

# Joshua 14 - Landed Divided West of the Jordan; Caleb Inherits Hebron

II. Division of Canaan (Joshua 13:1—21:45)

(3) Western land division (14:1—19:51)

(A) Division of the land by lot (14:1-5)

(B) Caleb's inheritance in Hebron (14:6-15)

## Joshua 14

(3) Western land division (14:1—19:51)

(A) Division of the land by lot (14:1-5)

**1** Now these are *the territories* which the sons of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which **Eleazar** the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers' *households* of the tribes of the sons of Israel apportioned to them as inheritances,

**1** Now these are *the territories* which the sons of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the households of the tribes of the sons of Israel apportioned to them for an inheritance,

**1** This is what the Israelis inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Nun's son Joshua, and the heads of the families of the Israelis allotted to them as an inheritance

**1** And these are the countries which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance to them.

- "...Eleazar" - the high priest of Israel

**2** by the lot of their inheritance, just as the LORD commanded through Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.

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**2** By lot was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes, and for the half tribe.

- Joshua, Eleazar and the heads of each tribe divided the land west of the Jordan by casting lots (Cf. 18:6)

- The casting of lots established the general location of each tribe, but the population of that tribe affected the size of each tribe's inheritance (Cf. Num 26:52-56)
- Lots may seem arbitrary to us today, but God displayed His wise and loving control throughout the process (Prov 16:33)

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe beyond the Jordan; but he did not give an inheritance to the Levites among them.

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3 since Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe across the Jordan River. However, he did not give an inheritance to the descendants of Levi who lived among them,

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of two tribes and an half tribe on the other side Jordan: but unto the Levites he gave none inheritance among them.

4 For the sons of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, and they did not give a portion to the Levites in the land, except cities to live in, with their pasture lands for their livestock and for their property.

4 For the sons of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, and they did not give a portion to the Levites in the land, except cities to live in, with their pasture lands for their livestock and for their property.

4 since the descendants of Joseph constituted two tribes—Manasseh and Ephraim. They did not allot a portion to the descendants of Levi in the land, since they were given cities to live in, along with pastures for their livestock and property.

4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim: therefore they gave no part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell in, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance.

5 The sons of Israel did exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they divided the land.

5 Thus the sons of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they divided the land.

5 So the Israelis did just as the LORD had commanded Moses—they divided the land.

5 As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.

## **Judah**

- Judah received their allocation (14:6—15:63)
  - This included Caleb, one of the two faithful spies

- Caleb, 85, didn't look for easy tasks: he requested new mountains to climb and giants to conquer!
- His secret: "He wholly followed the Lord God of Israel" (14:8-9,14; Num 14:24; 32:12; Deut 1:36)
- He also provided for the next generation (15:13-19)
- Joshua, the other faithful spy, received his last (19:49-51)
  - Their promises received 45 years before (Num 14:24,30; Deut 1:34-36) were a source of continual encouragement.

Lesson: Be encouraged in your own pilgrimage—you have already received your inheritance in Christ and can claim "every spiritual blessing" (Eph 1:3)

(B) Caleb's inheritance in Hebron (14:6-15)

**6** Then the sons of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know the word which the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God on account of you and me in Kadesh-barnea.

**6** Then the sons of Judah drew near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know the word which the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea.

**6** After this, the descendants of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal. Jephunneh the Kenizzite's son Caleb told him, "You know the promise that the LORD gave Moses the man of God concerning the two of us in Kadesh-barnea.

**6** Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.

- Before the casting of lots began, Caleb came to Joshua with his fellow tribesmen from Judah to request the inheritance that Moses had promised him (v9; Deut 1:36; Cf. Num 14:26-38)

— Moses had promised Caleb "land" in Canaan, but had not specified its location

— The reason for this special blessing was Caleb's *faithfulness* to God ("because you have followed the LORD...fully"), when he served as one of the 12 spies

— Joshua himself also received a personal allotment, later (19:49-50)

**7** I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as *it was* in my heart.

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**7** I was 40 years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout the land. I brought back an honest report to him.

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt *with fear*; but I followed the LORD my God fully.

8 Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully.

8 As it happened, my fellow Israelis who went up with me terrified the people, but I fully followed the LORD my God.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'The land on which your foot has walked shall certainly be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'

9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'

9 Moses made a promise to me on that day when he said, 'The land that you covered on foot will certainly be your inheritance. It will belong to your descendants forever, because you have fully followed the LORD my God.'

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

10 And now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today.

10 Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today.

10 "Look how the LORD has let me survive, as you can see, these 45 years since the time when the LORD said this through Moses, while Israel was wandering through the wilderness. And look! I'm here today—my eighty-fifth birthday!

10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

- References to Caleb's age allow us to determine the length of the conquest in Canaan:

- Caleb received the promise from Moses for a portion of land at Kadesh Barnea 38 years before the Israelites crossed the Jordan (Cf. Num 14:24)
- He was 40 years old at that time (v7), and was now 85, so 45 years had passed, and Caleb spent 38 of those years in the wilderness
- Thus, the conquest of Canaan must have taken 7 years

11 I am still as strong today as I was on the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.

11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.

11 I'm still as strong today as I was the day Moses commissioned me. I'm as strong today as I was then, and I can go out to battle and come back successful.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

- Caleb was still as strong in faith as well physically as he was 45 years earlier

— He continued to trust in God to fulfill His promise concerning the land rather than his personal physical ability to take it from the enemy

— He believed more than ever that God was able to do all He promised

### **Caleb**

- Uncompromising convictions
- Unreserved commitment
- Unalterable courage
- Unwavering confidence

It would have been natural for Caleb to ask for a "soft spot"—a portion of land already conquered where he could settle down and spend the rest of his life raising vegetables or flowers. Instead, at 85, he asked for the very section that had struck terror into the hearts of the ten spies. This courageous old warrior, who did not expect to receive his inheritance without exerting himself, is a great example in an age which increasingly looks for cradle-to-casket protection.

12 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 just as the LORD has spoken."

12 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."

12 Now then, give me that hill country about which the LORD spoke back on that day, because you yourself heard back then that the Anakim were there, with great reinforced cities. Perhaps the LORD will be with me and I will expel them, just as the LORD said."

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

- In his request, Caleb referred to the reasons that the unbelieving spies had pointed out, which had discouraged the Israelites from entering the land: the "hill country," the "Anakim," and large "fortified cities" (Cf. Num 13:28-29)

— Caleb viewed these as incentives for wanting this territory

**13** So Joshua blessed him and gave **Hebron** to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

**13** So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

**13** So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Jephunneh's son Caleb for his inheritance.

**13** And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

- "...Hebron" - even though Joshua had already defeated Hebron (10:37), there may have still been giants in the area

14 Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully.

14 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.

14 Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Jephunneh the Kenizzite's son Caleb, and it remains so today, because he fully followed the LORD God of Israel.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

15 Now the name of Hebron was previously Kiriath-arba; *for Arba* was the greatest man among the Anakim. Then the land was at rest from war.

15 Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba; *for Arba* was the greatest man among the Anakim. Then the land had rest from war.

15 Hebron used to be known as Kiriath-arba, after the greatest man among the Anakim. After all of this, the land enjoyed rest from war.

15 And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

- The ancient name of Hebron was Kiriatharba, meaning "city of Arba"; it was named after Arba, the greatest man among the Anakim

— This shows God's faithfulness in giving this giant's city to Caleb, who believed God would've done so 45 years earlier