

THE FINAL POSSESSION OF CANAAN

BIBLE TEXT : Joshua 14:6-15; 19:49, 50; 21:43-45; 23:1-16

LESSON 177 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Joshua 21:45).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Joshua 14:6-15

⁶ Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.

⁷ Forty years old *was* I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as *it was* in mine heart.

⁸ Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

⁹ And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

¹⁰ And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while *the children of* Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I *am* this day fourscore and five years old.

¹¹ As yet I *am as* strong this day as *I was* in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength *was* then, even so *is* my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

¹² Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims *were* there, and *that* the cities *were*

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Division of Land

The time came when the Children of Israel were assigned their land in Canaan. God commanded that the land be divided by lot for the nine and one half tribes who went into the Promised Land (**Joshua 13:7-8** ⁷ Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh, ⁸ With whom the Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance, which Moses gave them, beyond Jordan eastward, *even* as Moses the servant of the Lord gave them; **Numbers 34:13-15** ¹³ And Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, This *is* the land which ye shall inherit by lot, which the Lord commanded to give unto the nine tribes, and to the half tribe: ¹⁴ For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received *their inheritance*; and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance: ¹⁵ The two tribes and the half tribe have received their inheritance on this side Jordan *near* Jericho eastward, toward the sunrising.). We have studied (Lessen 112, Book 9) how the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh asked and received permission for their families to remain on the east side of the Jordan river, thus failing to possess that good land which God had for them. The tribe of Levi (the Levites and the priests) inherited no land in Canaan (**Joshua 13:14** ¹⁴ Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the Lord God of Israel made by fire *are* their inheritance, as he said unto them.), for God was their inheritance (**Deuteronomy 18:1-5** ¹ The priests the Levites, *and* all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance. ² Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord *is* their inheritance, as he hath said unto them. ³ And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether *it be* ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. ⁴ The firstfruit *also* of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him. ⁵ For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever.).

Caleb

Caleb had been chosen to represent the tribe of Judah at the division of the land (**Numbers 34:19** ¹⁹ And the names of the men *are* these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.). No doubt to show its approval of his request, the tribe of Judah to which Caleb belonged went as a witness with him to Joshua. Caleb did not have an unreasonable request. He wanted the land which God had promised him for an inheritance. He reminded Joshua of the time, forty-five years before, when the spies had been sent

great *and* fenced: if so be the Lord *will be* with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

¹³ And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

¹⁴ Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

¹⁵ And the name of Hebron before *was* Kirjatharba; *which Arba was* a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

Joshua 19:49-50

⁴⁹ When they had made an end of dividing the land for inheritance by their coasts, the children of Israel gave an inheritance to Joshua the son of Nun among them:

⁵⁰ According to the word of the Lord they gave him the city which he asked, *even* Timnathserah in mount Ephraim: and he built the city, and dwelt therein.

Joshua 21:43-45

⁴³ And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

⁴⁴ And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand.

⁴⁵ There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

Joshua 23:1-16

¹ And it came to pass a long time after that the Lord had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies

into Canaan. Although ten of the spies had returned with a discouraging report, Caleb had said: "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30). Caleb did not speak to please Moses, or to contradict the other spies — he spoke from his heart, for he trusted God.

The spies told of the sons of Anak who were giants (**Numbers 13:33** ³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight), and of the great walled cities (**Numbers 13:28** ²⁸ Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there) that they had seen in the Land of Canaan. God had said that Caleb would be given that very land because he "wholly followed the LORD" (Deuteronomy 1:36).

The aim of Caleb was to give glory to God. He testified of God's goodness to him — that God had kept him alive through the perils and fatigues of the wilderness when so many others died. No doubt the land of giants and walled cities was the most difficult to conquer. Yet Caleb asked for that land as his inheritance because he valued the promise of God and knew and trusted in the power of God. He knew that he would be able to drive out the enemy if God would be with him. Caleb did not expect to conquer in his own strength nor even in the power of all Israel. His faith was in God who had given him such physical strength that he was fit for battle even forty-five years after the promise was given to him.

Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the inheritance God had promised him — the "mountain" wherein was the city of Hebron. Later, when the city of Hebron belonged to the priests and became one of the cities of refuge (**Joshua 21:9-13** ⁹ And they gave out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, these cities which are *here* mentioned by name, ¹⁰ Which the children of Aaron, *being* of the families of the Kohathites, *who were* of the children of Levi, had: for theirs was the first lot. ¹¹ And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, *which city is* Hebron, in the hill *country* of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it. ¹² But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, gave they to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession. ¹³ Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, *to be* a city of refuge for the slayer; and Libnah with her suburbs,), Caleb was content with the land round about the city. He had claimed the promise of the Lord, the land was possessed, and the people had rest from war.

A Different Spirit

What happened to the rest of the spies, the ten who took back a discouraging report? They died of a plague, and the ones who listened to them were not permitted to enter into the Promised Land. In fact, of all those people only Caleb and Joshua went into Canaan to claim God's promise. God said, "But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land where- into he went" (Numbers 14:24). Caleb had "another spirit" — not one which spread discouragement.

Sometimes children take home to their parents and other young people a report of the Sunday School and Young People's meetings that can be discouraging or it can be of another spirit which trusts God and fully follows Him. The report that one gives to others may influence them to the extent that they will possess the inheritance that the Lord has for them, or they may never get to the place where they claim. God's promise.

Fulfilled Promise

God's promise to Joshua that he would "cause Israel to inherit" the Land of Canaan (**Deuteronomy 1:38** ³⁸ *But* Joshua the son of Nun, *which standeth* before thee, he shall go in thither:

round about, that Joshua waxed old *and* stricken in age.

² And Joshua called for all Israel, *and* for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old *and* stricken in age:

³ And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God *is* he that hath fought for you.

⁴ Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward.

⁵ And the Lord your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised unto you.

⁶ Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom *to* the right hand or *to* the left;

⁷ That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear *by them*, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

⁸ But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day.

⁹ For the Lord hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but *as for* you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

¹⁰ One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, he *it is* that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

¹¹ Take good heed therefore unto

encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it) was fulfilled, too. After the division of land, the Children of Israel gave unto Joshua a city among the lands of his own tribe, Ephraim. Although Joshua was their leader and had been a faithful spy along with Caleb, he was not given first choice of the land. His first duty was to his country; and later he thought of himself. Joshua did not set aside a city for his own use, but he was given his inheritance "according to the word of the LORD" (Joshua 19:50).

Everyone can profit by this example of Joshua. No one has ever lost by being unselfish, but many lose both spiritual and material blessings by being concerned about themselves before all others. The standard of a Christian includes unselfishness. Paul wrote of it in his letter to the Romans where he gives the pattern of a Christian life. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10).

Not to Joshua and Caleb only did God fulfill His promise. There failed not one good thing that the Lord had promised the Children of Israel. God gave them victory over the enemy (Joshua 21:44) for He had promised to drive out the Canaanites little by little (**Exodus 23:30** ³⁰ By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.). God gave rest to the Children of Israel — rest from the fatigues of travel, rest from war, rest from enemy insults — as He had promised. All the promises came to pass. Not just some of them, nor just the large things, nor just the small and easy things, but all came to pass (**1 Kings 8:56** ⁵⁶ Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.).

Your Inheritance

If all God's promises came to pass, why did not all of the people who came out of Egypt enter Canaan? Because they were disobedient; they trusted not in the Lord and broke their agreement with Him. It was the fault of the people, for God will keep His part of a covenant.

Why do not all the people today have the spiritual inheritance that God has promised? The failure is on the part of the people. In II Peter 1:3, 4, we read that God has "given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" that one can live a godly life without the sins of the world. Like the Children of Israel, you, too (boys and girls as well as the older people), can have victory over the enemy of your soul; you can have rest and peace, and live so you will have an inheritance in Heaven. All these good things can be yours by valuing the promises of God, by believing and trusting God, by following Him with your whole heart and with a spirit other than that of the world. You can claim God's promises by obedience.

Joshua's Farewell

Some years later, Joshua called together the elders and representatives of the people. He gave them a farewell speech, for he was about to die. Joshua was an old man and experienced — he lived to be 110 years old (**Joshua 24:29** ²⁹ And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old.). Joshua wanted to encourage the Children of Israel to be true to God and faithful in His worship. He did not remind the Children of Israel of what he or they had done. He said, "Ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done." God had led them, had fed them, had kept them, and had fought for them. Not only that, God was ready to do in the future what He had done in the past as long as the Children of Israel would cleave or hold fast unto the Lord in obedience. If they turned not to the right or to the left, God would fight for them, and one man would "chase a thousand" of the enemies.

yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

¹² Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:

¹³ Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out *any of* these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.

¹⁴ And, behold, this day I *am* going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, *and* not one thing hath failed thereof.

¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the Lord your God promised you; so shall the Lord bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.

¹⁶ When ye have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

Joshua's message was filled with caution as well as courage. The Children of Israel were again warned against idolatry, against even any respect for idols. If they took heed to themselves they would not by degrees slip into unfaithfulness. They were warned lest step by step they would forsake God by sparing the Canaanites. Next would be association with them, then acquaintance, and intermarriage with those who were opposed to God and true worship. Then the Children of Israel would find that they had broken their promise and covenant with God.

In three different verses Joshua told the Children of Israel that they would be destroyed and perish from the good land unless they continued to follow the Lord and His commandments. When they trespassed against the Lord, then God's promise of judgment and destruction would come to pass as surely as all the good things that God promised would not fail.

QUESTIONS

- 1 As spies, what report did Joshua and Caleb take to the Children of Israel?
- 2 What report was given by the other ten spies?
- 3 What were the results of the report?
- 4 Why did Caleb want the land of giants and walled cities?
- 5 Why was Caleb given an inheritance in Canaan?
- 6 How was God's promise to Joshua fulfilled?
- 7 What happened to the other ten spies?
- 8 How many of God's promises to the Children of Israel failed?
- 9 Why did Joshua warn the Children of Israel against idolatry?
- 10 How could the Children of Israel continue in the blessing of the Lord?