

## Matot/Massei

Shalom children! Welcome back to another Parsha Pearls story. Now, we have talked about how Yahweh was going to give the land of Kena'an to the Yisra'elites as an inheritance. This means that they would get to live there for a long time, and so would their sons and daughters, for generation after generation. We are going to learn some more today about how Yahweh wanted them to divide up the land fairly, so that everyone would have a place to live.

Now, the land of Kena'an was already full of people who were idolaters and enemies of Yahweh. Yahweh said that when the Yisra'elites entered the land of Kena'an, they were to force all of its idol-worshipping people out of there. **(Place map of the land on board.)** Then, they were to totally get rid of all the engraved stones—stones that had words or pictures carved into them. They were also supposed to get rid of all the molded images, like idols, and take down all the places where people would use or worship those things. Yahweh said that since He was giving them the land, He wanted them to go and take it, clean it out and make it their new home.

The land was to be divided so that each tribe or group would get to live on part of it. The larger groups of people, or clans, would get larger pieces of land to live on. The smaller clans would get smaller pieces of land. But the people weren't allowed to just go and pick where they wanted to put their cities and homes. Instead, the land would be assigned to them fairly, by lot. That way, if 2 groups wanted to live in the same spot, there would be no arguing about it. If someone's father was in a certain tribe, then that person would be part of the same tribe and would live on that same land.

Yahweh warned the Yisra'elites that if they did not force out the idol-worshipping people who were already living on the land, then those foreign people would cause trouble for them in the future. And Yahweh would have to punish the Yisra'elites by doing the same things to them that He had originally told them to do to the Kena'anite people.

Once again Yahweh told Mosheh that the land of Kena'an was meant for the children of Yisra'el. He described to them how far their land would stretch out in each direction—to the north, south, east, and west. **(Point to the map while saying each direction.)** The tribes of Reu'ben, Gad, and half the tribe of Menashsheh already knew where their land would be; it lay eastward, past the Yarden River and towards the sunrise. **(Place Reu'ben, Gad, and Menashsheh with banners on board on the east side of the land.)** El'azar the priest and Yehoshua were to divide the rest of the land for the other nine and a half tribes. Then, one leader from each tribe would instruct the people of his tribe exactly where they could live.

# LITTLE GEMS

**(Place tribes with banners on board on the west side of the land as you read them.)**

Kaleb would divide the land for Yehudah.  
Shemu'el would divide the land for Shim'on.  
Elidad would divide the land for Binyamin.  
Buqqi would divide the land for Dan.  
Hanni'el would divide the land for Menashsheh.  
Qemu'el would divide the land for Ephrayim.  
Elitsaphan would divide the land for Zebulun.  
Palti'el would divide the land for Yissaskar.  
Ahihud would divide the land for Asher.  
And Pedah'el would divide the land for Naphtali.

Yahweh also told Mosheh how people in the tribe of Lewi were to receive an inheritance. **(Place tribe of Lewi with banner on board.)** Remember, the Lewites would not be getting a big piece of land to live and work on, because Yahweh had given the Lewites jobs to do in His temple. So the children of Yisra'el were instructed to give the Lewites certain cities that they could live in. **(Place picture of a city on board.)** Each of these cities would include the land all around them, where the Lewites could keep their animals. **(Place some animals next to the city.)** Yahweh gave them exactly the measurements they needed for this land.

The Lewites were given 6 cities that were special. They were called cities of refuge, because if someone was in trouble they could flee to one of these cities and be safe there. The tribe of Lewi was also given 42 more cities throughout the land. The larger tribes would have more of these cities on their land, and the smaller tribes would have fewer.

Do you remember the 5 daughters of Tselophrad that we talked about before? They were the ones whose father had died without any sons to inherit his property. The daughters loved the land, so they asked Mosheh if they could receive their father's inheritance. **(Place daughters on board.)** Well, no women had ever asked that question, so Mosheh asked Yahweh how to handle the situation. Yahweh said that the daughters would be allowed to marry whomever they wanted, as long as the men were from the same clan as their father. That way, their land would stay in their own tribe and would not become part of a different tribe. So those daughters did just that. They picked husbands from their own group and continued to pass along the inheritance of that tribe. **(Place husbands next to the daughters.)**

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!