

# Joshua 14 “A Different Spirit”

The details of the story are recorded in Numbers 13, 14 and that passage helps fill in the background to Caleb’s summary statement in verses 7&8.

At that time Israel had been out of Egypt for about **one year**.


1. Having experienced God’s saving power from Pharaoh’s tyranny in the exodus,
2. They also knew what it meant to be rescued from the righteous wrath of God through the provision of the Passover lamb.
3. In the year that followed, they had seen the pursuing **elite Egyptian troops** drowned in the Red Sea,
4. had experienced God’s provision of water and **daily manna**,
5. had won a great victory over the Amalekites, and had been brought to meet with God at Sinai, where they received the Law.

**Now they had traveled on to Kadesh-barnea, to the very edge of the land that God had promised to give to them. It was a year of astonishing progress, but mixed with unbelief, discontent, and grumbling as many of them often looked back over their shoulders, wistful for what they had known in Egypt. They soon forgot the slavery and the cruel burdens, and they began to put on rose-tinted spectacles when they recalled the food supplies and the relative stability of their life in subjection. But now they are on the edge of the land, and surely it will prove to have been worth all the privations and testings.**

The 12 spies are sent to recon the land and the people in Canaan. They are away **for six weeks**, and at the end they return to present a majority report to Moses. (Numbers 13:27, 28, 31) “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

The land's bounty is described by the terms "milk and honey." "Milk" means there were many domesticated farm animals in the land. "Honey" translates the word "dibbs." It actually is a dehydrated paste made from grape juice. The term meant there were many vineyards in the land.

However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there ... We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are” **That was the majority conclusion signed by ten of the spies.** But alongside it was a contradictory minority view, signed by only **Caleb and Joshua.** “Let us go at once and occupy it, for we are able to overcome it” (Numbers 13:30). Majority ruled that day causing the people of God to wander in wilderness for some 40 years.

 **Numbers 14:9** – 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.”

But the reaction of the crowd is to pick up stones to stone them. As a result God’s judgment falls as he pronounces that none of this unbelieving generation will see or enter the land because they have despised his word of promise and his faithful character. Numbers 14:24 “But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it”.

And now, at last, the time for the fulfillment of God’s promise to Caleb has come, 45 years later, the vast majority of which he spent in the wilderness with a frequently rebellious people who were kept from entering God’s rest through their unbelief. Their eyes were on the giants, but Caleb’s eyes were on the Lord. **PRAY**

Joshua is very neatly divided for us.

In Chapters 1-4 we are allowed to see the entering of the land.

In Chapters 5-12 The exciting drama of Israel conquering the land.

In Chapters 13-24 the no so exciting drama possessing the land.


In Chapter 14 the allocation of the land west of the Jordan takes place. It was done through the casting of lots. **It was a righteous raffle.** *A land lottery.* The tribe of Judah is first to receive their allotment... and guess who steps out of the crowd to take possession of the first parcel? Joshua's old friend, Caleb. There was no compromise with Caleb. No partial obedience. No half-hearted devotion. Caleb has waited 45 years to receive his inheritance. Now he's first in line.

**Joshua 14:6** 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, 45 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba* was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

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**Caleb**, Means Dog... Not a good name. Dogs we not venerated like they are today. Hung out by the garbage heap. Nobody spent money on them. Over 62 Billion is spend in America on dogs. Over 24 billion on food alone!

 Caleb was actually an Edomite. Maybe his name tells us that his parents rejected him because the tribe of Judea adopted him in.


**Following the Lord isn't always easy, but it is always right. The Bible is filled with stories of courageous people who were willing to do God's will against all odds. Are you?**

***It was a hot day in the wilderness of Paran as the people awaited an important report. We know it was a hot day because all days in Paran are hot. Moses had sent 12 spies into the prospective Promised Land. The fact they returned was good, but the news they brought was bad. Hear their report again***


"We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 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 ... Surely such courage will be applauded.

**Not so, notes Numbers 14:10a, "...stone them with stones."**

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. **Caleb was one of the only two spies to come back with a good report, a report of faith, believing that God had given Israel the land and would enable them to conquer it (Numbers 13:26-14:9). The other ten spies believed that Israel would be destroyed in the attempt to take Canaan, and Israel believed the ten doubting spies.**

 The other faithful spy was none other than Joshua. The ten faithless spies measured the giants against their own strength, but Joshua and Caleb measured the spies against God's strength.

<sup>9</sup> 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.' When Caleb says **I wholly followed the LORD my God**, he isn't being proud - he is just quoting what Moses had said about him.

 Maybe we should imitate Calebs boldness in asking for what God promised him. We may find it hard to believe, but God appreciates this kind of boldness.

Of the 2-3 million Hebrews who crossed over the Jordan, Joshua and Caleb were the only members of the generation that left Egypt

who were allowed to enter the Land of Promise. This was the cause of Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness; God would not allow that generation of unbelief to enter in, so He waited for them to die in the desert (Numbers 14:26-38). The only ones of age at the time of the rejection who actually entered the Promised Land were be Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies.

So, it is fitting as Judah is the first tribe to receive its allotment on the west side of the Jordan, that Caleb be the first among the people of Judah to receive his inheritance.

<sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these 45 years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, 85 years old. *And guess what he asks for his possession? 45 years earlier he told his brothers God would give victory over the giants in the land. Now he still wants to fight those giants. He asks Joshua for Hebron, home of the Anakim, or the giants. He's 85 years old, and look at what he says in verse 11-12,* <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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." Rather than ask to be put up in an assisted living home – Caleb wants to fight a few giants! *In 15:14 he drives out 3 sons of Anak - 3 giants - to possess the mountain the Lord gives him. Caleb loved a challenge. It's been said of Caleb, "A faith that never wavered produced a strength that never weakened." Caleb was a feisty ol' cuss until the very end! When we get to heaven we'll probably see Caleb and John Wayne duking it out just for fun!... Ol' Caleb might still be looking around for a giant or two to fight.*



**Numbers 14:20** Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; <sup>21</sup> but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— <sup>22</sup> because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, <sup>23</sup> they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. <sup>24</sup> 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.

10 of 12 spies said they are too big... Caleb and Joshua said they are not too big to hit but too big to miss... besides God is aiming the blows. Your big I'm little veggie tales

<sup>13</sup> And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba* was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

In a world that prides itself on Non conformity... everyone conforms. Punk rockers hang out with punk rockers, bikers hang out with bikers.



Caleb and Joshua were the “right kind” of non conformist.

There is no diminishing of God’s power or grace today, but there are few Calebs who see beyond the problems to the promises and claim a mighty work of God in faith. **Why? Because there are so few undivided hearts.**

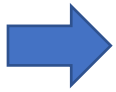
The whole hearted believer knows the greatness of God’s infinite wisdom and inexhaustible power and submits himself unreservedly to the Lord.

➤ Arrogance is a great enemy of the undivided heart.

Humility is key to our reciprocal enjoyment of all that God wants to give us. Every significant work for God depends on a relationship of humble dependence on God.



All through the years his faith has been in the Word of God and thus in the God of the Word.



**Faith is the antidote to fear.**

Forget the eternal Creator God and his part in your affairs, and you will soon capitulate to the fear of man. **Fear and faith cannot coexist.** Faith may be assailed by doubt, as with the father of the demon-possessed boy who cried out to Jesus, “I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24), but the very act of turning to God in faith begins to give fear its marching orders.



***But faith is like a muscle. The more it is exercised and stretched, the stronger it will become; yet in the end it is the object of faith, rather than merely its exercise, that determines our spiritual condition.***

Yes, hold on to the God who is faithful; but his grip is infinitely stronger than ours.

Obviously it was Caleb’s wholeheartedly following the Lord. Spiritual vigor is the fruit of an undivided heart. Three times in chapter 14 we’re told Caleb “wholly followed the Lord”.

Giants of evil all around us have grown strong and have become entrenched over many years of moral collapse caused by sheer unbelief. **Yet for the 10 spies factual accuracy was matched by spiritual bankruptcy, as it often is today.** The issue is whether we measure the giants by our strength or by God’s promises, and results are polar opposites.

***Two final things...***(Number 14:24). “But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it”

***Caleb had a different Spirit***

***Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly*** (fully)

What came first? Would you please stand if you want a different spirit and want to follow the Lord wholeheartly