

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 14:1-15

- Before we get into these chapters let's review what has happened previously, Israel has conquered the main cities, towns, Kings, armies, and people of Canaan, they control the majority of the promise Land but not all of it, and so now they are dividing the land up between the tribes, and it's here where we see a clear distinction being made.
- Because two and a half tribes Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh, decided that they didn't want to live in the promise land, but instead dwell on the Eastern side of the Jordan because it seemed better suited to raising Cattle and sheep with its rich grazing fields. You would think that would have caused a major rift between the tribes immediately but it didn't because the two and a half tribes agreed to help other tribes conquer the land before they returned to the East side of the Jordan to enjoy their inheritance.
- The fact that these two and half tribes would not be living within God's appointed land didn't seem to worry them as long as they agreed to come and help each other in time of need. This is a classic case in which man may come to an agreement that God didn't lead them into, for while their choice of staying on the other side of the Jordan may have been good for their cattle it created serious problems later on for their children.
- We saw that when they eventually built an altar in chapter twenty two and it almost led to a civil war, and their location made them extremely vulnerable both to military attack and ungodly influence, because being on the Eastern side of the Jordan meant they were closer to heathen nations like Moab and Ammon than they were to their Hebrew brethren. These liabilities eventually led to their downfall > **1Chron 5:25-26**- they were the first of the Israelite tribes to be taken into captivity by the Assyrians, all from this decision right here.

Chapter 14

V1-15

- **V1-5** on the Western side of the Jordan River Joshua and the leaders are beginning to divide the land as an inheritance for the other nine and a half tribes. The Levites being a priestly tribe didn't get any land as they are forbidden to own territory as their inheritance was The Lord and to keep them focused on Him, and bringing people to The Lord and The Lord to people they were given places to live amongst the people in the territories but no land itself.
- This is so wise because if the Levites had the same inheritance as the other tribes then they would have taken on the same responsibilities and started to worry about their personal inheritance more than their spiritual inheritance, and forsaken The Lord for ungodly gain > so many ministers and Pastors have fallen out of the ministry because of their love for money, which is why **1Tim 3:3** warns servants of God to not become greedy for money.

- **V6-10** Judah goes first and they are the largest and most powerful of the tribes having over seventy six thousand warriors, and before Joshua could divide the land Caleb steps forward and reminds Joshua his dear old friend of a promise that only Joshua and Caleb were alive to here. He tells us his age and in doing so how long ago the promise was made (forty five yrs ago), this shows there's no statute of limitations on honoring our word.
- Joshua and Caleb have been together a long time, all their lives to be exact, first in Egypt as **slaves**, then in the wilderness as **wanderers**, and now in the Promise land as **inheritors**. Eighty five years together is a long time, and as we see Caleb really knows Joshua and Joshua knows Caleb, which is why Caleb had no problem in boldly speaking out in front of everyone about something only he and Joshua truly know about, a promise that Moses made concerning their inheritance once they've entered the Promised Land.
- **Deut 1:35-36** when this was said the first generation was still alive, and if any of this second generation was around they would have been very young, so this conversation although others are privy to it really centers around the relationship between Joshua and Caleb. In repeating this he is not only reminding Joshua of what it took to get here but also the current generation, notice how Caleb repeats how "**He wholly followed The Lord**".
- When it would have been easier to follow the crowd I stood on the promises of God even when it wasn't popular, while the other ten spies believed we would be destroyed focusing on the size of the giants instead of the power of The Lord "**I wholly followed The Lord**". Why is Caleb saying all of this? Is he on some power trip, does he want public validation, or bagging on himself to show his importance, why is he bringing this up publicly?
- Someone probably thought I know he is going to ask for a nice piece of land to build his retirement home on, where he can relax from all the fighting and traveling around, as he's ready to settle down and enjoy the fruits of his labor. For most people they would have been right, because if given the choice of having any piece of land that they wanted the majority of people would choose a beach house or condo overlooking the Sea, but not Caleb.
- **V11-12** although he is eighty five years old Caleb says he is not ready to retire from the work of The Lord, in fact it's the opposite, instead of asking for beachfront property or a split level duplex he asks for mountains to climb and giants to conquer.
- Remember Caleb is an OT land inspector and developer, he knows what he is asking for is one of the most difficult terrain to travel as it is mountainous, and one of the hardest and most dangerous to conquer, as giants are there, and yet as a reward for "**wholly following The Lord**" this is what he asks for from his oldest and dearest friend > to give him challenge not comfort. I believe most people would say they desire growth in their lives, but very few are willing to accept what it takes for that growth to happen > challenge not comfort.

- **V13-15** Joshua doesn't try and talk his friend out of what he's asked, but quite the opposite, it says he blessed Caleb with this challenge. How many friends are challenging each other by giving them mountains to climb and giants to conquer, in fact many wouldn't consider them friends if they were challenging each other in this fashion, but how much more blessed would the body of Christ be if we did this for each other.
- something amazing happens in this section as **V15** says the place is called "**Kirjath Arba**" which means the large and loud city, it's the perfect name for a city where giants dwelled, as you can imagine how big it had to be to house them and how loud it was to here them stomping and moving around. But once Caleb comes its name is changed to "**Hebron**" which means fellowship, the **city of the large and loud** becomes the **city of fellowship**.
- Caleb understood that big loud problems can cause us to call out to The Lord, to depend on The Lord, and to fellowship with The Lord, in ways we never would have otherwise. Lastly to show how your desire to grow and take on challenges instead of settling for comfort, can encourage and spur others on look at **>15:13-19**- Caleb's faith encourages others to attempt bold feats as they drive out the biggest and baddest of giants.
- Fathers and leaders pay attention to this as I love this part, he let it be known that if anyone was interested in his daughter that he'd better be a warrior as well as a worshipper, and a man named Othniel answers the call, afterward Caleb's daughter like her father isn't satisfied with the land in the South she wants both the upper springs and the lower springs.