

# JOSHUA: READY FOR BATTLE

## Studies in the Book of Joshua

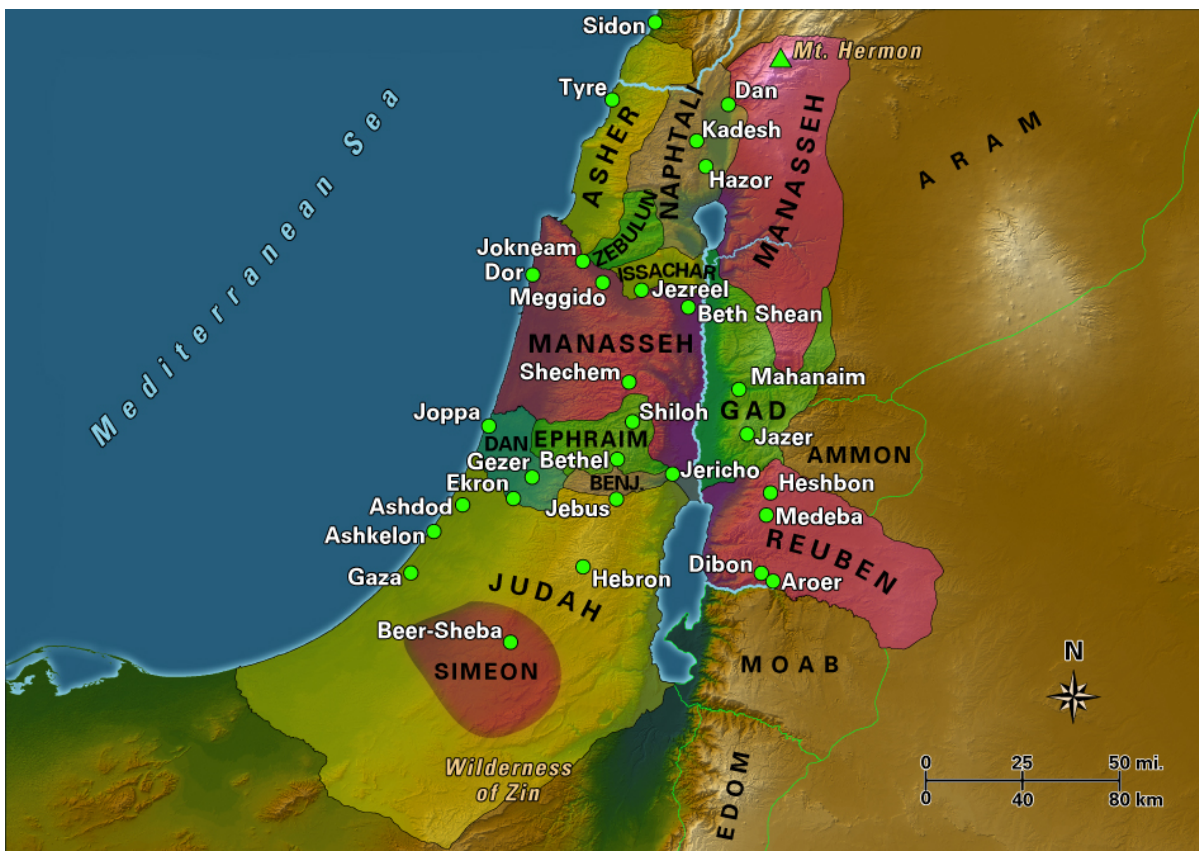
### Joshua 14

#### “TRUSTING GOD WHEN MOUNTAINS ARE IN YOUR WAY”

**INTRODUCTION:** What comes to mind when you think of mountains? God’s creative beauty in nature? Obstacles to where you want to go? Physical and literal impossibilities? The next challenge on the way to your destiny?

The Lord Jesus spoke to His disciples about having faith that would “move mountains”. What does this mean? What if, instead of moving the mountains in your life, the Lord wants you to climb up the mountain to meet with Him? (Exodus 32)

**BACKGROUND:** At this point in our study, Israel has successfully taken territory in the South and begun its conquests in the north around the Sea (Lake) of Galilee. The great city of Hazor had organized opposition against Israel, the city was conquered, and its weapons burned. The list of victories recorded in chapters 11 and 12 are a testimony to how faith in God allows us to see Him fulfill His promises and allows us to experience the victory. We now move into the sections that describe how the land was distributed among the tribes.



**I. IF YOU TRUST THE LORD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE VICTORIES WHEN OTHERS LIVE DEFEATED LIVES.**

A. Caleb chose to trust God in spite of obvious difficulties. He spoke up first, and his initial attempt to get others to trust God almost cost him his life. However, the unbelievers who threatened him died before he did! Mountains and giants look different when you see through the eyes of the One who made those mountains! (Numbers 13-14)

B. Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly for decades. His heart was full of God. *A crisis occurs when danger meets opportunity*, and Caleb saw the opportunity to trust God.

## **II. EMBRACE GOD'S COMMAND TO BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE, POWER, AND WORD IN OUR HEARTS, WE CAN STAY ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND WIN! (Joshua 14)**

A. The Lord told Joshua that he was now old, yet there was still much work to be done. (Joshua 13:1) Only one person from Joshua's generation was still alive to fight, and that was Caleb. He never lost sight of God's promises to Him. Are you holding on to God's unfailing words, or have you allowed circumstances to defeat you?

B. Caleb teaches us that A\_\_\_\_\_ is not as important as a\_\_\_\_\_, P\_\_\_\_\_ is not as important as D\_\_\_\_\_, and God's V\_\_\_\_\_ is always accompanied by God's P\_\_\_\_\_. Our B\_\_\_\_\_ will get older, but our M\_\_\_\_\_ do not need to!

C. Notice the list of things that could have prevented Caleb from taking on the challenges and seeing God's will performed in his life. Which ones have defeated you?

1. **Giants.** There is major opposition to your dreams, and it is intimidating.
2. **Peer Pressure.** No one else thinks you can or should do this.
3. **Age.** Do you think you waited too long to do God's will?
4. **Resources.** What if you cannot afford to do what you need to do?
5. **Obstacles.** Mountains come in all shapes and sizes; are both physical and spiritual
6. **Prejudice.** Caleb was a descendant of Esau. Kenizzites lived in Canaan! (Gen.16)

D. Courage can be contagious and inspirational, just as fear can discourage others. Let us stimulate and encourage one another to trust God in the process and for the outcomes we desire. (Deuteronomy 18) (Joshua 14)

## **III. THE LORD JESUS HAS TAUGHT US WE CAN HAVE MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH IF WE TRUST IN HIM. THE MOUNTAINS WE NEED MOVED ARE USUALLY SPIRITUAL RATHER THAN PHYSICAL. (Matthew 17)**

A. Biblical faith comes as we respond to what God has revealed. (Romans 10:17) Demonic oppression presents a mountain of opposition, but it is no match for the Lord's power we access through communion with Him. (Zechariah 4:6-7) (1st Corinthians 13:2)

**THE MOUNTAIN IS BEFORE YOU. WILL YOU TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE?**

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