

Joshua Chapter 14 Commentary

1 ¶ And these *are the countries* which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance to them. 2 ¶ By lot *was* their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes, and *for* the half tribe.

Those chosen to represent the tribes involved, cast lots and the property was thus divided. This process is presided over by Joshua and Eleazar the priest.

3 For Moses had given the inheritance of two tribes and an half tribe on the other side Jordan: but unto the Levites he gave none inheritance among them. 4 ¶ For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim: therefore they gave no part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell *in*, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance. 5 As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.

The Levites will have property throughout the nation, but they will not have one territory that is designated to them. They are to be dispersed throughout Israel, as was prophesied by Jacob in: *Ge 49:5-7; 5 ¶ "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. 6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel."*

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 forever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

Caleb now comes forward and speaks to Joshua about the promise of God to him for wholly following the Lord, seen in:

- **Nu 13:22** *"And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmaj, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)"* This is where the promise of Hebron to Caleb came from.
- **Nu 14:24** *"But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."* Caleb was given the possession and the promise that his children would also possess it.
- **De 1:36** *"Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD."* Caleb is promised the land and that his children will also possess it.

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.

It is good to remember, and acknowledge, where our health and strength come from, as Caleb demonstrates here. Caleb tells Joshua that I am just as fit today as I was forty years ago.

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* 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.

Caleb is demonstrating great faith in the Lord. Even now, as he and Joshua did before, Caleb says God is able to deliver these giants to my hand as he has promised.

This is a great lesson for us to be wholly faithful to our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Just as God promised this possession to Caleb and will overcome the giants therein, so Jesus has already overcome all our enemies, even the giant ones, and thereby we have the promise of victory over our enemies and the promised possession of our inheritance, the church.

We should remember that we have this promised possession of a position in the church, and we should claim that position in the church when we are born-again. We should not forget we have this possession; we should not refuse to occupy this position, lest we end up dying in the wilderness like those who refused to enter the land of promise the first time.

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.

Notice, Joshua, as leader of Israel, blesses Caleb, just as Moses had blessed Joshua, when Moses was the leader of Israel. Joshua gives Caleb the promised possession. Caleb overcame the giants and other inhabitants of the promised possession. How do we know that? "**14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day,**"

Hebron was before named Kirjatharba. "Kirjath" means *city of*, Arba was the giant the city was named after and ruled over. Arba one of the giants of the Anakims.

"**And the land had rest from war.**" This simply means; none of the inhabitants of the land of promise, which have not yet been conquered were making war against Israel. God is giving Israel, and the land, a reprieve from war. and time to begin occupying what they have already conquered. It means that Israel will no longer make war as a nation, though the individual tribes will continue to make war to possess the properties given to them.