

11/9/03

Caleb Walked By Faith
Josh. 14:6-15

The land has been conquered for the most part, thirty-one kings have been listed for the historical record and now the possession of the land is left.

Three campaigns have comprised the occupation of the land of promise.

1. The central campaign of Jericho and Ai. Josh. 6-9
2. The southern campaign against Adoni-Zedek King of Jerusalem, who called on four other kings to united against Gibeon and Israel. Josh. 10
3. The northern campaign, a confederacy of kings headed by King Jobin of Hazor, to stop Israel from taking the land. Josh. 11

All that there is left is to do is to move into the various areas of the land and take possession of them, though there would be some resistance.

Therefore Eleazar, Joshua and the heads of the fathers of the tribes were going to distribute the land to the various tribes of Israel.

God would be the One making the division of the land to the tribes, their families and individual,

without partiality and according to needs. Josh. 14:1-5

- a. The names of these individuals are given. Vs. 1, Num. 34:16-29
- b. Their inheritance was designated by God, at the hand of Moses, through lots for the nine and a half tribes. Vs. 2
* Num. 27:21, 34:2-17, 26:55, 33:54
- c. Proverbs tells us , “The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.” Prov. 16:33

It is at this time that Caleb comes to Joshua and asked for a particular portion of land as his inheritance, which unfolds for us in three movements. Josh. 14:6-15

- I. Caleb remembered the past promise of faith. Vs. 6-9
- II. Caleb reclaimed the present promise of hope. Vs. 10-11
- III. Caleb realized the future promise of love. Vs. 12-15

I. Caleb remembered the past promise of faith.
Vs. 6-9

- A. Caleb recalled to Joshua the promise of God. Vs. 6
 1. The man Caleb came up with the tribe of Judah at Gilgal. Vs. 1a

- a. The place was Gilgal, the encampment of the army of Israel, which is believed to be different than the Gilgal after crossing the Jordan and all the men were circumcised.
 - b. Gilgal nevertheless was the place that marked their first step of their new life of faith as they stepped into the Jordan at flood season, giving them hope. Josh. 4:18-19
 - c. Gilgal was the place where God called them to circumcise themselves, symbolic of cutting of the flesh life of the wilderness. Josh. 5:2-5
 - d. Gilgal in fact means “rolling”, symbolic of God rolling away their reproach of Egypt. Josh. 5:9
 - e. Gilgal was the place where they kept the Passover and the manna ceased and they ate the produce of the land. Josh. 5:10-12
 - f. Gilgal marked the beginning of a new life of faith to possess one’s inheritance in the land.
2. The man Caleb was the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite. Vs. 1b
- a. Caleb was the son of Jephunneh of the tribe of Judah. Num. 13:6, Josh. 15:17
 - 1) Caleb’s name means “dog” and by way of implication, bold or

- impetuous, related to his character or life situations.
 - 3) Caleb’s name is simply understood by some to his faithfulness, regardless of how he was treated and being persistent.
- b. Caleb was the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite of Gentile descent.
 - 1) Some identified Caleb as being of the leading Edomite family of Eliphaz, Esau’s first son. Gen. 36:11, 15, 42
 - 2) The name of the tribe is referred to in the covenant God made with Abraham, as one of the inhabitant of the land. Gen. 15:19
 - 3) They are not mentioned among the original inhabitants and probably inhabited some part of Arabia, in the confines of Syria. Canaan. Ex 3:8, Josh. 3:10 (Easton)
 - c. Caleb should not be confused with two other men with the same name.
 - 1) One of the three sons of Hezron of the tribe of Judah who is also called Chelubai. 1Chron. 2:9, 18, 42
 - 2) Caleb the “son of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah”. 1Chron. 2:50

- 3.** The man Caleb reminded Joshua about the personal word Yahweh had told Moses about Caleb and Joshua. Vs. 1c
- a.** The place was at Kadesh Barnea, they were ready to enter the promise land.
 - b.** The occasion was when Caleb and Joshua along with ten other men had gone out to spy the land, confirming the abundance of it.
 - c.** Caleb and Joshua came back with a good report but the other ten with a discouraging report.
 - d.** Caleb was being very specific when he said to Joshua, “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.” Num. 14:30
- * ` Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.
- * Caleb was a man of faith but not by birth and acted more like an Israelite than the ten Israelites that gave the evil report!

B. Caleb recalled to Joshua of his personal faithfulness in the mission. Vs. 7

- 1.** Caleb reminded Joshua of his age, “I was forty years old when Moses the servant

- of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land”. Vs. 7a
- 2.** Caleb reminded Joshua of his report, “And I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.” Vs. 7b
 - a.** Caleb stood in the gap for God to encourage the people. Num. 13:30
 - 1)** Caleb quieted the people before Moses as they became discouraged by the evil report of the ten.
 - 2)** His resolve was, “Let us go up at once and take possession”.
 - 3)** His confidence was, “for we are well able to overcome it.”.
 - 4)** His faith was in God measuring the enemy against God not their might.
 - b.** Caleb did not waver even when his life was at risk. Num. 14:1-10
 - 1)** The people began to complain against Moses and Aaron, wishing they had died in Egypt or the wilderness. Vs. 1-2
 - 2)** The people accused God of victimizing them and said, Let us select a leader and return to Egypt. Vs. 3-4
 - 3)** The people were entreated by the men of faith. Vs. 5-10

- a) Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the congregation. Vs. 5
- b) Joshua and Caleb spoke to the people about the goodness of the land. Vs. 6-9
- c) They pointed out that if God delighted in them, the land was theirs. Vs. 8
- d) They pleaded that they not rebel nor fear the people. Vs. 9
- e) The people were ready to stone them but God intervened. Vs. 10

C. Caleb recalled to Joshua the unfaithfulness of the other ten spies. Vs. 8

1. Caleb marked the discouragement produced, “Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt.” Vs. 8a
 - a. The ten declared they were unable to conquer the land. Num. 13:31-33
 - 1) Their failure was in measuring themselves to their enemy, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” Vs. 31
 - 2) Their fear of the giants had caused them to deny the evidence of the land of milk and honey. Vs. 23, 27, 33

- b. The LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD-- 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, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.” Num. 14:21-23
2. Caleb marked the clear distinction from them, “But I wholly followed the LORD my God.” Vs. 8b
 - a. The words are found in the book of Numbers, “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.” Num. 14:24
 - b. Caleb’s trust in God was an evident contrast to the ten who gave the evil report, by the word “but”.
 - c. Caleb was called by God “My servant”.
 - d. Caleb was declared by God to have a different spirit in him.

- e. Caleb was said to of followed God fully or wholly.
 - 1) This statement is declared six other times. Num. 14:24, 32:11, 12, Deut. 1:36, Josh. 14:8, 14
 - 2) The Hebrew “male” means full or abundant and is used to describes a ship going out at full sail.
 - 3) He therefore and his descendants were promised the land. Vs. 24c-d

D. Caleb recalled the promise of Moses. Vs. 9

1. The promise was perpetual, “So Moses swore on that day, saying, `Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever.” Vs. 9a-c
 - a. The words of Moses, were the words of God to Moses. Num. 14:21-24
 - b. The words were also the words of Moses because he repeated them the second generation. Deut. 1:35
2. The promise was for personal faithfulness, “Because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.” Vs. 9d
 - a. Caleb was responsible for his own life of faith.
 - b. Caleb alone reaped the benefit of his obedience in faith.

When Hudson Taylor, the famous missionary, first went to China, it was in a sailing vessel. Very close to the shore of cannibal islands the ship was becalmed, and it was slowly drifting shoreward unable to go about and the savages were eagerly anticipating a feast.

The captain came to Mr. Taylor and besought him to pray for the help of God. “I will,” said Taylor, “provided you set your sails to catch the breeze.” The captain declined to make himself a laughing stock by unfurling in a dead calm. Taylor said, “I will not undertake to pray for the vessel unless you will prepare the sails.” And it was done.

While engaged in prayer, there was a knock at the door of his stateroom. “Who is there.?” The captain’s voice responded, “Are you still praying for wind?” “Yes.” “Well,” said the captain, “you’d better stop praying, for we have more wind that we can manage.” #1493

* Faith acts on God’s word and sees Him work!

Application

1. The greatest promise God has given to mankind in the past is that of salvation through faith.
 - a. But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised

Illustration

Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Rom. 10:8-9

- b. “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new **creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2Cor. 5:17
 - c. We are to continue to pray for family members and friends for salvation, regardless of the time, ten, twenty or forty years.
2. The apostles had to remember the promise Jesus gave to them regarding the Holy Spirit in faith.
- a. “Behold, I send the **Promise** of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Lk. 24:49
 - b. Every believer has to remember this past promise that is now valid for all believers, all who call on the name of the Lord. Acts 2:39
3. The believer is given past promises that have yet not been experienced but they are valid by faith.
- a. That our love ones who have died in Christ will return with Jesus in the clouds and we will be united, “For if we **believe** that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” 1Thess. 4:14
 - b. The fact that the instant I am absent from this body, a tent, I am present before the Lord. 2Cor. 5:1-8

4. The most basic principal for the life of the believer, like Caleb, is to fully follow the Lord in faith.

- a. “Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb 11:1
- b. “By **faith** Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Heb 11:5
- c. “But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:6

Caleb remembered the past promise of faith!

II. Caleb reclaimed the present promise of hope. Vs. 10-11

- A. Caleb had not grown weary in spirit through time. Vs. 10
 - 1. Caleb attested his well being to God, “And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said”. Vs. 10a-d
 - a. Caleb gave Yahweh God, the credit for being alive to that very day.
 - 1) It wasn’t his own abilities.
 - 2) It wasn’t because he was so clever.

- b. Caleb had seen much and gone through so many things.
 - 1) The difficulties of murmurings.
 - 2) The dangers of rebellions and divisions.
 - 3) The diabolical attempts by Balaam.
- c. Caleb said, “Behold, Yahweh has sustained me alive”.
- 2. Caleb attested to being patient with enduring hope. Vs. 10d
 - a. He passed the test of time, Caleb says, “these forty-five years”. Vs. 10d
 - b. He passed the test of discouragement and despondency, “Ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses” while Israel wandered in the wilderness.” Vs. 10e
 - 1) All the people over twenty years of age died in the wilderness.
 - 2) He observed a thirty-eight year death march.
- 3. Caleb attested to his endurance. Vs. 10e-g
 - a. He declared, “And now, here I am this day”. Vs. 10e
 - 1) He had believed the promise of God.
 - 2) He was longing to enjoy the promise of God.

- b. He specified the length of his endurance, “Eighty-five years old.” Vs. 10g
 - 1) For thirty-eight years they wondered.
 - 2) It had been forty-five years since that day.
 - 3) Caleb was eighty-five years old.
 - 4) That means it had been about seven years since they entered the land and conquering it!
- B. Caleb had not grown weak physically through age. Vs. 11
 - 1. He gave witness to his physical ability, “As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then.” Vs. 11a-b
 - a. That is an incredible statement.
 - b. That is the grace of God.
 - 2. He gave witness of his willingness to defeat the enemy. Vs. 11c-d
 - a. He was not a procrastinator, “So now is my strength”. Vs. 11c
 - b. He did not think it was going to be easy, “for war”. Vs. 11c
 - c. He knew it would take more time, “Both for going out and for coming in.” Vs. 11d

Illustration

There is an inscription in the dome of our Capital in Washington which few people know about. It says, "One far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves." A visitor saw this inscription and asked the guide what it meant, he said: "I think it refers to the Second Coming of Christ." When the dome of our Capital was erected, some God-fearing official ordered that inscription to be etched in the dome of our seat of government, believing that its truth was vital to the concern of our nation. #1477

* True lasting hope is always based on God's promises in His word!

Application

1. Time is the acid test of all things, it will reveal everything about us in the present, attitude being the most important.

- a. Whether we will give the glory to God for all things or just some things.
- b. Whether we will grow weary, murmur and complaint as we see all the discouraging things in our lives, the lives of others and the life of the church.

* God will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath. Rom. 2:6-8

2. Time by walking in faith and obedience, will give us great hope and reveal it as enduring hope, instead of being hopeless.

- a. As we look forwards to the things God is going to do now in my life after ten, twenty, thirty or forty years of walking with Him.
- b. As we are excited about what God is going to do in and through my children, the young people of my generation and the young parents coming to the church.

* Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor. 4:16-18

3. The aging of our lives in the present will be different, depending on many things.

- a. Certainly all of us will live longer and be healthier, just by being saved, no longer drinking, smoking and carousing around, carrying guilt, shame, anger and bitterness.
- b. Some by God's grace and sovereign choosing will be like Caleb and regardless of the age, they will be strong in body and mind into their eighties.

- c. Others, though they are people of faith, due to genetic disposition, disease, accidents, etc, will not retain their vigor into old age.
- d. But whatever God has for us we want to make sure that we are claiming the promises of God every day of our lives He has given to us.
 - 1) That we carry no anxiety that will cause deterioration but by prayer be able to have the peace of God, which passes all understanding. Phil. 4:6-7
 - 2) That we not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. But rather let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from us, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:30-32
 - 3) That when we are sick, we ask God to heal us or ask the elders to anoint us with oil and prayer for our healing, in the name of the Lord. Ja. 5:14
 - 4) “Even to your **old age**, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.” Is. 46:4
 - 5) Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear **fruit** in old

age; They shall be fresh and flourishing.”
Ps. 92:13-14

4. The most important strength is that which enables us for the work of the Lord and sometimes it is with our physical weakness in mind.
 - a. Paul sought the Lord three times that He might take away his infirmity but God told Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My **strength** is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2Cor. 12:9
 - b. Isaiah reminds us that our strength must be from heaven above to make us effective on earth below, “But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” Is. 40:31
 - c. The temptation to trust other things will be ever present, “Some trust in **chariots**, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Ps. 20:7
 - d. The wisest thing is to look to the Lord, “The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.” Ps. 28:7
 - e. If and when we fail, it is because we have not depended on the Lord, “If you faint in

the day of adversity, Your **strength** is small.” Prov. 24:10

- f. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Gal. 6:9
- g. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. 2Thess. 3:13

Caleb reclaimed the present promise of hope!

III. Caleb realized the future promise of love. Vs. 12-15

- A. God had promised the mountain to Caleb for his faithful love. Vs. 12-13
 - 1. Caleb requested the mountain from Joshua that the Lord had spoken about in that day, forty-five years before. Vs. 12a-b
 - a. His love for God saw the land through the eyes of faith when he spied out the land, while the other ten spies, through the eyes of fear.
 - b. He attempted to turn them from their rebellion, out of love for God, rather than love for self.
 - c. His love for God was still ready to go in as eager as he had been forty-five years ago, “Now, therefore, give me this mountain”.

- 2. Caleb regarded the enemy with reality but did not allow them to intimidate or hinder his obedience. Vs. 12c-d
 - a. He told Joshua, “For you heard in that day how the Anakim were there”.
 - * “The Anakim were a people a great stature, giants. Deut. 2:11, 21, 9:2
 - b. He told Joshua, “And that the cities were great and fortified.” Vs. 12a-d
 - * The cities were strongly defended!
- 3. Caleb was still walking by faith, thrusting God for what He had promised. Vs. 12e-f
 - a. He told Joshua he was trusting God, “It may be that the LORD will be with me”. Vs. 12e
 - * Committing himself to the sovereign will of God!
 - b. He told Joshua he believed God would do it, “And I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.” Vs. 12f
 - * He drove them out. Josh. 15:14
- 4. Caleb received from Joshua the land God promised him at the appropriate time. Vs. 13
 - a. Joshua confirmed the time of the promise. Vs. 13a
 - * Joshua blessed Caleb, meaning that he conferred to him his request, which was different than the one

- chosen by lots, for his exceptional faithful love.
- b. Joshua gave Caleb Hebron as his inheritance, that which belonged and was rightly his. Vs. 13b
 - * Hebron was rich in history with the promises of God.
 - 1) Abraham lived there and Sarah died and was buried at Hebron. Gen. 23:2
 - 2) David would be crowned king of Israel at Hebron. 2Sam. 5:1-5

B. God kept his promise to Caleb for his commitment to God. Vs. 14-15

1. Caleb served God with a complete heart. Vs. 14
 - a. He received his inheritance as evidence of a child of God.
 - b. He was a Gentile, the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite, who trusted God in faith, with expectant hope and lasting love.
 - c. He was a man of character, wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.
2. Caleb savored the complete favor of God. Vs. 15
 - a. The name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba, “the city of great”, after the greatest man among the Anakim.

- b. The Great God Yahweh had now given to a “great man of faith” this city.
- c. Then the land had rest from war.

Illustration

The bee has been aptly described as “busy”. To produce one pound of honey, the bee must visit 56,000 clover heads. Since each head has 60 flowers tubes, a total of 3,360, 000 visits are necessary to give us that pound of honey for the breakfast table. Meanwhile, that worker bee has flown the equivalent of three times around the world. To produce one tablespoon of honey for our toast, the little bee makes 42,000 trips to flowers. He makes about ten trips a day to the field, each trip lasting twenty minutes average and four hundred flowers. A worker bee will fly as far as eight miles if he cannot find a nectar flow that is nearer. The bee is one of thousands, but it is the recipient of his part in the hive for her Queen.

* Therefore when we sense our love waning in the difficult task of enduring persistency, think of the bee. #4326

Application

1. Paul says, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2Cor. 1:20
2. Knowing the love of God for us, to make us His children, Paul says, “Therefore, having these

promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2Cor. 7:1

3. Our blessing are many, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every **spiritual** blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Eph 1:3

4. There are many things God has for us, “We sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should **walk** in them.” Eph 2:6, 10

5. Therefore the exhortation to all of us is, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph. 5:15-16

6. “Paul says, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2Tim. 4:7-8

7. The warning is, “That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Heb 6:12

8. The provisions have been made, “By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2Pet.1:4

9. “But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1Cor. 2:9

Caleb realized the future promise of love!

Conclusion

The petition of Caleb for the particular portion of land as his inheritance, has unfolded for us in these three movements.

- I.** Caleb remembered the past promise by faith!
- II.** Caleb reclaimed the present promise of hope!
- III.** Caleb realized the future promise of love!