

## Entire Consecration

Joshua 14:6-15.

Sunday evening, July 25, 2010.

Imbedded in the history of dividing up the land, as recorded in Joshua 13-19, there are some anecdotal incidents recorded which we ought not to pass over.

One such incident involves Caleb, one of the original 12 spies who spied out the land when Israel came to its borders the first time.

### I. The history of Caleb.

- A. Numbers 14 records how Israel came to the borders of the promised land the first time, and how they send out 12 spies, one representing each of the twelve tribes. The spies returned and ten of them reported that it was indeed a goodly land. Nevertheless the people who lived in it were very strong. Their cities were walled and well defended. There were giants in the land, and they had armies with iron chariots. There was no way that Israel could go up against that kind of an enemy. They should select a new leader, and return to Egypt.
- B. The two remaining spies spoke similarly about the land, but they sought to encourage the people that the Lord who had delivered them out of Egypt, and had miraculously sustained them in the wilderness, would now defeat their enemies, and bring them safely into the promised land; these two were Joshua and Caleb.
  - 1. They are said to have been “of a different spirit.” Numbers 14:24,
  - 2. And “men who wholly followed the Lord.” Deut 1:36.
- C. Deuteronomy 1:36 records for us how the Lord promised to give to Caleb and his descendants the land on which he had walked while spying out the land. We may conclude from the events recorded in Joshua 14 that Caleb originally spied out the city of Hebron and its surroundings.
- D. In Numbers 34:18-29, the Lord, by the hand of His servant Moses, selected the men who would survey the land and divide it up among the tribes of Israel. One man was chosen from each tribe. Of the tribe of Judah Caleb was chosen, showing us the kind of respect and reputation he had as a leader among his peers.

### II. Caleb, a man of modesty.

- A. As a man who served on the committee of twelve, who were in charge of dividing the land, Caleb could have used his influence and authority, and, based on the promise of God, simply have himself assigned to Hebron and its surroundings. But Caleb would not use his position and influence in a self-serving manner. Still there was the promise of the Lord that Hebron belonged to him and his descendants, and just as Caleb would not use his position to personal advantage, so he would not despise or forfeit the promise of the Lord either.
- B. Caleb goes to Joshua.
  - Three things are to be observed here:
    - 1. Caleb goes to Joshua with witnesses from the tribe of Judah, in whose territory Hebron was located. He does so in order to review his claim and to establish its righteousness in the sight of all so that there will be no further question.
    - 2. Caleb goes to Joshua as the successor of Moses, but also as the one who stood

with him when he and Joshua followed the Lord wholly, and who remembered the words the Lord spoke at that time regarding Caleb. All other people were youths under twenty years of age at the time.

3. Caleb goes to Joshua armed with, and pleading, the promises God had made to him some 45 yrs ago.

The fact that Caleb and Joshua were the only surviving people of that generation, and that they were 20 yrs older than anyone else alive, must have lend credibility to Caleb's claim. The same may be said of the fact that Caleb's strength remained unabated, as had been the case with Moses, even though Caleb was now at least 85 years old.

#### Application:

There is such a thing as being too modest before the Lord. Like Caleb, great things have been purchased for us; great things have been promised us; great things are set before us in the gospel. An improper kind of modesty would say to us something along the lines of: "Don't be too forward; just wait and see if the Lord is going to give these things to you." Caleb could have done that. Instead Caleb arms himself with the promise and goes to Joshua to obtain his inheritance. And we should arm ourselves with gospel promises left to us and go to the greater Joshua, asking Him to make good on what He has promised. Here apply the words of the Lord in Matt. 11:12 "...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

### III. Caleb, a man of courage.

- A. Caleb does not ask Joshua to send out the armies of Israel to conquer Hebron for him, and to hand it over to him.
- B. Caleb asks Joshua for permission to go to Hebron and to dispossess its inhabitants, and to take the city and its surroundings for himself.
- C. Caleb did so not withstanding two reasons why he might not have done so.
  1. His advanced years. He was 85, yet it appears that he actively partook in the battles that had been fought thus far. Vs. 11.
  2. Hebron was inhabited by the Anakim, the race of the giants. As a matter of fact Hebron was called Kirjath Arba, the city of Arba, who was the greatest among the Anakim.
- D. Joshua 15:14 records how Caleb did go out and dispossessed the Anakim from Hebron, and he took the city for himself.

### IV. Caleb, a man of faith.

- A. In asking for Hebron Caleb is careful not to be presumptuous. "It may be that the Lord will be with me and I will be able to drive them out." Joshua 14:12. Faith is never presumptuous, nor will it ever obligate the Lord. Caleb believed that even if the Lord would not deliver the Anakim into his hands, that the battle still had to be fought, for the Lord had called them to do so.
- B. The name Hebron means "fellowship" perhaps after the fellowship Abraham enjoyed with the Lord in this place. Gen 13:18. It is here that "following the Lord with a whole heart" reaches its climax in the life of Caleb. Here Caleb enters into his rest and the place of fellowship with God. "Following the Lord with a whole heart" is still the only way for us to enter into rest, and into fellowship with God.