

**08<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

## **HAVING OUR DIVINE INHERITANCE.**

### **Joshua 15.**

After Caleb had been given the choice land of Hebron, both out of The Lord's faithfulness and his wholehearted faithfulness as was expounded last week from chapter 14.

In chapter 15, we see a description of the land given to Judah. Again, while this may be tedious to us, it was as important to the people of Judah as discovering our own unique place and function in the body of Christ is to us.....Coz as it was what gave them worth as Israelites, the latter does so to us as children of God, joint heirs with Christ Jesus.

We need to remember that "all these things were written for our learning" and are types of what God has given us to enjoy in this present age of grace.

Let us read through the chapter.....

The tribe of Judah had the first portion. Their inheritance was in the high country, adjacent to, and south and west of Jerusalem. Judah was the royal tribe and was honored of God in a very special way, but the other tribes also had their portion in different parts of the land, each one having its own particular values, but divided by the casting of lots. In the book of Proverbs we read, "The lot is cast into the lap; but its every decision is from the Lord."(Prov.16:33) He directed Joshua to use this method, doubtless in order to avoid what might have seemed like partiality in giving the tribes their inheritances, and as pointed out last week, that the Lord was placed first in all matters pertaining their lives or livelihoods.

It is pathetic, however, to note that tribe after tribe failed to make a full end of their enemies and so were obliged to permit these Canaanites to dwell among the Israelites. All this was but a compromise and compromise with evil never pays. In days to come, these foes who had been spared when they should have been exterminated, either became a snare to the people of God by leading them off into idolatry, or else wrought great havoc by their warlike behavior, attacking and often destroying cities and farms of the Israelites who had permitted them to remain unmolested among them. God had warned Israel of this beforehand, telling them

that those who were not destroyed would be thorns in their sides and would cause them untold trouble.

Concerning Judah we read in chapter 15:63.....

Jerusalem was held by the Jebusites. It was not until the time of David that they were finally driven out of Jerusalem. (2Sam. 5:6-7).

We may well learn from the failures of Israel to beware lest we ourselves fail to judge every evil thing that Satan would use to hinder our enjoyment of the things of Christ. We are called to deal unsparingly with every unholy thought and every sinful tendency, cleansing ourselves from “all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”(2 Cor.7:1) It is only thus that we can appreciate truly and enjoy, in the way God would have us, the great privileges and manifold blessings He has bestowed upon us. Sin un-judged results in weakness and loss of communion, which can only be restored as we face the sin in the presence of God, confessing and forsaking it, and thus obtaining mercy and the assurance that all is forgiven.

Some cities, like Debir and Hebron, had to be taken more than once because of the guerrilla warfare of the Canaanites. It should also be noted that there was more than one city with the same name, like Debir.

But now let us turn back and consider briefly an incident that shines out brightly in the midst of all these long lists of Hebrew names, which to many of us seem unintelligible. We have already considered the energy of faith as seen in Caleb, the wholehearted. He comes before us again in the thirteenth verse of chapter 15, where we read:....

Kirjath-sepher means the city of the book. It was probably so named because an ancient library was located there. Its name was changed later to Debir, which means the oracle or the word, and suggests that Word of God through which He speaks directly to His people. Caleb’s energy set a splendid example to younger men and this comes out clearly in what follows. We are told in verse 16:

And Caleb said, “He who attacks Kirjath-sepher, and takes it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.”

In response to Caleb’s challenge, we are told that Othniel, his nephew, took Kirjath-sepher, and thus the city of the book, or the word, became his inheritance. In accordance with his promise, Caleb gave him Achsah to be his wife.

Thus the cousins were united. Achsah suggested to her husband that he ask of her father a field, a petition which Caleb readily granted, but the young woman realized that a field without water was practically worthless;

So she herself approached her father in an attitude of supplication. In response to his inquiry, what do you wish?" she replied,

"Give me a present. Since you have set me in the [dry] Negeb, give me also springs of water." And he gave her the [sloping field with] upper and lower springs.

We are told that Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. This is all very suggestive. A believer may have rich treasure indeed in the fact that the promises of God are committed to him, but he can only enjoy to the full this blessed gift of God when the Holy Spirit is given in power to open up the truth to him. In this dispensation of grace the Spirit dwells in every believer. He is likened by our Lord Jesus to a fountain of living water springing up in the heart. It is as we appreciate and value the work of the Holy Spirit that we enjoy the refreshing influences which flow from His acknowledged presence.

May the faith of Othniel and of Achsah be duplicated in us, who through grace have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. May we be so yielded to the indwelling Holy Spirit that He will make very real to us the precious things of Christ, and thus give us to enjoy our inheritance to the full. The Spirit and the Word are linked together, both in connection with the new birth and in later Christian experience. The Spirit-filled believer is one in whom the Word of Christ dwells richly. May this be true of all who read these lines!

Othniel later became the first judge in Israel. Judges. 3:9,10... But when the Israelites cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel to deliver them, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand and his hand prevailed over Chushan-rishathaim.