

Studies in Joshua

“Caleb: Claiming God’s Promises”

Joshua 14:6-15

- ***“Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said”*** to Joshua, ***“You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ...”***
- ***“...on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’”***
Joshua 14:6 & 9

Always pay attention to the spiritual significance

- **Israel's deliverance out of the slavery**
- **Israel's journey through the wilderness**
- **A land flowing with milk and honey**
- **When Caleb comes to Joshua**

Some characteristics of Caleb which enabled him to successfully lay claim to the promise of God

I. Caleb's Commitment

- As 'Gentile' Christians, we can especially identify with Caleb's commitment to the Lord
- Caleb was a foreigner, or at least his father was

Caleb's obsession with Hebron as his inheritance

- **F.B. Meyer says of Hebron, it was the place “beneath whose oaks Abraham had pitched his tent; ... whose soil had been trodden by the feet of the incarnate God, as with the two angel attendants he visited the tent of Abraham.”**

- **James Boice commented:** It was the only toehold the Jews had in Canaan, and it was the closest thing in Canaan to a sacred Jewish site.
- **A.W. Pink comments on the spiritual significance of Hebron:** “Hebron signifies ‘fellowship,’ and may have been so named because of the wonderful communion which Abraham had with God there [Gen. 13:18 - first mention - Abraham built an altar there]. This is the place above all others which the enemy of souls seeks to prevent God’s people from occupying. What a suitable place for Caleb!”

“... on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’” (verse 9)

- **Christians who seek God wholeheartedly have the assurance of a clear conscience and significant fellowship with God and other Christians | Jn. 7.**

- **Christians who seek God wholeheartedly experience “... *the peace of God which passes all understanding*” [Phil. 4:6-7, Prov. 3:5-6].**
- **Christians who seek God wholeheartedly enjoy the assurance and security of God’s presence with them and His constant watch-care over them; His protection and deliverance from their enemies Psalm 91**

II. Caleb's Consistency

- 1. Josh. 14:7 *"I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions [NKJV = "as it was in my heart"], but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly."***
- 2. Josh. 10b-11 *"So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as then."***



- ***“steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord ...”***
II Cor. 13:5

- ***“... a double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*** James 2:8

- **James Boice said: “Great men are never really complicated. The complicated people are the weak ones, beset by dozens of conflicting causes and motives, never quite knowing how to get it all together. They see one side of an issue, but they also see the other side. They see the advantage of one course of action, but they recognize that it might be better to do something else. Great men are not like this. They are not naive. they know issues are sometimes complicated and that there are different paths that can be taken, but they see the important cause and the best path and then follow it consistently.”**

- **“He followed God wholly through the weary years that ensued. Amid the marchings and counter-marchings, the innumerable deaths, the murmurings and rebellions of the people, he retained a steadfast purpose to do only God’s will, to please him, to know no other leader, and to heed no other voice. It was of no use to try to involve that stout lion’s cub in any movement against Moses and Aaron. He would be no party to Miriam’s jealous spite.**

Always true and pure and noble; like a rock in a changeful sea, like a snow-capped peak in a change of cloud and storm and sun. A man in whose strong nature weaker men could hide, and who must have been a tower of strength to that new and young generation which grew up to fill the vacant places in the van of Israel. ... in him the words of the psalmist were anticipated: he bore fruit in old age, and to the last was fat and flourishing.”

F.B. Meyer

III. Caleb's Confidence

- **Caleb's confidence was in God's Word!**
 - **Josh. 14:10** *"Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old."*
 - **Josh. 14:12** *"Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."*

Caleb took God's Word and His promises seriously!

- **Caleb knew God's specific promises to him. He was motivated and driven by the reward God had promised him**
- **The majority of others in Israel seemed to be indifferent about their inheritance**

IV. Caleb's Courage

- **Caleb's courage came from the fact that he had his eyes on the Lord and not on the changing circumstances and the terrifying things around him.**
- **“The majority measured the giants against their own strength; Caleb and Joshua measured the giants against God. The majority trembled; the two triumphed. The majority had great giants but a little God. Caleb had a great God and little giants.” Alan Redpath**

Caleb's **courage** enabled him to ...

- overcome fear and a sense of inadequacy!
- **go against** the majority!
- **overcome** giants!
- **overcome** the uncertainty and fearfulness of old age!

V. Caleb's Conquest

- “... we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”
Romans 8:35 & 37
- “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*” Phil. 4:13