

Joshua 18:1-10

Allotments at Shiloh

Joshua 18:1 Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there.



▲ The tabernacle may have been set up on the bench on the north side of Shiloh, as seen in this painting by Balage Balogh.

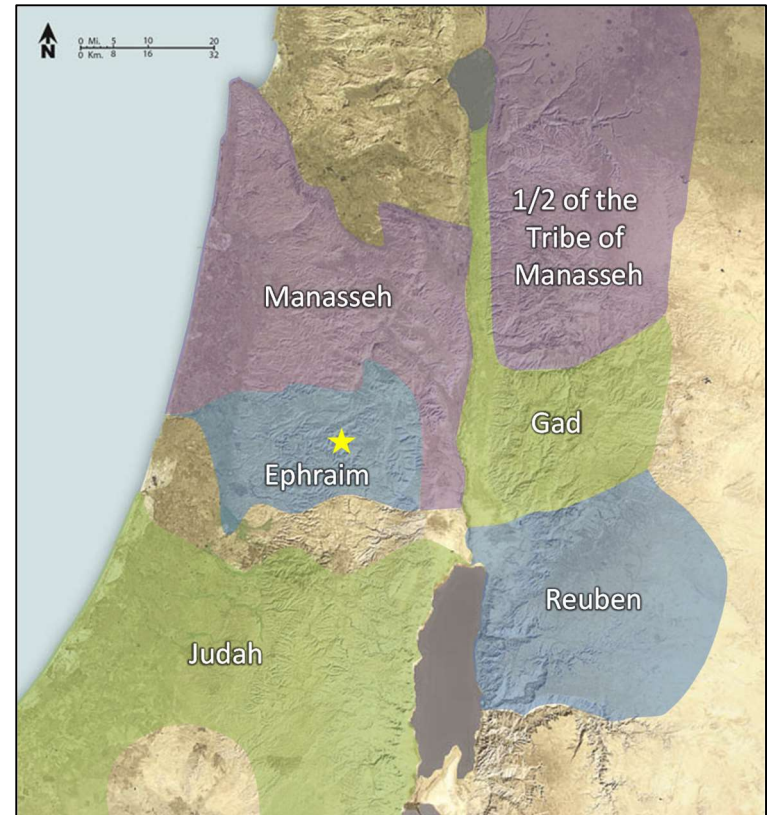
Deut 12:5 - *But you shall seek the LORD at the place which the LORD your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come.*

The tabernacle remained at Shiloh for about 300 years. It's establishment there can be dated to roughly 1400 BC, and it was removed when the ark was lost in battle to the Philistines in the days of Samuel, around 1060 BC.

The tabernacle was certainly at Gibeon in the days of David and Solomon (1 Chr 16:39; 2 Chr 1:3,6), and it was eventually stored in the temple built by Solomon (1 Kgs 8:4; 2 Chr 5:5).

“There remained seven tribes” who had not taken possession of territory.

- Already allotted: Reuben, Gad, Manasseh east (ch 13); Judah (ch 15); Ephraim (ch 16); Manasseh west (ch 17).
- Not allotted: Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, Dan (+ Levitical cities).



▲ Map of the tribes already allotted, with Shiloh (yellow star) in Ephraim.

“The men arose and went” (v.8) – no more detail is given regarding their itinerary. If one can assume that they actually viewed most of the land that they described, they must have travelled at least 500 miles. This could have easily taken 1-2 months.

Points to Ponder

- At long last the tabernacle of God has come home, to the place it will rest for several centuries.
- Joshua is pushing to get the tribes settled in the land of the promise, fulfilling his own responsibility to lead them in that process.