

Joshua 14

Joshua 14.1-5

-The distribution of the land west of the Jordan River (land east of the Jordan River: *Ch. 13*)

V1 – Who was to be on the committee for overseeing the distribution of the land? Joshua, Eleazar the priest, heads of the households

V2 – How was the selection to be made? By the casting of lots – **Read Proverbs 16.33**

-**Were lots ever used in the New Testament?** At the foot of the cross with the soldiers (seeing who would get the robe), *Acts 1.26* – choosing a new apostle to replace Judas

-**Are we to use lots (draw straws) today?** No – when the spiritual gifts ended in *Rev. 22*, lots were abolished – **See Heb. 1.1-2**

-**The nature of "lots" in the Old Testament?** – The high priest had a cloth bag with two stones in it (the Urim and Thummin) – he would stick his hand into the bag and pull out one of the stones, and that would determine the will of God (we know very little about this subject)

-Thus the land was divided up among the remaining tribes

V3-5 – The will of God was carried out, just as he had commanded

-**Advantages of letting God choose the land according to lots?**

1. It held down grumbling
2. Everyone got a fair amount

So God designed the plan, but the people had to carry it out

Why did the Levites not have a tribal homeland? Their influence was to be spread out among the 12 tribes (not possible if they had had their own land)

Joshua 14.6-12

V6 – Who was Caleb? One of the two faithful spies sent out by Moses – **Read Num. 13.30-31**

-Remember that Moses had sent out 12 spies into the Promised Land

-**Why had Caleb not died in the wilderness?** Caleb and Joshua were allowed to survive because of their faith in God

-All others 20 years old and older (at the time of the Exodus) died in the wilderness – a great lesson there

Very interesting: Caleb was from the family of Kenizites

-Kenaz was from Eliphaz, the 1st son of Esau – **See Genesis 36.11, 15, 42**

See Beacon Bible Commentary, II, 71)

-**Significance?** Not a Jewish family, but an Edomite family (remember the book of *Obadiah*)

-Another case of a Gentile (non-Israelite) who was taken into the family of God

-**Other examples?** Rahab, Gibeonites, Ruth

Point: the pagan people of the land had an opportunity to repent and join the Israelites

V6b – What was Caleb referring to? The promise that he and Joshua would survive the 40 years

-3 places where the promise can be found: *Num. 14.24, Num. 14.30, Deut. 1.34-36*

V7 – How old was Caleb back then? Maybe 40 years old

-Caleb had not been ashamed of his faith in God

V 8 – Caleb's comment about the 10 spies? They made the hearts of the people "melt"
-**Why was Caleb making these comments?** For the benefit of the young people (he and Joshua were 40 years older than those born in the wilderness – so there were many younger people there)
-In other words, faith in God pays off in the long run
-Notice: *V 8b - ...but I followed the Lord my God fully*
-This expression is also found in other places: *Josh. 14.9, 14* – plus:
Read Num. 14.24, Num. 32.12, Deut. 1.36
-So the Old Testament is very, very clear – here is the result of a faithful life: being blessed by the hand of God

V 9 – The promise that Moses made to Caleb? You will inherit land in Canaan, because you followed God

V 10 – How old was Caleb now? 85 (appears to have been his birthday)
-**So how long had the Israelites been fighting in Canaan?** About 5 years

V 11 – He had not lost his strength or energy

V 12 – His request? The hills where the Anakim lived
-**His faith?** I will be victorious, if God will be with me

Joshua 14.13-15

V 13 – Joshua granted Caleb's request

V 14 – Why was Caleb's request granted? Because he fully followed the "Lord God of Israel"

V 15 – The fighting ended

Lessons from the life of Caleb:

1. He trusted completely in God – the "majority report" in *Num. 13* didn't matter to him
(He and Joshua were outnumbered 10-2)

2. Caleb was not mentioned from *Num. 13* until here in *Joshua 14* (45 years later)

-**Where had he been? What had he been doing during those 45 years?** He had been faithfully following God and serving Joshua

In heaven, we should want to sit down in that empty chair over by Caleb and talk awhile

-A faithful servant working behind the scenes/not in the spotlight as Joshua was

-Like the widow with the two mites – just plugging away at doing what she could do

-Maybe a 1 talent person, whereas Joshua was a 5-talent person

3. Still faithful in his old age – didn't "retire" from God's work (same as with Joshua)

Examples I have known:

1. One brother retired from the Air Force, but didn't take it easy, but went to the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions; graduated; helped get the church started in Duluth, MN – did the best he could there for quite a few years

2. Another brother gave up his job as shop foreman to move to Nashville and attend the Nashville School of Preaching
3. Another brother retired after being a plumber; he and his wife bought a RV and moved to Florida so that he could attend the Florida School of Preaching – lived in the RV for 2 years and graduated and is now preaching in Wisconsin
-His son gave up an excellent job as a manager of stock funds and is now also preaching in Wisconsin
4. Another brother was a top salesman with Wheeling Steel Corp., but gave it up at the age of 42 to go into preaching

People complain about a lack of preachers – but the challenge is this: Do what others have done - go back to school and become a preacher

-But it is a lot easier to complain than to actually do something about the situation

The situation today: There is a net loss of about 600 preachers a year in the U.S. (due to death, poor health, discouragement) and only about 300 men graduate from all the Christian colleges and all the schools of preaching who plan to go into full-time preaching

Here is Caleb at the age of 85 who was still active in the Lord's work (the same with Joshua) – still active in old age – no retirement to a little villa down on the Gulf of Aqaba

Caleb is one of the heroes of the Old Testament

4. Caleb appears to be the first Israelite to receive his inheritance of land, and Joshua appears to have been the last bookends on dividing up the land)

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