

CALEB (6/8/63)

The following are all of the passages where Caleb is mentioned in the Bible:

I. Num. 13:6 - Caleb, of the tribe of Judah, a prince, was chosen to be one of the spies to enter the land.

II. { Num. 13:30 - Caleb gave a good report. HE "WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD".
Num. 14:6 - cf. vv. 6-10. Caleb and Joshua rent their clothes and sought to encourage the people to enter the land. The people responded by wanting to stone them.

III. Num. 14:24 - Caleb commended by the Lord and promised entrance and a possession in the land.

Num. 14:30 - All others refused entrance into the land except Caleb and Joshua.

Num. 14:38 - All of the spies died in the plague except Caleb and Joshua.

Num. 26:65 - Only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter the land. All others died in the wilderness.

Num. 32:(11) 12 - None others to enter the land except Caleb and Joshua because they had wholly followed the Lord.

IV. Num. 34:19 - Caleb was appointed to be one to divide the land.

(III) Deut. 1:(35) 36 - Similar to Num. 14:24. This is Moses' historical account.

V. Joshua 14:6 - Cf. vv. 6-15. Caleb requests and is given the land which was promised to him.

REQUEST Joshua 14:13 - Caleb given Hebron. Cf. Josh. 21:12 ; 1 Chron. 6:56

Joshua 14:14 - Hebron becomes Caleb's inheritance because he wholly followed the Lord.

Joshua 15:13 - Cf. vv. ^{13, 14.} ~~13, 14.~~ Caleb given ^{Hebron} a part in the inheritance of Judah. ~~and drive away the three sons of Anak (and 13:14)~~

VI CONQUEST Joshua 15:14 - Caleb drove away the three sons of Anak. Cf. Judges 1:20

VII. Joshua 15:16 - Cf. vv. 15-19. Caleb goes to conquer Debir, or Kirjath-sepher. This is repeated in Judges 1:12-15. Achsah, Caleb's daughter, is given to Othniel for taking Kirjath-sepher.

BEQUEST Also, Achsah asked her father for land, and he gave it to her with upper and nether (lower) springs.

(SEE OUTLINE, P. 2) Joshua 15:17 - Othniel, Caleb's nephew, takes Kirjath-sepher.

Joshua 15:18 - Achsah asks Caleb for a field.

(V) Joshua 21:12 - The land given to Caleb.

(VII) Judges 1:12 - cf. vv. 12-15. Caleb is mentioned in each verse, and this is a repetition of Joshua 15:15-19.

CALEB

(VI.) Judges 1:20 - The land given to Caleb, and the fact that he expelled the three sons of Anak.

Judges 3:9 - Othniel, Caleb's nephew and son-in-law, becomes a judge over Israel.

1 Samuel 25:3 - Mahal, of the house of Caleb.

1 Samuel 30:14 - "The south of Caleb" is referred to by the young Egyptian who told David about an invasion on that land which his master had made.

1 Chron. 2:9 - It is thought that "Chelubai" is a reference to Caleb.

1 Chron. 2:18 - ~~Genealogy~~ Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:19 - ~~Genealogy~~ Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:24 - Caleb-ephatah, genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:42 - ~~Genealogy~~ Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:46 - Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:48 - Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:49 - Genealogy.

1 Chron. 2:50 - Genealogy.

1 Chron. 4:15 - Genealogy.

(V.) 1 Chron. 6:56 - The land given to Caleb.

Caleb is never referred to in the New Testament.

HE AND JOSHUA ARE THE ONLY TWO ABOUT WHOM IT IS SAID THAT THEY "WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD".

CALEB

Lesson Text: Joshua 14:6-15; 15:13-19.

Intro: Caleb's previous history:

- (1) Chosen a spy.
- (2) The good report. He "wholly followed the Lord".
- (3) Promised entry and inheritance.
- (4) Appointed to assist in dividing the land.

I. REQUEST (Joshua 14:6, 9, 12).

Joshua had been appointed to assist in the division of the land, representing Judah. Now, so as not to be misunderstood, he brings the people of the tribe with him in making his request.

A. The basis: the will of God (14:6, 9, 12).

B. The confidence:

1. In what he had done (14:8)

2. How he had done it (14:7b).

God often blesses in spite of our sin; how good it is to have the confidence which comes from knowing we have pleased Him.

C. The praise to God:

1. In keeping him alive (14:10)

2. In maintaining his strength (14:11)

D. The request

II. Conquest (Joshua 15:13-17).

A. Of Arba, which is Hebron.

1. It involved the Anakims.

- a. They were the ones who originally caused the ¹⁰spies to be afraid because they were giants (Num. 13:22, 28, 33).

- b. Also, their walls were high (Num. 13:33; Deut. 9:1).

- c. The name Anak was synonymous with invincibility (Deut. 9:2).

2. He drove them out -- not killed them (Deut. 9:3, 4, 5; Josh. 15:14).

On this Matthew Henry makes the following comment: "It is not said that he slew these giants, but he drove them thence, which intimates that they retired upon his approach and fled before him; the strength and stature of their bodies could not keep up the courage of their minds, but with the countenances of lions they had the hearts of trembling hares. Thus does God often cut off the spirit of princes (Psa. lxxvi. 12), take away the heart of the chief of the people (Job xii. 24), and so shame the confidence of the proud; and thus if we resist the devil, that roaring lion, though he fall not, yet he will flee" (Vol. II, p. 81).

B Of Debir, or Kirjath Sepher

1. The manner: an offer. The conqueror would get Caleb's daughter as a wife.
2. The purpose: To challenge and inspire
 - a. To be different from their forefathers.
 - b. To do what God commanded.
 - c. To trust God with a difficult task.

Note: No one but a man of great character would have accepted such a challenge. Cf. David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17:10, 11, 20-27, 32-37).

3. The victor: Othniel, Caleb's nephew, who also became the first judge of Israel. Cf. Judges 3:9-11. This shows the quality of the man.

III BEQUEST (Joshua 15:18, 19).

The principle: "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Mt 10:8).

Might it not also illustrate the willingness of our heavenly Father to give us what is reasonable and necessary?

(Caleb's blessing which resulted from his obedience placed him in a position to be a source of blessing to his family.

Also, she wanted her husband to ask for her, but she evidently encouraged her to ask for herself.

She dared to ask for the best.

Concl: What a lesson on the blessings which accompany a life of obedient faith!

Caleb, the Giver
Joshua 15:13-19

A good passage for
families, for young
and old alike.

Related passages: Judges 1:11-15; 3:8-11.

Intro: In our text-passage this morning we find the last major events in the life of Caleb which are described in the Word of God. Here we find what Caleb did for his posterity, the generation to come, both materially and spiritually. The passage contains many principles which are important in the lives of the Lord's people in any generation.

Let us see what they were.

I. (How) was Caleb in a position where he was able to fulfill his daughter's request?

He could give because God had given to him, and God had given to him because of his obedience. Forty-five years earlier he had wholly followed the Lord. At that time he had only done what had been in his heart, little realizing what it would mean to his family as well as to himself.

Two principles stand out here:

(1) I can only give to others what I first of all have received from the Lord.

(Cf. the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:11).)

(2) God deals with us on a long-range basis. My response to the will of God today will affect my ability to be a blessing to others years from now.

II. (Why) did Caleb give? What was his purpose?

Caleb's experiences had made him realize his responsibility to the coming generation, and so he sought to be both an inspiration and a blessing to his family and those who were younger than he was.

A. He sought to inspire in the younger generation a courageous spirit which his own generation did not possess. And so he challenged the young men to help him, his own daughter being the prize.

B. Behind his challenge was a desire to maintain for his daughter the line of separation God had established between Israel and the Canaanite nations. Thus, he was teaching the younger generation by the example of his own life, not just by his words. (This is where we fail so often.)

What principles do we find here?

C. (Below)

Often God's
giving is
conditioned
by our obedience.
Cf. 1 Jn.
3:22

He gave
his daughter...

Cf. Phil. 4:9

- (1) We find that we have a ministry to the younger generation, and that we can influence the generations to come by what we do as much as we can by anything else.
- (2) Nothing is more important for ourselves as well as for our families than obedience to God in every situation.

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C.

Why would Caleb take pleasure in fulfilling the request which his daughter presented to him? Is it wise to give to our children everything that they ask for?

He gave land
and water
to his
daughter

A moment's reflection will reveal to us that behind his daughter's request was an intention to work. The land was worthless without water to make it productive.

Principle: There is nothing inconsistent between faith and work. In fact, "faith without works is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:17). True faith produces works.

The request itself showed much about the character of Caleb's daughter.

III

~~Concl:~~

There is a postscript to this story which is too good to pass over. What effect did Caleb have on his posterity? Can we find any results which extend into the future?

What profit
was there

for Caleb, his
family, his
tribe, and his
nation?

There are tremendous results. Turn to Judges 3:8-11. (Read)

Moses had his Joshua. Paul had his Timothy. Caleb had his Othniel.

Who can
measure the
good Caleb had
in the
deliverance of
Israel?

Years later, when God again needed a deliverer for all Israel (not just for Judah), he chose a man with proven qualities, a man who had been faithful in little things and consequently who became a ruler over many.

Maybe his deeds
is not recorded
because his
influence
continued on.

Othniel showed himself to be a man of God with:

- (1) Courage. He had shown that he was not afraid of men nor of difficult situations.
- (2) Convictions. When it had been popular to intermarry, to forget the Lord, and to serve heathen gods, he had "bucked the tide" and had been faithful to the Lord.
- (3) The confidence of the people. Dr. Bach was once asked what was the chief qualification for leadership? He responded by saying that it was that there were people who were willing to follow him. This was true of Othniel. The people were willing to follow him. "He judged Israel" and led Israel in war.

The same is
true with the
opposite results
in Lot's case
(cf. Gen. 19).

But there is one concluding item given in the Word which is well-worth noting. It is Judges 3:11a, which is practically identical to Joshua 14:15b. Caleb had a part in 40 years of rest which came as a result of Othniel's ministry.

Again, rest is the result of faith in God and obedience to God. Rest may come through war. It surely does in the struggles and trials of the Christian life.

Concl :

Was it worthwhile for Caleb to follow the Lord fully?