

March 28 Answers

- 1) The division of Canaan at **Shiloh**. Shiloh was in **Ephraimite** territory, about 20 miles northwest of Gilgal, and God had chosen it as the place to put His name and dwelling (cf. Deut 12:5). Shiloh was located in the center of Canaan. It was a convenient location where the Tabernacle would remind the people that the key to prosperity and blessing was **worshiping** and **servicing** God. The entire congregation of Israel assembled at Shiloh, and Joshua rebuked the **seven** tribes who had not taken steps to possess their territory: “How **long** will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?” (Josh 18:3). Each passing day was a day **lost** in obeying God’s command, a day their **enemies** could use to strengthen their defenses. Their delay was probably due to several reasons: (1) They were **tired** from the years they had just spent defeating the Canaanites; (2) They were used to following Joshua and reluctant to take the **initiative**; (3) They realized that possessing the land meant **separating** from the group and fighting on their **own**, and (4) They felt there was plenty of **time** to obey God—a little delay wouldn’t hurt. This teaches us the importance of not growing **weary** in doing good, “for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Gal 6:9). It also shows us that character cannot be fully developed in a **group** setting. Each individual must stand on their own and prove that they will obey God in spite of hardship and adversity.