pasturelands.”

- S THE *CITIES OF REFUGE* were the topic of study in

Joshua, chapter 20. Three of *the cities of refuge* were located on the east side of the Jordan river, and three were located on the west side. The *cities of refuge* were also *Levitical cities*.

S THE **LEVITICAL CITIES** **TOTALED FORTY-EIGHT** in all, with **SIX** of the FORTY-EIGHT designated as *Cities of Refuge*. A good **BIBLE MAP** is helpful in discovering the location of these cities. One thing we discover is those forty-eight cities were scattered throughout the land of Israel.

- THE **GERSHONITES** were allotted **13 CITIES**.
- THE **MERARITES** were given **12 CITIES**.
- THE **KOATHITES** were given **23 CITIES, 13 OF WHICH** went to the **PRIESTS**. The temple would eventually be constructed in Jerusalem in the tribe of Judah. It was not a coincidence that the priests were placed, by lot, in the land nearest the location where the temple would someday be built.

S **IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER** the *Levitical cities* were **SCATTERED** throughout the land of Canaan. The other tribes of Israel were localized within the boundaries of their inheritance of land. The Levites were **DISPERSED** throughout the land of Israel among all the tribes for the purpose of **SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE**. The ministry of the Levites **AFFECTED ALL** the tribes of Israel.

S **WITHIN EACH LEVITICAL CITY, THE INDIVIDUAL LEVITE OWNED HIS OWN HOUSE.**

- **(Lev 25:32-33)**, "Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, and **THE HOUSES** of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time. {33} And if a man purchase of the Levites, then the house that was sold, and the city of his possession, shall go out in the year of jubilee: for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel."
- **INDICATIONS ARE FOLKS OTHER THAN LEVITES** lived within the forty-eight Levitical cities. In fact, **HEBRON**, a *city of refuge* and a

Levitical city, was given to Caleb and he was not a Levite.

- WHEN IT CAME **TIME FOR SERVICE**, the Levites would have to leave their *Levitical city* and **TRAVEL** to the tabernacle (1 Chron 25-26). **THEIR TERM OF SERVE** at the tabernacle (later the temple) is not specified in the Book of Joshua. We do know as the population multiplied, their time of service became shorter and shorter.

By the time **KING DAVID** came to the throne, the number of priests had increased so much in number that he broke them into **TWENTY-FOUR DIVISIONS**. In David's day each division's term of service was **LIMITED TO ONE WEEK** from one Sabbath to the next Sabbath. Their service was conducted **TWICE A YEAR** (1 Chron. 24:7-18).

Among David's twenty-four divisions, the **8TH ORDER** was called "**ABIJAH**" (1 Chron. 24:10). That has relevance in the N.T. **THE PARENTS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST** were named **ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH**. Both were **OF PRIESTLY FAMILIES**. Elizabeth was of **THE DAUGHTERS OF AARON** and Zechariah was **A PRIEST** of **THE COURSE OF ABIJAH** (Luke 1:5).

DURING ZECHARIAH'S DAY, so many priests served that many priests were privileged to serve the temple **ONLY ONCE IN THEIR ENTIRE LIFETIME**.

THE LEVITES WERE GIVEN

- (1) **A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**
- (2) **FORTY-EIGHT CITIES** SCATTERED THROUGHOUT

(3) THE **PASTURELANDS** SURROUNDING THE CITIES

- S A SMALL DESIGNATED PORTION OF LAND AROUND THE FORTY-EIGHT CITIES was **FOR EXCLUSIVE USE** BY THE LEVITES that lived in that city. (**Num 35:2b-5 niv**), ". . . And give them **PASTURELANDS AROUND THE TOWNS**. {3} Then they will have towns to live in and pasturelands for their **cattle, flocks** and all their other livestock. {4} "The pasturelands around the towns that you give the

Levites will extend out **fifteen hundred feet** {a **thousand cubits**} from the town wall. {5} Outside the town, measure **three thousand feet** {**two thousand cubits**} on the east side, three thousand on the south side, three thousand on the west and three thousand on the north, with the town in the center. They will have this area as pastureland for the towns.”

S **THE SHAPE OF THE PASTURELANDS HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF MUCH DEBATE** by Bible students.

Various explanations have been offered.

#1. **“THE TALMUD** (Erubin, 51 a) assumes that the cities were **circular** in form, the space measured from the wall 1,000 cubits around being used as **"suburbs,"** and the space measured outside the city 2,000 cubits around being used for **fields and vineyards,** that is, as **"the fields of the suburbs"**. (From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

#2 **“KEIL DELITZSCH** assume that "the towns and surrounding fields were **squares,** the pasturage stretching 1,000 cubits from the city wall in every direction, . . . the length of each outer side [being] 2,000 cubits, apart from the length of the city wall: so, that, if the town itself occupied a square of 1,000 cubits, the outer side of the town fields would measure 2,000 + 1,000 cubits in every direction; but if each side of the city was only 500 cubits long, the outer side of the town fields would measure 2,000 + 500 cubits in every direction." Of these cities six were to be cities of refuge (which see), and thirteen were allotted to the priests' portion of the tribe. (From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

#3. **BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY** has a graphic that offers an interesting interpretation.

THE LEVITES WERE GIVEN

- (1) **A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**
- (2) **FORTY-EIGHT CITIES** SCATTERED THROUGHOUT
- (3) **THE PASTURELANDS** SURROUNDING THE CITIES

THE LEVITES WERE GIVEN

- (4) **A PORTION OF THE TITHES** OF ISRAEL.

S The word **TITHE** MEANS **TENTH.** Israel was to give a tenth of their **FRUITS** to the Lord.

- S THE QUESTION WAS ASKED EARLIER, **WITHOUT LAND** HOW WOULD THE LEVITES SURVIVE? How would they put **FOOD** on their tables and take care of their families? How would they ever have **A HOME** in which to live if they had no land?
- S Part of God's plan for the use of the tithe in the O.T. was to provide for the Levites who were in His service. In general terms, the tithes of Israel had at least **A THREEFOLD PURPOSE:**

#1. TO PROVIDED FOR THE POOR

(Deu 26:12-13), "When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the **stranger**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; {13} Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the **stranger**, to the **fatherless**, and to the **widow**, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them."

#2. TO MAINTAIN THE STOREHOUSE

(Mal 3:10), "Bring ye all the tithes into the **storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

#3. TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVITES IN THE LORDS' SERVICE

(Num 18:21), "And, behold, I have given **the children of Levi** all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."

THE TITHE CAME FROM:

- **THE FRUITS** from the **fields**, the **flocks** and **herds** (Lev 27:30-33; Num 18:21-24)
- **THE FIRSTFRUITS** (Ex 23:19; Lev 2:14; 23:17),
- **THE FIRSTBORN** (Ex 13:12-13; Lev 27:26; Num 18:15-17; Deut 15:19)
- **CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS** of the people (Num 18:8-11,19).

From the tithes THE LEVITES received, they WERE REQUIRED TO **TITHE TO THE PRIESTS** (Num

18:26-32).

MALACHI, THE LAST O.T. PROPHET, ADDRESSED **THE COVENANT OF LEVI** IN A NEGATIVE MANNER. HE SAID:

- **(Mal 2:8)**, "But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; YE HAVE CORRUPTED **THE COVENANT OF LEVI**, saith the LORD of hosts."
- The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* indicates the covenant that Levi had corrupted was the one mentioned in **NUMBERS (Num 18:19)**, "All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee."
- Perhaps the Levites had gone beyond what was proper in relationship to their use of the tithes of Israel. Perhaps they were using for themselves that which God had intended for other purposes. The text in Malachi does not reveal what it was specifically

APPLICATION OF JOSHUA 21

SEVERAL PARALLELS EXIST BETWEEN GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE LEVITICAL CITIES and GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE N. T. CHURCH. The remainder of this message will address **THREE** of those parallels. Additional parallels can be drawn between the **O.T. LEVITE** and the **N.T. BELIEVER**. Don't forget that **EVERY BELIEVER** in Jesus Christ is **A "PRIEST."**

- **(1 Pet 2:5)**, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy **PRIESTHOOD**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."
- **(1 Pet 2:9)**, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal **PRIESTHOOD**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
- **(Rev 1:6)**, "And hath made us kings and **PRIESTS** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever."

Amen."

- **(Rev 5:10)**, "And hast made us unto our God kings and **PRIESTS**: and we shall reign on the earth."

- I. THE **SALT AND LIGHT** PRINCIPLE
- II. THE **TEACHING** PRINCIPLE
- III. THE **CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICE** PRINCIPLE

I. THE **SALT AND LIGHT** PRINCIPLE

AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO REMEMBER is how the *Levitical cities* were **SCATTERED** throughout the land of Canaan. The other tribes of Israel were localized within the boundaries of their inheritance. The Levites were **DISPERSED** and **DISTRIBUTED** throughout the land of Israel among all the other tribes. The purpose of such scattering was for **SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE**. The ministry of the Levites was to affect all the tribes of Israel. God's design was that persons be responsible for keeping the light His witness shining throughout society.

CHURCHES AND CHRISTIANS are to be **DISPERSED** and **DISTRIBUTED** throughout the nation and the world for the purpose of godly influence.

(Mat 5:13-14), "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. {14} Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

S **CHRISTIANS** are to be **scattered** for the purpose of **GODLY INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY**.

- **(Mat 28:19-20)**, "**GO YE** therefore, and teach all nations . . ."

- **(Acts 1:8)**, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

S CONSIDER **FOUR PURPOSES** FOR SPIRITUAL SALT & LIGHT. THESE PURPOSES HELP US UNDERSTAND GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE N.T. CHURCH.

#1. SALT IS A CLEANSING AGENT

NEWBORN BABIES WERE CLEANSED WITH SALT

- S **(Ezek 16:4)**, “And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast **NOT SALTED AT ALL**, nor swaddled at all.”
- S NEWBORN BABIES were **washed** to remove the blood and were **RUBBED WITH SALT TO DRY** and **FIRM THE SKIN**. Once the process was complete, the infant was wrapped in a cloth.

WHEN **THE CHURCH** FUNCTIONS AS GOD INTENDS, IT HELPS CLEANSE SOCIETY.

- S **WALES** HAD A GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN the **FALL OF 1904**. In a short six month period, **100,000 people experienced God’s salvation**.
- S THE RESULTS WERE ASTONISHING:
- **TAVERNS** closed their doors due to a lack of business.
 - **THE CRIME RATE DROPPED** dramatically leaving **POLICE** with little to do.
 - **OLD DEBTS** were paid off.
 - **RESTITUTION** was made in many areas.
 - IT WAS **HUMOROUSLY** STATED:
"There was a slowdown in the coal mines as **THE MULES** had to learn a new language of the converted miners"
- S **THE PRESENT DAY CHURCH** STANDS IN NEED OF THAT KIND OF AWAKENING AGAIN. **AMERICA NEEDS ANOTHER GREAT AWAKENING**.
- **WARREN WIERSBE**
"Whatever else the professing Christian church may be known for today—great crowds, expensive buildings, big budgets, political clout—it’s **NOT DISTINGUISHED FOR ITS HOLINESS**. Bible-believing evangelical Christians make up a sizable minority in the United States, but our presence isn’t making much of an impact on society. The salt seems to have lost its saltiness, and the light is so well hidden that the marketplace is quite dark."

- **(2 Chr 7:14)**, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

#1. A **CLEANSING** AGENT

#2. SALT IS A FLAVORING AGENT

JOB ASKED

- S **(Job 6:6)**, "Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt? . . ."
- S **SALT IN SOUP** is what makes it tasty.

WHEN THE **CHURCH** HAS FUNCTIONED as God intended, it has influenced society greatly for the good. History records many examples:

- **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES** were built to teach the Bible
- **HOSPITALS & ORPHANAGES** were constructed to meet the needs of people. (George Muller)
- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS** have been greatly influenced by the Judeo-Christian ethic.
- **MORALS IN SOCIETY**

S **THE GREATEST FRIEND** of any nation is the spiritual influence of a godly church (the Levitical city) being what God intended it to be.

S **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE GOD'S INTENDED INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY FROM HIS PEOPLE.**

(2 Cor 2:15-16), "For we are unto God a sweet **SAVOR** of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: {16} To the one we are the **SAVOR** of death unto death; and to the other the **SAVOR** of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

#1. A **CLEANSING** AGENT

#2. A **FLAVORING** AGENT

#3. SALT IS A PRESERVING AGENT

S **SALT HINDERS ROTTENNESS.** It helps preserve things that

would otherwise decay.

- SALTED **FISH**
- SALTED **BEEF**

S WHEN THE **CHURCH** HAS FUNCTIONED as God intended, it has served as **A PRESERVATIVE** in society. CONSIDER **THREE EXAMPLES:**

(1) **SODOM & GOMORRAH WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE THE SALT OF GODLY INFLUENCE WAS NOT FOUND**

ABRAHAM SAID TO GOD

- (**Gen 18:32**), “. . . Peradventure **TEN** shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake."
- **QUESTION** — "Was Sodom destroyed because of the **PRESENCE OF SIN**, or because of the **ABSENCE OF SALT?**" (yes)

(2) **THE NATION OF JUDAH WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF SPIRITUAL SALT.**

- (**Ezek 22:30**), "'I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, **BUT I FOUND NONE.**"
- WILL THAT BE SAID OF **OUR SOCIETY?**

(3) **THE HORRORS OF *THE GREAT TRIBULATION* WILL TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF GOD'S SALT**

- THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL NOT RESTRAIN EVIL DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME (**2 Th 2:6-8**), "And now ye know what **WITHHOLDETH** that he might be revealed in his time. {7} For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be **TAKEN OUT** of the way. {8} And **THEN** shall that Wicked be revealed, . . . "
- **ONCE THE SALT IS REMOVED** by the rapture, the world will plunge into utter chaos for a period of **SEVEN HORRIBLE YEARS.**
- **SALT** keeps things from **PERISHING**

- #1. A **CLEANSING** AGENT
- #2. A **FLAVORING** AGENT
- #3. A **PRESERVING** AGENT

#4. LIGHT IS AN ILLUMINING AGENT

S **NO MATTER** HOW GREAT THE DARKNESS, a light will dispel that darkness.

S WHEN THE **CHURCH** FUNCTIONS as God has intended, it serves as **A LIGHT IN SOCIETY**.

JESUS SAID OF HIMSELF:

- **(John 8:12)**, "... I am the light of the world: . . . "
- **(John 9:5)**, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

JESUS SAID OF HIS CHILDREN:

- **(Mat 5:14)**, "**YOU** are the **LIGHT** of the world . . . "

S "In a **CERTAIN MOUNTAIN VILLAGE** in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last he decided to **BUILD THEM A CHURCH**.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But **WHERE ARE THE LAMPS?** How will it be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark." (Bible Illustrator)

That illustration can be applied to the Christian's influence throughout society.

S **VERSES**

- **(Matt 5:14-15)**, "**YOU** are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
- **(Matt 5:16)**, "Let **YOUR** light so shine before men, that

they may see **YOUR** good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

- **(Rom 13:12)**, "... Let **US** therefore CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, and let **US** put on the armor of light."
- **(Isa 2:5)**, "... LET **US** WALK IN THE LIGHT of the LORD."

- **GET RID OF THE BUSHEL BASKETS**
- **GET ON THE CANDLESTICK**
- **BE A LIGHTHOUSE**
- **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!**

I. THE **SALT AND LIGHT** PRINCIPLE

II. THE *TEACHING* PRINCIPLE

(Deu 33:9-10 niv), "... HE {the Levites} **WATCHED OVER YOUR WORD** and **GUARDED YOUR COVENANT**. {10} He **TEACHES YOUR PRECEPTS** to Jacob and **YOUR LAW** to Israel. He **OFFERS INCENSE** before you and **WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS** on your altar."

(Mat 28:18-20), "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and **TEACH ALL NATIONS**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} **TEACHING THEM** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

(1 Tim 3:15), "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH**."

THE CHURCH IS A PILLAR & SUPPORT OF
(V. 15c), "... **THE TRUTH**."

- S THE CHURCH MUST **PRESENT, UPHOLD & MODEL *THE TRUTH***.
- S **THE DEFINITE ARTICLE PRECEDES THE WORD "TRUTH."**

Paul did not say the church was “the pillar and support of truth,” but rather “the pillar and support of **THE TRUTH.**” The church is **NOT TO INVENT TRUTH**, it is to uphold **THE TRUTH** that has been entrusted to us. **JESUS SAID**, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **THE TRUTH**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

- I. THE **SALT AND LIGHT** PRINCIPLE
- II. THE **TEACHING** PRINCIPLE

III. THE CALL TO SPECIAL SERVICE **PRINCIPLE**

(Num 3:12 niv), “**I {God} HAVE TAKEN THE LEVITES** from among the Israelites **IN PLACE OF THE FIRST MALE OFFSPRING** of every Israelite woman. **THE LEVITES ARE MINE.**”

(Num 8:14 niv), “. . . The Levites **SHALL BE MINE.**”

(Num 8:16 niv), “. . . **THEY** are wholly **GIVEN UNTO ME** from among the children of Israel;”

(Deu 10:8), “At that time **THE LORD SEPARATED THE TRIBE OF LEVI**, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD **TO MINISTER UNTO HIM**, and **TO BLESS IN HIS NAME**, unto this day.”

(Eph 4:11-12), “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; {12} For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

S **PERHAPS ONE REASON** God DID NOT GIVE **AN INHERITANCE** OF LAND to the Levites, was so they could give their best efforts to being **SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES** in society. Rather than expending their energies making a living, they spent their time making sure society had the salt of God’s Word. God wanted them to expend their energies teaching His Word.

S **IN THE PROCESS** of obeying God, they became **LIVING ILLUSTRATIONS** of how God takes care of those He calls.

- **(Mat 6:33)**, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

- S IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY for **NON-LEVITES** in Israel to have considered the call of the Levites **UNNECESSARY**. But remember, it was God that set them apart. It was God that gave them their ministry.
- S THIS SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT **PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF** in the present day. Ministers are set aside by God for the purpose of sharing God's Word with others. They are to be spiritual influences in society. Their office is God's doing and not their own. The salt and light of **CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE** can depend a great deal upon how well they carry out their calling.

PERHAPS GOD IS CALLING SOMEONE TODAY TO **SPECIAL SERVICE**.

- S IF GOD CALLS YOU, GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
(Mat 6:33)
- S MAY GOD NEVER SAY OF OUR SOCIETY:
(Ezek 22:30), "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, **BUT I FOUND NONE.**"

JOSHUA 21 CLOSSES BY AFFIRMING THE PROMISES OF GOD TO ISRAEL

(V. 43-45), "And the LORD gave unto Israel **ALL THE LAND WHICH HE SWARE** to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. {44} And the LORD **GAVE THEM REST** round about, according to **ALL THAT HE SWARE** unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. {45} **THERE FAILED NOT OUGHT OF ANY GOOD THING WHICH THE LORD HAD SPOKEN UNTO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL; ALL CAME TO PASS.**"