

01/05/2019

GOD IS STILL FAITHFUL

Joshua 14

Chapter 14 is part of the work of dividing the Promised Land which is followed by the divisions for the tribes of Gad, Reuben and half tribe of Manasseh.

Vs1-5 Starts long story of dividing the land of that the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan.

The divisions were done in an orderly way;

- i) Eleazar the priest who represented the religious institution (church)
- ii) Joshua the head of state
- iii) Tribal leaders who represented every one.

The divisions were done by lot which was done to avoid any grievances and man's intrigue in the divisions.

The Levites were not allotted land apart from their dwelling cities and common land for their livestock. God explained to them that He is their inheritance.

Numbers 35:2-4 *"Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall also give the Levites common-land around the cities. They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals. The common-land of the cities which you will give the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around."*

Joseph's children; Manasseh and Ephraim are mentioned to give us the composition of those who were allocated land.

Genesis 48:5 *"And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine."*

We learn to put God ahead of the things we do even when we can do them in our own wisdom. We don't have theocratic governments any more but in instances where we are led by people who say they are Christians the order of God first would solve so many problems. The solution to this is not to lament but is for us to do our part in the homes with our children, the places where we work from and it can spark a revival in our land.

Vs 6-12. The children of Judah came to Joshua with Caleb the man who represented them during the spying exercise in **Numbers 13**.

Caleb is described to us as the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite. Caleb may not have been a Jew but amongst the mixed multitude of

Exodus 12:38 *"A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.*

and acquired a right of an Israelite by circumcision. Genesis 15:19, 36:11. This could be the contributing factor to the statement made in

Joshua 15:13 *"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)."*

Romans 2:28-29 *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

Galatians 3:7 *"Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham."*

Caleb reminds Joshua of the spying experiences and what God promised.

Caleb and Joshua had positive report amidst the negative reports which were given by the ten spies. Their report was not based on their strength but on God's faithfulness to deliver the inhabitants into their hand.

He says to Caleb that God has been faithful and has kept him alive and strong at 85 years and as strong as he was at forty when Moses was sending him.

At 85 Joshua is still asking for a piece of land which had the great warriors in it; the Anakims. The city was great and fortified but his trust is not in himself but in the Lord who said He will drive them out.

The word of God is His promise to us and this is direction, and hope that keeps us alive.

Numbers 13:28-33 *Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak*

came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Caleb never feared the Anakims at 40 as a spy and he does not fear them at 85 either. His strength and confidence is the Lord whose power and strength is constant irrespective of the weakness of the people He is using. **Jeremiah 9:23**

God's faithfulness should be the foundation of our faith in Him and indeed He is faithful and so we can have faith in Him.

When we look at the examples of those to whom he has been faithful we are sure that he is still faithful even in our days.

He was faithful to Abraham, Moses, Noah, Joseph, Jacob, Rahab, David and many more for whom it is said in

Hebrews 11:13-16. *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."*

What are the fears that we have today?

Is it family issues, financial crisis, work related issues; God is still faithful. His faithfulness is not limited.

We must reserve it deep in our hearts that God is able to accomplish His work no matter the situation.

We need to also to keep aware that his greatness is revealed in us wherever we are in our daily activities when we purpose to follow Him wholly. There is not going to be a time for us to be called for a Caleb or Joshua moment and we attend to show how great God is but every day and everywhere for each one of us there is an opportunity to stand and His faithfulness shall be revealed.

Psalm 100:5 *"For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations."*

Psalm 117:2 *"For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!"*

This faith is not just us waking up and saying God I am going to do ABC so bless it because I know you are faithful but it is us to hear from Him through His word to which He is not slack to fulfill.

Romans 4:16-21 *“Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”*

Vs 13-15 Caleb was given to Hebron because he wholly followed the Lord.

Hebron which was known as Kirjath Arba meaning city of Arba (Arba means He) and it became one of the cities of refuge.

It is believed that He (Arba) Adam which means man or city of five because Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph were buried here.

Isaiah 40:28-31 *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*