

JOSHUA chapter 14:1 to 15:19

Thursday, March 21st

Parceling – Promises - Conquering – Giants - Settling - Family

Another exciting time of Bible study awaits us as we continue studying the life and leadership of Joshua. This man of God is a wonderful example of a leader following God obediently with his whole heart. In the upcoming weeks, we'll be learning more about Joshua's God-confidence, as well as lots of amazing stories surrounding the children of Israel.

In Genesis 17, God promised the entire land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants to possess forever. In the Book of Joshua we see God's faithfulness fulfilling His covenant through the leadership of Joshua. In Joshua Chapter 1:11, we read of Joshua telling the Israelites to gather their belongings because in three days they were going to possess the Promised Land. It was easy to understand but not easy to do. Even though God gave simple instructions to follow, it took much longer than three days.

How wonderful that God always gives us simple instructions to follow. When God's work is done in God's way, there's always great success. Unfortunately, we often play the cosmic guessing-game and try to second-guess God's directions. As a result, we become confused, frustrated, and stressed. God has made His plan clear; we just have not believed His way is the best or the easiest.

It's uncanny how the attitudes and actions of the Israelites are just like ours. We read about them being tempted to trust in their perceived wisdom. So do we.

Just like us, they battled sin in their heart and sin in the world. We want what God wants so we hear His plan, and we receive salvation; now we're face to face with the realization of our sanctification. It's a position and process. We are saved and being saved.

Today in Joshua we will see that all God's children could be victorious and experience personal success when God's will was done God's way, in God's power, and for God's glory. Joshua and Caleb are two awesome examples. We will be reminded of the bad examples too.

We need to root out what is of the flesh and plant what is of the Spirit. That takes hard work and determination, abiding and relying, obedience and trust.

In the life as a believer, Paul uses the phrase – “Put to death” when it comes to getting rid of the works of the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

He is speaking to the believer! It sounds so violent and pushy. But it is a battle nonetheless, and we forget so easily that we make a treaty with sin because it doesn't seem *that* big or *that* disruptive on the whole.

We let some enemies of God hang out and keep their tents next to ours.

God called His people to purity and holiness, not perfection. And a dedication to the things that mattered to HIM.

The promise of land was to mean abundance, rest and fulfillment of promises.

Just like Jesus said in John 10:10 **"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

"Abundantly" describes the condition of being well-supplied with plentiful quantities.

What we have been given in Christ is lavishly supplied, amply for our needs and richly so there is no lack.

Let's start our text for today and see these aspects I just mentioned.

Joshua Chapter 14

The land is being allotted, portioned, parceled out and I believe the people and tribes are excited and relieved.

It is finally happening. So far, the tribes of Rueben, Gad and ½ of Manasseh have their portion as we saw in chapter 13.

The parceling of the land is underway.

The land that was promised and conquered was now being rightly divided and the blessings could be enjoyed.

Let's pick it up in Verse 1 of Chapter 14.

4:1 Now these are the areas the Israelites received as an inheritance in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel allotted to them.

2 Their inheritances were assigned by lot to the nine-and-a-half tribes, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

3 Moses had granted the two-and-a-half tribes their inheritance east of the Jordan but had not granted the Levites an inheritance among the rest,

4 for the sons of Joseph had become two tribes--Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites received no share of the land but only towns to live in, with pasture-lands for their flocks and herds.

5 So the Israelites divided the land, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

We read that Eleazar has a big part in all this as the priest along with Joshua and the tribal leaders. It all took place in an orderly fashion. The idea that it would be done any other way than

what the Lord had said was never in question. God's way was the only way. Everyone knew that and had to stick to it.

There was no excuse for disobedience. Everything was crystal clear and to be followed precisely. **just as the LORD had commanded Moses.**

Joshua changed nothing of the instruction God gave Moses.

Such a key component of a good leader is they themselves can follow orders and understand the value of good communication. Following God's principles for our own lives and not ignoring even the smallest nudge of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual key to maturity as a leader and to one who wants to be used as a leader.

As the independent thinkers we are, we sometimes think that close enough is good enough, when it comes to following God. Well, maybe in miniature golf but not when it comes to our spiritual growth.

Not following God's precise orders to completely destroy their enemies, would one day be their Achilles heel- "the weak link in the chain."

As Debbie mentioned before the break, the Levites received no land but towns to live in and here we see pasture lands where their flocks could graze freely. Because the LORD would be their portion and He would personally see to it that they always had enough.

Let's look at the next part of verses:

6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

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 back word to him as *it was* in my heart.

8 "Nevertheless my brethren who 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, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

We see in these verses there is a small conference meeting of some of the guys. They wanted to bring to remembrance some important issues from the past. In order for Joshua and Eleazar to process something very pertinent regarding Caleb and an important promise made to him.

To see the whole picture and if you are not familiar with the history that Caleb is pointing to we have to look back in Numbers 13:

25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

26 Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit.

28 "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

29 "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

30 *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."*

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we."

32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature.

33 "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

14:1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

What an interesting turn of events - after those 40 days of scouting and coming to the conclusion, Caleb says "YES- let's do it - God is in it - no problem, really - tough yes, but not

impossible –come on!” That was the attitude of Joshua and Caleb.

Read on in verse 7 of Numbers 14:

7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land.

8 “If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’

9 “Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

Well, to make a long story short the people wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb after their report, and they wanted to go back to Egypt (you should read it on your own; it’s fascinating).

How sad for the people to be influenced with fear and a total lack of faith and trust in their God. That infuriated God.

There was an uproar, rebellion and a plan to mutiny.

Moses falls on his face and wrestles and converses with God like a good leader should. Non-the-less That is when God promised that none of these spies would enter the land except Joshua and Caleb.

Numbers 14:23...

23 “they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

24 "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

So here it is. Let's make good on the promise of land for Caleb. Caleb made a choice to follow God fully.

In the NLT it says because Caleb followed the LORD wholeheartedly God rewarded him.

Wholeheartedly really does matter to GOD and I don't think He has changed in regards to that. How can I say that?

It is repeated often and the idea of wholeheartedness and the phrase with all our heart is repeated even more.

In your homework you will spend more time on it than we have now.

But let me interject the one passage we are so familiar with, in Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

"All your heart" – It matters, and I want what matters to God to matter to me. 😊

Moving along in Joshua chapter 14: (Caleb is speaking

10 "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

11 "As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

This passage makes me happy –because if the Lord carries - I want to be 85 one day and say those very words. I can't not think of my dad when I read this. He is going to be 85 this year and I spoke to him last week which I do every Thursday and shared this passage with him, and he said: "Really – Caleb said that? How wonderful to feel that strong and to want to see more of what God will do – I feel the same way." You go, Dad!!

I would like to point out that it wasn't overconfidence on Caleb's part, but I really think he had more faith in him to believe God for more victories and more adventures. HE did not want to buy the latest lazy boy recliner and rock his way into older age – He wanted His Rock, God Almighty to keep demonstrating His greatness thru his life.

We should take this to heart and see where we are at – like an ‘inventory of old age attitude’. Will I stop looking for ways God can use me because of my age? Will I see my role as Caleb’s? One of helping the next generation conquer and be there right next to them in the battle?

Caleb delegated but stood by as an encourager and faith-builder. What a gift to give others when they are about to “step out of the boat” or in this case, into battle.

Because Caleb felt this way, he asked for the hill country. He’s going to walk the hills and be reminded of God faithfulness. He will see the rolling hillsides and praise God for His goodness. There will be no “patting himself on the back” but a constant reminder that GOD is sovereign. God keeps His promises.

God had said that Caleb would drive them out, Caleb says, if God is in it as He said He would be, I SHALL be able to drive them out. Let’s see what happens.

Next Joshua is in full agreement- Go for it!

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

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

15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim*). Then the land had rest from war.

The text is getting ahead a bit, but we will circle around and come back to it in chapter 15. But there it is again: Caleb wholly followed the Lord. It's now his trademark. What's ours?

Let's breeze through this next part and highlight some spots. The tribe of Judah is given their portion.

Joshua Chapter 15

5:1 So *this* was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families: The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward *was* the extreme southern boundary.

2 And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward.

3 Then it went out to the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed along to Zin, ascended on the south side of Kadesh Barnea, passed along to Hezron, went up to Adar, and went around to Karkaa.

4 *From there* it passed toward Azmon and went out to the Brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border.

5 The east border *was* the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. And the border on the northern quarter *began* at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

6 The border went up to Beth Hoglah and passed north of Beth Arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

7 Then the border went up toward Debir from the Valley of Achor, and it turned northward toward Gilgal, which *is* before the Ascent of Adummim, which *is* on the south side of the valley. The border continued toward the waters of En Shemesh and ended at En Rogel.

8 And the border went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern slope of the Jebusite *city* (which *is* Jerusalem). The border went up to the top of the mountain that *lies* before the Valley of Hinnom westward, which *is* at the end of the Valley of Rephaim northward.

9 Then the border went around from the top of the hill to the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and extended to the cities of Mount Ephron. And the border went around to Baalah (which *is* Kirjath Jearim).

10 Then the border turned westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, passed along to the side of Mount Jearim on the north (which *is* Chesalon), went down to Beth Shemesh, and passed on to Timnah.

11 And the border went out to the side of Ekron northward. Then the border went around to Shicron, passed along to Mount Baalah, and extended to Jabneel; and the border ended at the sea.

12 The west border *was* the coastline of the Great Sea. This *is* the boundary of the children of Judah all around according to their families.

Let's remember a few things... The tribe of Judah has significance in the lineage of Jesus. Later it's called it the House of David and we say Jesus from the root of Jesse (David's father) or Son of David and Lion of Judah.

We see it in Revelation 5:5:

But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Caleb being of the tribe of Judah, how he asked Joshua and Joshua blessed him with a allotted part, Hebron, which is within the borders of the plot given to the tribe of Judah.

It's fitting that Caleb stepped forward when it was his tribe that was given land for him to speak up about the promise made to him by God through Moses.

As we close with the rest of verse 13-19 it makes more sense. Here is the finishing of that process and how it made a difference in Caleb's family.

13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, *namely*, Kirjath Arba, which *is* Hebron (*Arba was the father of Anak*).

14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir *was* Kirjath Sepher).

16 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

18 Now it was so, when she came *to him*, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from *her* donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

19 She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

I love how the faith of Caleb is on display and passed on to any young men who are willing to fight for it by faith.

It is very fitting that this great faith in Caleb gets passed down to his kin. Walking by faith, living by faith and standing on faith are all visible from onlookers and especially our family but it has to be genuine to affect the heart of those watching.

"Faith" for show is not real faith. "Faith" just for admiration is an affront to God.

True faith and trust will be born out of real challenging circumstances where faith is applied as the true weapon against unbelief and fear. Fully dependent upon God. Nothing but pure faith trusting all the way through the battle would be sufficient.

Offering a daughter as a reward in marriage is not something we look at and say: Great idea! We are slightly uncomfortable with it. But customs and times were different than ours are.

Anak was the father of the giant sons that the men of Judah were to demolish. The Anakins.

I want to pull something out of this text because it so easily lends itself to talking briefly about some spiritual issues of battling giants in our own lives. Lend me some creative license and you'll understand why I'm going here. 😊

Caleb needed to rid the land of these three men – the sons, offspring of Anak. **Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai**. The meaning of the names have spiritual significance. It can be very detrimental to us if our enemy might not seem that dangerous – we might not sense an urgency to get rid of them. Let's see how sneaky the enemy is.

These are the meanings:

- Noble
- My brother is a Gift
- Furrowed.

Does not sound too scary, right? 😊

#1 –Sheshai – Meaning: - NOBLE

Dictionary definition: *honorable, dignified.*

Any and all positions of importance will have a tendency to blind people. The longer you are exalted the harder to dethrone self and self-importance. We easily overlook this one in our society today because we are “star struck” in our celebrity

culture. Being famous has become a goal and the means to get fame seem to justify the end, no matter who we crush, offend, slander or malign.

**2 Cor 10: 17 But “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”
18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.**

And as we see in **Romans 12:3:**

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

The sin of pride is slithery – be aware of self-importance!

#2 - Ahiman – Meaning: - My Brother is a gift

The deceptive nature of making a ‘treaty’ with sin and letting it slide is a task the enemy uses often. “Look! I’m part of you, your brother, how can you get rid of me?” The enemy will want to blind us to the destructive nature of the “familiar” in sin. The “Oh everyone does it,” mentality.

The more “at home” sin is in our lives the less we want to deal with it – it is like cutting away a part of the “family.”

Like we see in **Romans 6:19: I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading***

to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Or in **Colossians 3:5** we can see that these “hidden” sins can stay invisible to others, that makes it easy for them to be left alone: **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

The sin we may seem too comfortable with is often the hardest to put to death. But - Just do it!

#3 Talmi – Meaning: - FURROWED

Literally means a *groove* or *trench*. I can image this *little baby giant* being born with furrows on his forehead and crying his first cry with intense facial grimaces. 😊

If we look at a furrow as anything entrenched in our lives, creating a groove so deep it's a pattern in our lives. We may sense we are virtually incapable of change without digging up the whole area. We need an uprooting of the destructive furrows.

In other words we may need a complete overhaul of the Holy Spirit to restore and renew us. To remove the present groove that the enemy uses as roads to lie, steal, kill and destroy. To put it simply, we need to take captive those thoughts and be transformed in our mind. To exchange lies for truth - to choose new ways of thinking that lead to new ways of walking by faith.

We see in 2 Corinthians 4:4-6: **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**

There is always another battle to be fought against the world the flesh or the devil. Let's not kid ourselves to think we are done, until we settle in our homeland in the NEW JERUSALEM. Our parcel and allotted land.

Some interesting thoughts in closing about the last few verses. I think it's important how Caleb included the young men in the battle and offered his daughter to the one who won the victory over the enemy.

This young man Othniel, his nephew (whose name means Lion of GOD) became the first Judge over the nation of Israel when Joshua died. He continued to have a role in chasing away or destroying the oppressive enemy armies and in so doing carried on the life of obedience his father-in-law Caleb demonstrated so well to the family.

His daughter Acsah and new husband Othniel was given a parcel of land but needed land with water and it was given to them in abundance with a blessing. Some say maybe it was given as a wedding gift.

We can conclude this portion of scripture with these thoughts:

- GOD is faithful to His promises even through His people.
- GOD is generous, gracious and good to those who are obedient and faithful to His words.
- GOD delights when we trust Him and refuse to live in fear.
- GOD is worthy of our wholehearted devotion all the time.