

Joshua Ch 14-19

Joshua has at this point conquered all of the major areas of the Promised Land in both the Southern area and the North, you recall that after he'd taken care of business down south, one of the northern kings had caught wind of what was going on. And so much like what had happened to Joshua before this king got it in his mind to rally all these northern kings together and just come against the children of Israel, overwhelmingly outnumbering them so as to wipe them out. And it seemed to be that at each confrontation that the children of Israel faced the opposition got more and more fierce and each battle was bigger than the last. From Jericho, to Ai, and then up against five kings and their armies until finally this last major confrontation as a nation with all these northern kings and their armies. We're told in vs 4 of ch 11 that the people that they went up against were innumerable, like the sand on the seashore and not only that, but they also had all kinds of horses and chariots, or to understand it another way, they were outgunned in virtually every area of military might, both in number and from the technological standpoint. But the same thing seems to happen in the life of the believer, when the enemy catches wind that you're taking ground and being effective in your service to God, he rallies up forces and comes against you. And with each victory it seems as though the next confrontation just seems to get bigger and bigger, but notice that they didn't face all these armies of the north at their 1st engagement. God knew that they weren't ready for that, instead they marched around some walls for a week and watched God do the whole thing, next they met some resistance, stumbled, but through that error of not seeking God 1st turned to God and won the victory. Then they had an even larger battle the biggest that they'd been confronted with yet and again as long as they were being obedient to the Lord, looking to the Lord, and keeping Him as their source of strength, they won again, even though the odds were against them. But God had used the past victories as a springboard each battle getting a little bigger and through that they were being prepared for the next confrontation, and they were learning at each point how to trust God for bigger and bigger things. And seeing that God can cause them to be victorious in the midst of an overwhelming situation just as easily as He can when it doesn't seem to be too much to handle. God never gave them more than they were ready for and always delivered them to victory as long as they were trusting in Him to do the work, now He allowed them to be stretched, and tried, but He kept them moving forward. Well in ch 11 they came up against something unlike they'd ever faced, and when that happens we as humans have a tendency to become overwhelmed, but the Lord was faithful to encourage Joshua in vs 6 and remind him not to freak out, because the battle was His, and He would deliver the enemy slain before them. And Joshua was strengthened and encouraged and renewed in the Lord. What is it that confronts you tonight, Jesus said, in this world you will have tribulation, but take heart, or be of good cheer, or another way to understand it would be, be encouraged, for I have overcome the world.

And so as you abide in Christ you are an overcomer, you will be delivered to victory in whatever it is that is confronting your life, Paul said in Rom 8:35-37

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Joshua was encouraged by the Lord; he received God’s word and responded accordingly and was given a great victory that served as a testimony of the power of God. And he didn’t take their horses or chariots for his army, though it would have seemed to serve them well, but instead he was obedient to God. And knew that God would have His people be in a place where by when they were confronted the enemy, they wouldn’t lean to their own strength, and understanding and seeming advantages, but rather that they would acknowledge Him and allow Him to direct their paths. That they would remain in a place of total dependence upon the Lord, that no flesh should glory in His sight. So Joshua defeated the enemies that confronted them and now, the major resistances of the land have been subdued, Israel’s presence dominates the Land, it belongs to them. However, there are still some little pockets of resistance that will be up to each individual tribe to destroy as they inherit their portion of the land. Ch 12 lists out the kings that were defeated through Moses and Joshua, and then ch 13 begins to reveal the land that is yet to be conquered, which in reality was a lot even though Israel’s presence was a dominating force in the Land. Which for us simply means it doesn’t matter how long you’ve walked with the Lord, and how much victory you’ve obtained, there’s always a lot more to go as long as we’re in these tents. And then in Ch 13 Joshua began to divide up the land beginning with the Land on the east side of the Jordan, which went to the tribe of Rueben, Gad, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh, now as we get into ch 14 we begin to see how the lot falls for the tribes that will inherit the land on the west side of the Jordan river.

Vs1-5

So basically what this is doing is explaining to us, for those who do the math and say how could they give out 12 lots with 13 tribes being represented. Well, the tribe of Joseph was absorbed into Ephraim and Manasseh because those were his sons so that brings us back down to 12, and the tribe of Levi makes 13, however they didn’t receive any of the Land per say for their whole tribe because they were the priesthood, therefore the Lord Himself was to be their inheritance, along with the sacrifices of the children of Israel to make provision for them. So 2½ tribes received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan and 9½ tribes received their inheritance on the west side of the Jordan. And it was decided who got what portion of land as vs 2 says by lot. And according to Jewish tradition, the name of a tribe was drawn from one urn and simultaneously the boundary lines of the territory from another. (The bible knowledge commentary) and That was how the tribal inheritance was designated, though not to be confused, God was well aware of who would get what and His sovereign hand deciding the lots every decision.

Prov 16:33 “*The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.*” and By doing it this way there would be no contention as to who wound up where, again Prov 18:18, “*Casting lots causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart.*” There could be no favoritism or rigging or somehow finagling your way into some area, the lot decided it all. And Judah was up 1st, now here we come to another interesting little segment concerning Caleb, and before any of the land gets portioned out he steps forward to remind Joshua of the promise made to him some 45 or so yrs earlier. Again Caleb is just an incredible man in the scriptures, I wish there was more about him and I for one look forward to meeting him.

Every time he pops up he’s on fire for the Lord and trusting in the Lord and excited about what God is doing, or challenging others to trust in the Lord, just a good type of guy to have around, always provoking others to good works, and to trust the Lord, and being an example in those things.

Vs6-9

Turn with me back to Num ch 13, the children of Israel are at this point at Kadesh Barnea and you recall that Moses sent out 12 spies, one from each tribe to go and check out the land and bring back report. (Vs 22-ch14vs 10) and That’s where God issued a death sentence to that entire generation (jump down to vs 23-24) and in vs 30 you see where Joshua would be spared as well because out of the 12 spies only 2 trusted the Lord, only 2 were sizing up the enemy based upon God’s ability and not their own. And so now here they are in the Land and Caleb is calling to Joshua’s memory the fact of that promise and that promise was reiterated in Duet ch 1 vs 36.

Vs10-12

You just have to love the fortitude of this man in the Lord, notice how much he trusted the Lord and there’s at least 3 lessons we can glean from this section, #1 Caleb trusted the *promises* of God, in vs 10 he says God had promised to keep me alive and he’s done it. By this time Caleb has fought a lot of men, been up against some pretty overwhelming odds and yet he says God has made good on his promise, he could engage in the warfare boldly because he trusted the Promises of God. And he wasn’t being prideful, saying I want to go up and take on the giants, he wasn’t minimizing the problem, he was magnifying God, which is the 2nd point, he trusted in the *power* of God. He knew he couldn’t do it by himself, I mean anyone knows that it’s not wise to take on people that are two or 3 times your size. The Jews aren’t known for their staggering stature, and this was a race of giants that he was going to drive out and destroy. I don’t know if you’ve ever stood beside someone who’s say 7 feet tall but believe me people that size are very intimidating. But to this group of people someone who was 7 feet tall would’ve been a joke, Goliath was 9½ feet tall, 2½ feet taller than some of the big boy’s of the NBA. Go out and stand underneath a regulation height basketball goal and that would’ve been probably close to the average height of these people.

It's easy to understand how these people could be scared for their lives, but again that's not to look at them through the eyes of God, Caleb knew that by himself he couldn't take these men out, that's why he said in vs 12. *"It may be that the Lord will be with me and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."* Which brings us to the 3rd point, he trusted in the *presence* of God. You show me someone who trusts in the promises of God, the power of God, and the presence of God to go with them and I'll show you someone who is lethal to the enemy. And like Moses he was as strong then as he was the day he saw them the 1st time, 45 yrs later and he was still ready for the fight of his life, you know we may grow older physically, but spiritually we're not to diminish in strength, we should be just as ready to take on the enemy at 85 as we were at 25 or 35 or 45 or 55 if not more so having grown even stronger in the Lord. He's 85 yrs old, he could've looked for an easy end, a nice place to retire, let the young guns do the fighting, but no way, give me mountains to climb and giants to fight, what an example to follow. And as we grow older we're to be setting a like example of trust and fortitude in the Lord to the next generation.

Vs 13-15

Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim, again these were some big men, and yet he was the biggest most fierce of them all, remember Og king of Bashan who's bed they took, it was 13½ feet long, yet this guy was bigger than him, it's almost mind boggling. But we've read 3 times in this short section the secret of his strength, he wholly followed the Lord his God. Caleb didn't follow God only when it was convenient. Caleb didn't obey the commandments of God only when he felt like it. He didn't believe the promises of God only when it seemed like there was a chance. He followed the Lord fully, completely, and consistently. And if you and I desire the victorious Christian life, if we want to walk in victory, inheriting the promises of God, then we shouldn't think the standard will be any less for us, we need to wholly follow the Lord our God.

Ch 15

Vs1-3

And on through vs 12 lays out the borders of the land that would be inherited by Judah, now we get another little tid-bit about Caleb, as I said earlier, not only was he a man of great faith and great works, but he also encouraged and provoked others to be the same way.

Vs13-17

So having some incentive, Caleb's younger brother took the offer and received a wife.

Vs18-19

So Caleb gave them both a plot of land and a couple of springs of water, not a bad wedding gift.

Vs20

And then it goes ahead there and lists them out for the remainder of the chapter vs 62 tells us that En Gedi was apart of their inheritance and in vs 63.

Vs63

That is to the day that this was written, again David wound up taking the city, therefore it's referred to as the city of David.

Ch 16

Vs1-4

So this is where the other ½ of the tribe of Manasseh dwelt along with Ephraim the tribes of the sons of Joseph, vs 5-8 deals with Ephraim and we read in vs 10.

Vs10

So again a mention of the failure of the children of Israel to drive out all of the inhabitants of the land, and you remember the many times we've spoken of the fact of the danger that lies in compromise with the enemy and compromise with the flesh. If it's not crucified the consequences will be upon you, if you sow to the wind, the bible says you will reap the whirlwind. And we'll see in the book of Judges how this disobedience cost them; these people became thorns in their side just as the scripture said. And the same is true for us, if we allow areas of the flesh to remain with us; it's going to be a constant problem and hindrance to us when it comes to our spiritual growth and development.

Ch17

Now for the tribe of Manasseh

Vs1-4

And you can read of this in Num ch 27, this fellow didn't have any sons and when he died the daughters said hey, just because he didn't have sons doesn't mean that his name should be wiped out from the earth. (Because normally women didn't receive any inheritance, it all went to the sons) so Moses took the case to the Lord and the Lord said they're right, give them their father's portion and so here we see Joshua following through with that and making it good with them. They weren't going to be guilty of having not because they asked not, and the same should be true for us.

Vs12-13

Again a big mistake and seemingly patterned after Ephraim in vs 10.

Vs14

Now what is meant here by the children of Joseph was the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh and being 2 of the larger tribes they came to Joshua and said we want more land. And since Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim they probably thought he'd help them out, and even though he ultimately agreed to it he said hey, you're going to have to work for it and you can have the mountains and take the land of the Perizzites and the giants there.

Ch18

Vs1

Now that they are in the land, the temple was set up in a town in Ephraim's lot of land at Shiloh, not ultimately it will have its permanent residence in Jerusalem but for now it will temporarily reside in Shiloh and this is where the sacrifices of the people will take place.

Vs2-10

So 7 of the tribes were standing around with their hands in their pockets and Joshua had to say hey, how long are you going to stand around, God has given this to you, send out some surveyors, 3 from each tribe, bring me back what you find and we'll delegate it. Now why they needed this prodding we don't know, maybe they were kind of phoebed out about moving forward, or the change that was taking place and something new happening. But God is always on the move and wanting to bless lives and do new things and we should be ready to be apart of whatever God is doing.

Now Benjamin's lot came up 1st and the remainder of this chapter deals with that.

Ch 19

The 2nd lot came out for Simeon and Simeon's tribe would be the southern most tribe, Vs10-16 deal with Zebulun's inheritance which is around the valley of Megiddo Vs 17-23 with Issachar, Vs 24-31 with Asher, Vs 32-39 with Naphtali, Vs 40-48 with Dan.

And then finally of the 2 faithful spies, Caleb inherited his portion 1st and Joshua inherited his last.

Vs49-51

Timnath Serah means "abundant portion" which is exactly what we will inherit as well in Christ, as we delight ourselves in the Lord and commit our ways to the Lord, trust in Him, and wait patiently for Him.