

## Joshua 14-16

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. Would you please turn in your Bibles to Joshua chapter 14?

Last time in our study we saw the allotment of land that was east of the Jordan River divvied up amongst the 2 ½ tribes that settled there.

Tonight, we continue to see the allotment of land given out, and we see an old, familiar name pop up, as the faithful servant Caleb of the tribe of Judah is first to get some land west of the Jordan.

We're going to study chapters 14 through 16 and the title of tonight's message is Fighting father time

Let's pray

With Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan, the rest of the nine and one-half tribes claimed their territory on the west side in the Promised Land. Each tribe was given a certain region, described in chapters 13 through 21. These descriptions might seem tedious to us, but they were important and wonderful to the Israelites. Why? Because the descriptions were of their own inheritance. And it's important for us because this is history

### Chapter 14 1-4

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. Here Joshua explains an important detail that'll come up again and again as we study the Scriptures. The Bible always speaks of Israel as 12 tribes – but what 12 tribes varies. At certain times the 12 tribes include Joseph and Levi. But in the allocation of the promised land, Joseph received a double portion – so his two sons take his place – Manasseh and Ephraim.

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. (they are back at HQ) 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. Joshua’s old friend, Caleb - the only other faithful spy makes a dramatic reappearance.

Of the 2 or 3 million Hebrews who crossed the Jordan, Joshua and Caleb were the only members of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Israelites freed from Egyptian slavery that were allowed to enter the Promised Land.

If you recall, Moses sent out 12 men to spy out the promised land. Joshua and Caleb were the only 2 of the 12 who brought back a positive report.

Numbers 13 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<sup>[fn]</sup> (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Discouragement is one of Satan’s most potent weapons against a child of God. Whenever a believer declares they will wholly follow the Lord, you better believe the enemy is going to do everything he can to discourage that person.

All of the 12 spies saw the same thing, but only Caleb and Joshua were men of faith - men willing to take possession of God’s promises.

The ten faithless spies measured the giants of the land against their own ability, but Joshua and Caleb measured the giants against God's ability.

And Caleb will continue to measure his obstacles not by his own strength, but on God's strength.

And you know what I find interesting? We don't read anywhere of Caleb being upset that Joshua is the leader of Israel. How easy it would've been for Caleb to say 'well let's co-lead', or 'how about I be second in command'. We're not told of that anywhere. It shows Calebs humility.

Three times in chapter 14 we're told Caleb "wholly followed the Lord". Caleb was a man who didn't practice partial obedience or halfhearted devotion. Caleb was all-in!

So because of the nations lack of faith, Israel spent the next 38 years 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. 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.

All this to say, it's 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.

Caleb continues...7-9

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.' Caleb calls Joshua back to the promise made in **Deuteronomy 1:35-36 35 'Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which**

I swore to give to your fathers, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.

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. So this gives us a timeframe. Caleb was 40 when he spied out the land. Israel then wandered for 38 years, which means by the time this has taken place, from Joshua 1-14, 7 years has passed. It took 7 years of battles for Israel to possess the promised land.

Of course prophetically, this points to the tribulation, the 7 year period after the rapture where God will pour out His wrath on the unbelieving world.

Caleb continues...

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. Though he is advanced in age, Caleb's strength hasn't diminished. At eighty-five years young, he wanted to be out in front, out leading the fight. And he doesn't want to fight against just any foe, but against the Anakim.

This is how God wants us to be in our spiritual life as we advance in years: growing older, but never weaker in Jesus.

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." We talked about this last week-Israel is now in

possession of the promised land, but now it's up to the individual tribes to drive out the enemies from the regional towns and cities.

But notice the verbiage of verse 12-Caleb doesn't have a guarantee-he says 'it may be with me.' Caleb was willing to take a step of faith.

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.

Forty-five years earlier Caleb assured his brothers God would give them victory over the giants. Now he's still chomping at the bit to fight a few giants. He asks Joshua to give him Hebron, home of the Anakim.

Caleb doesn't ask for the easy road, no he wants the fight. He could have asked for an easy place, but he knows that these enemies must be faced and figures that he may as well be the one to do it. He doesn't leave the work to someone else, though he could have, especially at his age.

Let me take a moment and speak to the older generation for a moment. If you're looking for the fountain of youth, here's the best way to stay young. Keep your eyes upon the Lord, and don't be afraid to fight some giants on the Lord's strength.

Guys, the sweetest communion – the richest fellowship with Jesus, the greatest awareness of His presence – is found not in a retirement home, but in a fox hole fighting battles for God.

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.

Chapter 15 describes the allocation of land to the tribe of Judah, and we'll once again zoom in on the adventures of Caleb.

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. The first allocation of land west of the Jordan goes to Judah

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2-12 describe the border for Judah

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. Verse 5, the eastern border was the Dead Sea up to 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[fn] northward. The holy city of Jerusalem was part of the territory of the tribe of Judah.

Verse 9 continues tracing the northern boundary...

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.. Verse 12 tells us the western border was the coastline of the Great Sea-the Mediterranean

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 Talmi, the children of Anak. At 85 year old, Caleb tackles 3 giants head on and drives them out of the area. It's been said of Caleb, "A faith that never wavered produced a strength that never weakened."

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.” Caleb wasn’t just courageous. He was also a leader. Apparently he saw the need to delegate and encourage younger Hebrew men to follow in his footsteps and fight for God. And as an incentive Caleb promises to give away his daughter to the man willing to obey the Lord.

17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. Othniel was Caleb’s nephew, and became his son-in-law. We’ll learn later he was also the first judge of Israel.

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. It’s ironic, Caleb was a giant-killer – but it seems his little girl had him wrapped around her little finger. He gives her a field - then she asks for a spring – then He ends up giving her two, the upper and lower spring.

20 This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families: The remainder of chapter 15 lists the cities of Judah – 106 different cities.

21-63

21 The cities at the limits of the tribe of the children of Judah, toward the border of Edom in the South, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, 22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, 23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, 24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, 25 Hazor, Hadattah, Kerioth, Hezron (which is Hazor), 26 Amam, Shema, Moladah, 27 Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet, 28 Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Bizjothjah, 29 Baalah, Ijim, Ezem, 30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah, 31 Ziklag,

Madmannah, Sansannah, 32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty-nine, with their villages.

33 In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, 34 Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, 35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, 36 Sharaim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages; 37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, 38 Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, 39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, 40 Cabbon, Lahmas,[fn] Kithlish, 41 Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages; 42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan, 43 Jiphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, 44 Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their villages; 45 Ekron, with its towns and villages; 46 from Ekron to the sea, all that lay near Ashdod, with their villages; 47 Ashdod with its towns and villages, Gaza with its towns and villages—as far as the Brook of Egypt and the Great Sea with its coastline.

48 And in the mountain country: Shamir, Jattir, Sochoh, 49 Dannah, Kirjath Sannah (which is Debir), 50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, 51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven cities with their villages; 52 Arab, Dumah, Eshean, 53 Janum, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, 54 Humtah, Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron), and Zior: nine cities with their villages; 55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, 56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, 57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities with their villages; 58 Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, 59 Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon: six cities with their villages; 60 Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim) and Rabbah: two cities with their villages.

61 In the wilderness: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, 62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi: six cities with their villages.

63 As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day. Again we see another

crack forming in the total conquest of the land. There was no reason the Hebrews couldn't completely conquer Jerusalem.

Jerusalem will remain a Jebusite city for the next 400 years – until the armies of King David make Jerusalem Israel's capital city.

Chapter 16 describes the inheritance of Ephraim

1-4

1 The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel, 2 then went out from Bethel to Luz,[fn] passed along to the border of the Archites at Ataroth, 3 and went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer; and it ended at the sea.

4 So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance. The mountains of Samaria – in the heart of Israel – went to Ephraim. The Ephraimites possessed a very famous city known as Shiloh. In fact, the Ark of the Covenant will rest in the Tabernacle at Shiloh for many years.

5-10

5 The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, was thus: The border of their inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon.

6 And the border went out toward the sea on the north side of Michmethath; then the border went around eastward to Taanath Shiloh, and passed by it on the east of Janohah. 7 Then it went down from Janohah to Ataroth and Naarah,[fn] reached to Jericho, and came out at the Jordan.

8 The border went out from Tappuah westward to the Brook Kanah, and it ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the

tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families. 9 The separate cities for the children of Ephraim were among the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages.

10 And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers. It's sad, but once again the children of Israel fell short of total victory.

Their failure to completely drive out the Canaanites is typical of all the tribes. Even within the Promised Land there remained important work to do and battles to fight. But they took their eyes off the Lord and set their eyes on the path of least resistance.

If they had the power to make the people of Gezer forced laborers, they certainly had the power to defeat them completely, especially because Gezer was a city and king that Joshua had already conquered back in chapter 10.

For whatever reason, the Israelites stopped short of complete obedience to God, and they compromised. And as we progress through the OT we'll see that even though this sort of compromise seems innocent, it will become the vehicle that allows idolatry and immoral worship infiltrate the Hebrew nation. This is one reason why we see so many struggles in the days of the Judges.

Small areas of compromise always lead to larger opportunities for spiritual lapses.

Caleb didn't claim a beachfront condo on the Mediterranean, a cabin on the Sea of Galilee, or a loft apartment in Jerusalem for his inheritance. Rather, he said, "Give me the area where the giants are."

May the Lord make us like Caleb—people who don't back away from challenges or problems, but who instead understand that they're actually good for us.