



Joshua 14
The Rewards of Faith

NKJ Joshua 14:1 These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them.

2 Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them.

4 For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property.

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

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.'

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."

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.

These verses begin with a discussion of the land that was allotted to the tribes on the Western side of the Jordan river. We have had a discussion of how the land on the Eastern side of the river was divided amongst 2 ½ of the tribes and now we are beginning to hear how the other 9 ½ tribes received their inheritance.

In verse 6 however, the focus of the narrative switches to one man in particular, Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, a man who drove out the Anakim, these giants of whom Goliath was an example, and who was himself a giant of the faith.

Who was Caleb. Well first we see that like Joshua, and then later David, and of course Jesus, he is part of the tribe of Judah. But that is clearly not his background of old. At some point Caleb or Caleb's father Jephunneh converted to Judaism, and became part of the tribe of Judah. We know that because Caleb's father Jephunneh is called a Kennezzite. The Kennezzites were descendents of Kenaz, Kenaz was himself a son of Eliphaz who was one of Esau's sons. So these were not descendents of Jacob, but descendents of his unfaithful brother Esau. These Kenezzites were among those tribes who had dwelled in Canaan who were to be displaced by the Israelites. But Caleb's family had at some point joined themselves to the Jews in Egypt and had been faithful members of the Covenant ever since.

Its funny that often the newly converted have a zeal for the faith that is lacking in those who have been in it for many years.

Caleb one of the two spies sent out in Numbers 13 into the promised land who brought a good report. While everyone complained towns too fortified, we are like grass hoppers, Caleb and Joshua had been the only ones not comparing the Canaanites to themselves to get the right perspective, the compared them to God and got the right perspective.

But in this they stood virtually alone when all the rest were going with the majority.

Often the case that the giants of the faith have to do this, "alone in the wilderness"

Athanasius Contra Mundum 298–373, Nicea 325, Jesus very God, not created. 5 times in Exile.

Paul stood alone –

2 Tim. 4:16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

Caleb's faith was rewarded by God – with a promise:

Num. 32:11 'Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me,

12 'except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.'

So now he goes to Joshua and reminds Him of the Lord's promise through Moses. The promises concerned giving him the place he had spied out Hebron. Location of the cave of Machpelah. The resting place of Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and eventually Joseph.

What does he do? He pleads the promises of God! True faith trusts in God's promises

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Caleb had always trusted the Lord with his Whole HEART
And this is seen by the fact that he believed that God would give him Hebron a place occupied by
Giants the Anak. But trusting in God.

Trusted from beginning to End 45 years.
Man of biblical simplicity black and white not Grey, Grey, Grey
Churchill.

A faith like that looks to the promises of God – and receives blessings in this life and the next:

Application -

Desiring the Heavenly inheritance

Heb. 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.