

## March 27 Answers

- 1) The division of Canaan at **Gilgal**. Joshua's military campaigns had broken the backbone of the enemy, and the land was now firmly under Israel's control. But Joshua did not conquer **every** city. God deliberately left pockets of resistance in order to test the **commitment** and **resolve** of the people. Caleb rose to this challenge and asked Joshua for the hill country of the **Anakim**, the giants who had frightened the people so many years ago. This teaches us that God is able to **preserve** those who are faithful to Him, and although there may be **delays**, His plans for us cannot be thwarted. God had commanded that the land be divided into sections that corresponded to the **size** of each tribe (Num 33:54). **Judah** was the largest single tribe (Num 26:22), and so it was the first to receive its allotted territory. Joseph, the combination of **Ephraim** and the half-tribe of **Manasseh**, received its land next. They were upset when they were given only one lot for their inheritance, and they complained to Joshua. Joshua, however, wisely discerned the real issue: the sons of Joseph were **lazy** and **fearful**. Their territory included a large **forest** in the hill country, but they didn't want to clear it and defeat the fearsome **Rephaites** who lived there. Their territory also included the valley land, but they feared the iron **chariots** of the Canaanites. Joshua challenged them to clear the forest and drive out the Canaanites. This teaches us that God's will for our lives will contain **obstacles**. They are intended to **refine** our character and force us to **trust** God. We need to roll up our sleeves and get to work!