

# Joshua 18

v1

***"And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there."***

- The people came together to the presence of God. The gathering of the people was unto The Lord. Not under any other banner. They came simply and purely for The Lord and to The Lord.
- Oh the simplicity and purity of this gathering. They came only for God. They came in obedience and reverential fear of Almighty God. To honour and worship Him, to sacrifice to Him and hear His word.
- They did not come to a denomination, to their clique or their preferred way of worship... They came simply to where The Lord was.

***"And the land was subdued before them."***

- The land was subdued but not possessed. The Canaanites would not dare antagonise Israel now but they were still in the land.
- It can seem so easy and convenient to live with sin. Life can seem easy and there's no need to fight. We feel in control... For a while.

v3

***"How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?"***

- We shouldn't read this as Joshua simply complaining or giving a mere slap on the wrist.
- The land had been given!! It was given!! It was promised!! God had promised that He would drive them out, that He would send the hornet and terrible fear before them.
- Exodus 23:27-28 *I will send my fear before you and will destroy all the people to who you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs unto you. [28] And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before you.*
- There was no reason or excuse that they could not have gone in and gained for themselves a possession and inheritance. It was theirs for the taking! Gifted!! They were to go in and possess it!
- How long will we be slack to take responsibility and possess these lives? How long will we give in to unbelief, laziness, ease and mixture? How long will we spend in the valley of indecision with no real interest in the gift of God's presence and pursuing the precious gifts that He has given/promised us?! He has given us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness!

v4-5

***"Provide three men from each tribe, and I will send them to go through the land and write a description of it"***

- When we come to the realisation that we have been slack. When we are either chastised or convicted about our state it is important to assess the damage and examine the work that is needed to be done.
- Examine the land that is not possessed. Look at our lives and see the areas that we have left untouched, unsanctified, unconquered for The Lord. Then, in His power and promise go in and take the land!