

## THE BLESSING IN FULLY FOLLOWING THE LORD

### Joshua 14

Many people desire to “*stand on the promises of God*”...and claim “*their possessions*”...but are unwilling to pay the price for overcoming the *problems* and *strongholds* in their lives.

**Joshua and Israel:** First they **consecrated** themselves and then restored their **worship**...then entered to **overcome the strongholds** (to defeat their enemies) in **Canaan**...in order to **possess a land** that had been **promised to them** by God. They began to occupy the **Promised Land** ...*the land flowing with milk and honey*.

- **Consecration:** (**Joshua 3:5**) *Circumcision* (**Joshua 5**)...holiness.
- **Worship:** (**Joshua 5**) *Passover*...Lordship...victory over sin and strongholds.

With the recording of the allotment by **Moses** to the **2 ½ tribes** in **Transjordan** completed, the account turns to the distribution of the land in **Canaan** proper to the remaining **nine-and-a-half tribes**. The method by which the allocations were to be made was specified...the land was to be **apportioned by the casting of lots** (**vs. 2**).

### I. THE CASTING OF LOTS:

**Dividing of the land** (**vs. 1-5**)...The allocation of the land was to be supervised by **Eleazar** the priest, and **Joshua** the son of **Nun**...and **one leader from each of the tribes** (**Numbers 34:17-29**).

The Lord had instructed **Moses** that each tribe was to receive territory proportionate to its population with the **casting of lots** to determine its location (**Numbers 26:54-56**). According to **Jewish** tradition, the *name of a tribe* was drawn from one urn and at the same time the *boundary lines of the territory* was drawn from another urn. A picture of the **sovereignty of God!**

*“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”*

~Proverbs 16:33

Casting of lots...**Joshua 18:6, 8, 10**.

### II. CALEB CLAIMING HIS PRIVILEGE:

The time for casting lots had come and the **tribe of Judah**, receiving the first portion, assembled at **Gilgal**. But before the lots were cast, **Caleb** stepped forward to remind **Joshua** of a promise the Lord had made to him **45 years earlier**.

Look at the life of **Caleb**. Along with **Joshua**, they were the only *two* of the *twelve* spies that brought back a good report (**Numbers 13:30; Numbers 14:6-9**).

There is that time when God gives you, through His Word, *permission to claim a privilege* (**vs. 6-14**).

**Caleb had two divine promises:**

- *That his life would be prolonged* (**Numbers 14:36-38**).
- *That he would inherit the territory he had explored near Hebron* (**Numbers 14:24; Deuteronomy 1:36**).

**45 years** is a long time to wait for the fulfillment of a *pledge*...a long time for *faith to live on a promise*. Yet **Caleb** did wait through the *years of wilderness wandering* and the *demanding seven years of the conquest of Canaan*. But **Caleb** had an *unwavering faith* in the *promises of God*. That faith sustained him *in* and *through* his difficult times.

**Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite** (**vs. 6**)...According to **Genesis 15:19** the **Kenizzites** were a tribe of **Canaan** in the days of **Abraham**. So **Caleb's** family was *originally outside the covenant* with **Israel**. The **Kenizzites** in part joined the **tribe of Judah** before the exodus. So their faith was *not hereditary*, but was the *fruit of conviction*. This is the faith that **Caleb** displayed throughout his lifetime.

*Six times* it is said about **Caleb**, that he “**followed the Lord fully**” (*completely*) (**Numbers 14:24; Numbers 32:12; Deuteronomy 1:36; Joshua 14:8-9, 14**).

So **Joshua** blessed him and gave **Hebron** to **Caleb** the son of **Jephunneh** for an inheritance. Therefore, **Hebron** became the inheritance of **Caleb** the son of **Jephunneh** the **Kenizzite** until this day, because he followed the Lord God of **Israel** fully (**vs. 13-14**)...

**Hebron** was a *sacred place* in the lives of the **Israelites**. **Hebron** was a *special land* in the history of **Israel**. Several notables were buried in **Hebron**...**Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and Rebekah**.

Now the name of **Hebron** was formerly **Kiriath-arba**; for **Arba** was the greatest man among the **Anakim**. (vs. 15a)...A historical note explaining the previous name of **Hebron** as **Kiriath-arba** is significant. **Arba** was a giant among the **Anakites**...*a nation of giants*...a fact that causes the *deep faith* of **Caleb** to stand out even more vividly.

Then the land had rest from war (vs. 15b)...This shows what faith in the Lord can accomplish with respect to land yet to be possessed.

**Caleb** faced three (3) giants in order to claim that which God had promised him. **Caleb** was willing to pay the price in order to defeat these **three giants**. These are the same **three giants** that every Christian has to battle:

- **Sin**...You have to be willing to do battle with *sin* and your *sin nature*. At **Kadesh Barnea**, the majority of the spies...**10** of the **12**...said that the land was filled with *giants* and *fortified cities* and that there was no way **Israel** could go up against them. **They lacked faith**. It would have been easy for **Joshua** and **Caleb** to have just agreed with the majority.

“...whatever is not from faith is sin.”

~Romans 14:23

- **Flesh**...A constant battle with our flesh nature. During the wilderness wandering, **Israel** consistently *grumbled* and *complained*. They were *disobedient*. They were controlled by their fleshly appetite.
- **World**...Satan is the *prince of this world*. Spiritual warfare. **Caleb** never *minimized* the problems...he acknowledged the *giants* and the *fortified cities*. But he *magnified* God. To **Caleb**, God was greater than the biggest problem. **Caleb** had faith in the *power of God*.

The reason **Caleb** succeeded where others failed...the price that **Caleb** paid to be in the will of God:

- **Caleb** succeeded where others failed because he had a **vigorous spirit** (vs. 11). **Caleb** says that he is as strong at the **age of 85** as he was at the **age of 40** (the day **Moses** sent him out as a spy).
- **Caleb** succeeded where others failed because he had a **perceptive spirit**...he saw things through a godly perspective. **Caleb** lived in the *wilderness* (*desert*) along with the rest of **Israel**...he had to deal with *death* (everyone in his generation died in the wilderness)...he had to deal with *discouragement* (*strongholds*)...but he was never controlled by these issues. He trusted God and took God at His Word.
- **Caleb** succeeded where others failed because he had a **triumphant spirit**. He took the *hard assignment* and *completed it* (**Joshua 15:13-14**). He overcame the *strongholds*...*without compromise*.

Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that **Anakim** were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out as the Lord has spoken (vs. 12)...**Anakim** was *a land of giants* (**Numbers 13:28, 33**).

So **Joshua** blessed him and gave **Hebron** to **Caleb** the son of **Jephunneh** for an inheritance. Therefore, **Hebron** became the inheritance of **Caleb** the son of **Jephunneh** the **Kenizzite** until this day, because he followed the Lord God of **Israel** fully (vs. 13-14)...

When you look at the other tribes, they never did learn this lesson... they did not complete what God instructed them to do...*incomplete obedience* (**Joshua 13:13; Joshua 15:63; Joshua 16:10; Joshua 17:12-13; Joshua 18:2-3**). As a result, they continued to be plagued with strongholds even as they tried to settle in the land of their inheritance.

When do we have a right to claim a privilege?

- **When we have heard from God** (vs. 6, 10, 12). This is the difference between *faith* and *presumption*. **Caleb's** desire was not based on a whim...but on *God speaking* and on the *Word of God*.

- **When we are consecrated to God** ([vs. 8-9, 14; Numbers 14:24](#)). When you want God's will in every other area of your life and other things in your life...not just in the area that you have requested. The **Lordship of Christ** cannot be compartmentalized.
- **When we are willing to pay the price for God's will.** When you absolutely and totally surrender to God and allow God to sanctify you. **Caleb** paid the price for God's inheritance. (**Rich young ruler**...desiring to inherit the **Kingdom of God**...[Matthew 19:16-26](#)).

#### **LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:**

**Our possession...our promise...is in Christ. What do we have that has been promised by God? In Christ...**

- We have a **life** that can never be **lost**.
- We possess a **relationship** that can never be **severed**.
- We have a **righteousness** that can never be **stained**.
- We have an **acceptance** that can never be **questioned**.
- We have a **judgment** that can never **reoccur**.
- We have a **title** that can never be **forfeited**.
- We have a **standing** that can never be **altered**.
- We have an **inheritance** that can never be **contested**.
- We have a **seal** that can never be **defiled**.
- We have a **wealth** that can never be **depleted**.