

Title: No Room - Joshua 15 20-63

Read:

²⁰⁻³² This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Judah, clan by clan. The southern towns of the tribe of Judah in the Negev were near the boundary of Edom: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, Hazor Hadattah, Keriath Hezron (that is, Hazor), Amam, Shema, Moladah, Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, Baalah, Iim, Ezem, Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon—a total of twenty-nine towns and their villages.

³³⁻⁴⁷ In the Shephelah (the western foothills) there were: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, Shaaraim, Adithaim, and Gederah (or Gederothaim)—fourteen towns and their villages. Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, Cabbon, Lahmas, Kitlish, Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah—sixteen towns and their villages. Libnah, Ether, Ashan, Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, Keilah, Aczib, and Mareshah—nine towns and their villages. Ekron with its towns and villages; From Ekron, west to the sea, all that bordered Ashdod with its villages; Ashdod with its towns and villages; Gaza with its towns and villages all the way to the Brook of Egypt. The Great Sea is the western border. ⁴⁸⁻⁶⁰ In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (that is, Debir), Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, Goshen, Holon, and Giloh—eleven towns and their villages. Arab, Dumah, Eshan, Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, Humtah, Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior—nine towns and their villages. Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah—ten towns and their villages. Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon—six towns and their villages. Kiriath Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim) and Rabbah—two towns and their villages. ⁶¹⁻⁶² In the wilderness: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi—six towns and their villages.

⁶³ The people of Judah couldn't get rid of the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem. The Jebusites stayed put, living alongside the people of Judah. They are still living there in Jerusalem.

Think:

Wow what's the point of that massive list of names? Here we just have a humungous list what could we possible learn from that? Well I think we can learn a fair bit from the final comment. "The people of Judah couldn't get rid of the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem. The Jebusites stayed put, living alongside the people of Judah. They are still living there in Jerusalem." So they are saying there all these people who we are happy to live alongside, and then this one set of people who we don't want, there is no room for them. It's like saying there we lived with these guys from the USA, some from England, others from Spain and we had to put up with those from Turkey. That wouldn't have been Gods plan when Jesus says that we to love our neighbour as ourselves. What's it like at school or college? Are you happy to live alongside the skaters and the Goths but the geeks are just too much? Or maybe you feel like you are the outcast. Either way be assured that Gods original plan was that we would all live along side each other in peace and it's only mankind that have mucked it all up. Get used to it, living with everyone because whoever your are Skater, American, Black, Tall, Goth, English, White, Turkish, Chinese, Big, God will welcome you to Heaven.

Pray:

Lord I am sorry for the times when I can not see beyond the surface of a person. Father please give me your eyes to look at people today and forever. Amen.

Action:

Make room in your life today for someone you would normally turn away from. See what a difference it can make actually putting into practice the words of Jesus to love your neighbour as yourself. Bye.