

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning, we continue through our study in the book of Joshua

—

And we are now in the portion of scripture where we see the Promised Land divided among the tribes.

All twelve tribes, through the casting of lots, are finally going to find out what chunk of land is their inheritance.

In chapter 13, we saw the division among the 2.5 tribes on the east side of the Jordan.

Gad

CALVARY
S a n t a C r u z

Reuben

And half the tribe of Manasseh

You might remember that these were the tribes that didn't want to settle on the west side – on the land the God had promised them because they felt that the land on the east side of the Jordan was better for their cattle and for their financial futures.

This morning our study will be Chapter 15-17 in the book of Joshua. We are going to see the inheritance given to the tribe of Judah and also the inheritance given to the two tribes that were descendent from the sons of Joseph – Ephraim and Manasseh.

And the lesson this morning will be one of compromise.

Because we will see an example of an individual (Caleb) who never compromised and we will also see three examples of peoples who do compromise -

Let's pray...

So, chapter 15 begins with the land that belonged to the tribe of the children of Judah.

The first 12 verse provide for us with the boundaries of the land of Judah.

- 25 million acres – it is the largest tribe by her boundaries
- 150 miles in length and 40 miles in width
- The city of Jerusalem is within the boundaries of Judah
- This is the tribe that would produce King David and the Messiah

Now, I am not going to read the first 12 verses, you guys can read them on your own – but I want to draw your attention to one of the places listed here in verse 8.

Valley of the Son of Hinnon

The city of Jerusalem is surrounded by three valleys: The Kidron Valley, the Central Valleys and the valley to the south of the city called the valley of the son of Hinnon.

After King David and King Solomon, Israel splits up into two Kingdoms.

The Northern Kingdom / Israel

and the Southern Kingdom / Judah.

All the Kings from the Northern Kingdom were bad kings

The Southern Kingdom / Judah did have a few good kings but they also had their share of bad kings.

And the scriptures tell us that two of their kings did wicked things in the Valley of Hinnon.

One of the Kings was Ahaz.

Turn with me to 2 Chronicles 28.

[2Ch 28:1-4 NKJV] 1 Ahaz [was] twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do [what was] right in the sight of the LORD, as his

father David [had done]. 2 For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. 3 He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

One of the practices of those that worshipped Baal was that they would make these images or statues of the gods they worshipped – one of those was Molech.

And they would heat up the statue of Molech until it got red hot and then they would place their children in the arms of Molech as a sacrifice to him.

The other king who was worse than Ahaz was Mannaseh – (2 Chron 33) he also sacrificed children to Molech.

It wasn't until a good king – Josiah who came in and he turned the Valley of Hinnon into a dump.

It became a place synonymous with continuous burning and rotting.

Now turn with me to the gospel of Matthew 5.

[Mat 5:22 NKJV] 22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of **hell fire.**

The word that is used here for hell – is the word ge-henna – which is short for the Valley of Hinnon.

So Jesus points to the valley of Hinnon and uses that burning decaying dump as a picture of the destruction and judgment that is hell.

So let's jump to verse 13-19

Now, in our study last week, we finished with Caleb finally coming into his inheritance.

At the ripe old age of 85 years –

He endured the forty years of wandering through the wilderness and another five years as the Israelites led by Joshua conquered the Promised Land.

And we saw that Caleb asked for his mountain – filled with giants.

[Jos 15:13-19 NKJV] 13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, [namely], Kirjath Arba, which [is] Hebron ([Arba was] the father of Anak). 14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

This past Wednesday night, we studied how a young undersized David took out the giant Goliath.

Caleb is 85 years old and he proceeds to go up to his mountain and he takes care of three giants.

Remember – the sons of Anak were all giants.

That was the reason that the children of Israel would not go into the Promised Land in the first place – because they were afraid of the sons of Anak.

But, just like David, Caleb walked by faith.

15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir [was] Kirjath Sepher). 16 And

Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

After Caleb settles on his inheritance, he then provides an incentive to the other men by offering his daughter as a reward to anyone that is bold enough to conquer Kirjath Sephir.

Why didn't Caleb simply conquer this city himself – instead of providing the incentive???

Was he too old already? Probably not – we just read about him defeating three giants

Was this city harder to conquer than Hebron? Probably not

The scriptures do not provide us with a reason for Caleb providing this incentive to the other men.

Maybe he was just tired of the boys that his daughter was bringing around the house and this might have been a way to weed out the men from the boys.

And then in verse 17, we have the name of the person that took up Caleb's offer.

17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

The reason that Caleb did not take the city himself was that he wanted to raise up the generation to step up to the plate.

And the person that steps up is his own nephew, Othniel.

Now, later - Othniel becomes Israel's first judge after the death of Joshua.

Turn with me to the book of Judges 3.

[Jdg 3:7-11 NKJV] 7 So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

Now, when it says that they forgot – it means that the Children of Israel strayed away – that they walked in disobedience to the LORD's statutes, They started adding the worship of these other gods –

Remember, God told them – you shall have no other God besides Me –

Who were Baal and Asherah???

They were the god of pleasure and the god of fortune or prosperity.

It's the same two gods that we turn to today when we walk in disobedience to His will.

8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years. 9 When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. 11 So

the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

And throughout the book of Judges, we see the same sequence happen over and over again as the people rebel against God. God delivers them to other nations where they are held in bondage until they cry out to the Lord and the Lord rises up a judge to deliver them.

18 Now it was so, when she came [to him], that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from [her] donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" 19 She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

Here we have Caleb's daughter come to Caleb with a request.

Caleb had already given the daughter and Othniel land – but land without water is useless especially in the region where this takes place.

And Caleb responds by giving her both the upper and lower springs – which pretty much guaranteed that her and her husband's land would remain fertile.

However, what we have here in verse 18 and 19 is an example of how we should come to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

She knew what her request was.

She acknowledged the blessings that had already been bestowed upon her by her father – she came with gratitude

She just didn't say give me, give me, give me.

Our God is not a vending machine or a genie.

And she requested more and her father gave her more.

And notice that her father gave her what she wanted.

Caleb didn't get angry at her for wanting more blessings bestowed upon her.

[Mat 7:7-12 NKJV] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! 12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

From verse 20-63, we have a list of the cities of Judah.

Again, we are not going to go through these verse – you guys can try to pronounce them at home.

I do want to draw your attention to verse 63.

[Jos 15:63 NKJV] 63 As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

Now, back in chapter 13, we already saw that the 2.5 tribes east of the Jordan failed to drive out the Geshurites and the Maachathites from their land –

Now, the people of Judah fail to do the same thing with the Jebusites as they compromise the word of God.

Remember, God told them to eliminate and drive out all of the ites that were in the land. He warned them that they would start marrying them and adopting their idol worship.

With God's promise and God's help – they could have driven them out – they chose not to take on that battle.

Unfortunately, this compromise becomes a pattern for the children of Israel.

It wasn't until King David came and drove out the Jebusites later on.

Now, chapter 16 –

Here we see the portion that fell on the children of Joseph.

The first one mentioned is Ephraim.

Now, remember that Manasseh was the oldest but when Joseph takes his two sons to go see Grandpa Jacob – Jacob blesses the younger Ephraim over Manasseh. You might remember that

Joseph positions Manasseh on Jacob's right side and Ephraim on his left side and then Jacob crosses his arms and blesses Ephraim.

(Gen 48)

So because Jacob blesses Ephraim, we have them mentioned before Manasseh.

Also remember that Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim.

So the two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua – they were at the front of the line when it came to claiming their inheritance.

[Jos 16:1-10 NKJV] 1 The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel, 2 then went out from Bethel to Luz, passed along to the border of the Archites at Ataroth, 3 and went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer; and it ended at the sea. 4 So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance. 5 The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, was [thus]: The border of their

inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon. 6 And the border went out toward the sea on the north side of Michmethath; then the border went around eastward to Taanath Shiloh, and passed by it on the east of Janohah. 7 Then it went down from Janohah to Ataroth and Naarah, reached to Jericho, and came out at the Jordan. 8 The border went out from Tappuah westward to the Brook Kanah, and it ended at the sea. This [was] the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families. 9 The separate cities for the children of Ephraim [were] among the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages. 10 And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.

As we saw earlier – the tribe of Judah failed to drive out the Jebusites.

Here, the Ephraimites fail to drive out the Canaanites – but notice that it is no longer that they were not able to drive them out – it is now because they choose not to drive them out because they wanted to benefit financially from them – they became cheap labor for them.

And because they were more interested in their financial notebook than the Word of God, they compromised as well.

Now – in chapter 17, we come to Manasseh – remember, half the tribe of Manasseh has already settled on the eastern side of the Jordan.

[Jos 17:1-18 NKJV] 1 There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he [was] the firstborn of Joseph: [namely] for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan. 2 And there was [a lot] for the rest of the children of

Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hopher, and the children of Shemida; these [were] the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families. 3 But Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters. And these [are] the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 And they came near before Eleazar the priest, before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the rulers, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers. 5 Ten shares fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which [were] on the other side of the Jordan, 6 because the daughters of

Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons; and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead. 7 And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that [lies] east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah. 8 Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh [belonged] to the children of Ephraim. 9 And the border descended to the Brook Kanah, southward to the brook. These cities of Ephraim [are] among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh [was] on the north side of the brook; and it ended at the sea. 10 Southward [it was] Ephraim's, northward [it was] Manasseh's, and the sea was its border. Manasseh's territory was adjoining Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. 11 And in Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth Shean and its towns, Ibleam and its towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of En Dor (Any Star Wars fans out

there??? – this is not the land of the ewoks. Actually this is the place where we will see King Saul inquire with a witch) and its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns--three hilly regions. **12** Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out [the inhabitants of] those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. **13** And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

Here we see the tribe of Manasseh unable to drive out the Canaanites – and when they get to the point where they are able to drive them out – they choose to not drive them out because just like the Ephraimites – they decide to compromise.

14 Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us [only] one lot and one share to inherit, since we [are] a great people, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us

until now?" 15 So Joshua answered them, "If you [are] a great people, [then] go up to the forest [country] and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you." 16 But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, [both those] who [are] of Beth Shean and its towns and [those] who [are] of the Valley of Jezreel." 17 And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph--to Ephraim and Manasseh--saying, "You [are] a great people and have great power; you shall not have [only] one lot, 18 "but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it [is] wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots [and] are strong."

After Ephraim and Manasseh have been given their land. They come to Joshua to complain that they are not exactly happy with their portion.

Joshua, after all, is one of them – maybe he can pull some strings and give them more land.

Even though, it may appear admirable that they want more of the promised land – the real reason behind them asking for more is pride –

They feel that they are entitled for more based upon who they are – and Joshua tells them, you want more – go conquer it yourself and what we find is that they don't like that idea proposed by Joshua.

How different was their attitude compared to the attitude of Caleb that we saw last week.

These two tribes wanted easy land – instead of taking God's promises and going out and taking what God had given to them.

Church, never forget that God has big things for us – He has mountains for us to climb. And these big things sometimes require diligent, hard work like chopping down trees and fighting giants.

May we have a heart like Caleb and not compromise on His word and chose to climb the mountains that God has set forth for us.

Amen...

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

