

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON

LESSON 13

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move on!

Lessons 11-16: The Inheritance and Division of the Promised Land Josh. 13:1-21:45

Lesson 13: Covenant Tribe and an Undaunted Braveheart Josh. 15:1-63

Today's Study: Josh. 15:1-63

1. Imperial Tribe ... Judah Vv. 1-12
2. Important Ally/Caleb the Lionheart Vv. 13-19
3. Inherited Cities of Judah Vv. 20-63

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

1. Highlights from Lesson 12

(a) Introduction to Josh.14:1-15

- (1) Joshua chapters 13 through 21 cover an exciting and jubilant period in Israel's history. It was a time they long anticipated and while they waited and went through so many varied experiences, they were now being blessed with that which was promised for such a long time.
- (2) God was with Israel and He fought for them, and as it relates to Israel **the entire process called for them to be steadfastly committed to God and His perfect will.**
 - Commitments are powerful because they influence how you think, how you sound, and how you act. Unlike a half-hearted hope or one's hardest or most enthusiastic attempt, **making a commitment** means that you try harder, you look for solutions when faced with obstacles, you don't consider quitting as an option, and you don't look back.
 - **Whatever goals we may have they require commitment for them to be realized, especially when overwhelming challenges arise.**
 - **Commitment** entails ability to work hard and keep infinite fortitude, despite the pain of adversity you will press on!! **Staying committed to your goal is one of the most fundamental principles of success.**
- (3) The conquest of the Promised Land had taken place. Now it was time to divide the land among the tribes. For centuries—in fact, for all their lives—the Israelites had been longing for this day when they would receive their promised inheritance.

(b) Strict Obedience Josh. 14:1-5

- (1) The land, Canaan, was not conquered to be left deserted and remain in a useless non-productive manner.

- The land was liberated for the people of Israel who for centuries lived as sojourners and not owning any property for themselves.
 - Just as God created the earth to be occupied (Isa. 45:18) even so Canaan was conquered to be occupied by Israel (Num. 33:53).
 - The land was conquered for the people, however, occupying the Promised Land was not going to be done by each man settling down where he chooses but such would be done in an orderly manner, based on God's directives.
- (2) The distribution would be done by lot under the leadership of Joshua, the High Priest Eleazar and the ten tribal princes as chosen by God (Num. 34:16-19).
- The priest Eleazar took a prominent role in the dividing of the land because he wore the ephod and the breastplate containing the Urim and Thummim.
 - The sacred garment of the priest included a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash.
 - The **main duty** of the priests was to maintain a proper relationship with God. This was done by caring for the tabernacle and administering the law (for example see Num. 18).
- (3) God had repeatedly insisted that the inheritance be divided by lot (Josh. 13:6; 14:2 with Num. 26:55; 33:54; 34:13).
- (4) The acceptance of the method of distribution to each tribe was to be determined by God and resulted in beneficial consequences for all Israelites.
- They were made aware of a power in life that was higher than material gains.
 - They referred themselves to God and to His wisdom and sovereignty, trusting Him capable above all else to determine what was best for them.
 - Etc.
 - Believers do have an inheritance in Jesus Christ,
Eph. 1:11 NKJV
"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."
- (5) **Devoted Servants . . . The Levites** (Josh. 14:14)
The Levites briefly noted above as well Lesson 11 . . . below are a few highlights.
- **A priest is a ministering servant, a bridge-builder; Israel was to be a bridge between God and the nations of the earth. The way for this to be done was to be a holy people.**
 - The Levites were specifically chosen, set apart and had the responsibility of ministering to the people of Israel; as result they were scattered all over the nation.

- (6) The importance of teamwork has been discussed repeatedly as well as in (Josh. 14). Beloved, God's providence leaves no room for human agency, man's responsibility is to be faithful and obedient; God's will must be done and we must follow His plans as He makes them known (Josh. 14:5).
- God had designed the plan, but the people were to employ it.
 - God brought them into the Promised Land, but they were to take possession of it.
 - Israel did precisely as they were commanded, such example of obedience is a very strong lesson for all believers.

(c) **Steadfastness Josh. 14:6-14**

- (1) Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite (v.6).
- Kenezite (KJV) (or Kenizzite) identifies Caleb as belonging to a leading family springing from Eliphaz, Esau's first son (Gen. 36:11, 15, 42; 1 Chron. 1:36).
 - Part of this family had joined with the tribe of Judah, most likely at the Exodus (Ex. 12:38).
 - Caleb's story did not hide his Kenezite status, so Caleb's blessings were not due to solid family connections to Judah but instead were a result of his choice to follow God wholeheartedly.
 - Caleb lived up to the Hebrew rendition of his name which is "faithful, devotion, brave, wholehearted."
- (2) In claiming his inheritance Caleb approached Joshua and reminded him of the promise the LORD made to them at Kadesh-barnea (Num.14:24; Deut. 1:34-36; Josh. 14:7).
- Caleb was assured of such blessing because of his loyalty and this reminds us that those who obey God and seek His presence will always enjoy His blessings.
 - Caleb followed God with all his heart and was rewarded for his obedience. How are you doing? Are you wholehearted in your commitment to God?
 - Matthew Henry notes:
"Those that follow God fully when they are young shall have both credit and comfort of it when they are old, and the reward of it forever in the heavenly Canaan."
- (3) Caleb's inheritance was still occupied by giants but he was not afraid to go up and conquer the occupants (Josh. 14:12).
- Caleb did not say: "Because I am now as strong as I was at forty, therefore I shall drive them out." Note carefully what he said: **"It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said"** (Josh. 14:12).
 - Like Caleb, we must be faithful to God, not only at the start of our walk with Him, but throughout our entire lives.

- (4) In Josh. 14:15b we observe that “Peace was Enjoyed!!” The rest given to Israel is a clear symbol of the spiritual rest God gives to the believer. There is rest for the people of God!!

2. Introduction to Josh. 15:1-63

As noted in other lessons the distribution of land was a very special time in Israel’s history; it was a time when they received their promised inheritance. This was a time they longed for, looked towards with great anticipation, they steadily maintained their focus and faith in God that He would bring their promised inheritance to realization. For centuries they wandered from place to place as sojourners (Gen. 15:13; 23:4; Heb. 11:9), having no place for themselves but they kept going, pressing on, accomplishing their goals because of their hope of receiving what God promised (Gen. 15:18; 17:8; etc.).

The climactic moment for the Israelites had now come; they were receiving the inheritance for which they had so long hoped. The Promised Land was now conquered! By faith in God—His presence and power—the Israelites faced the enemies who had tried to keep them out of the Promised Land, and with God’s help they conquered the enemies. Whatever of the enemies that remained, posed no great threat and was the responsibility of each tribe to dispose of within their allocated areas. It took Israel a long time to liberate the Promised Land (*scholars vary between five to seven years*) but the land was now secured. With the realization of victory over the enemies of the land it was now time to divide the land among the tribes. What a glorious and wonderful time it was as they could now receive the long-awaited inheritance, the great inheritance promised them by God!

Although the land was **not completely** conquered (there were smaller weaker cities to be conquered); nevertheless, as we saw in the final verse of the preceding chapter “. . . the land had rest from war” (Josh. 14:15) for that particular period. The Israelites armies were withdrawn from the field of war and were summoned to a meeting, most likely at Gilgal (which served as their campaign headquarters and a place of significance for years) where they **began** to divide the land, although the process of distribution was later improved at Shiloh (Josh. 18:1).

In Joshua 15 we have the lot of Judah described; they were the first to receive their inheritance

- (a) In Vv. 1-12, we have the outer limits of the borders listed.
- (b) In Vv. 13-19, we have the assignment of Hebron given to Caleb and the bordering country.
- (c) In Vv. 20-63, we have the names of the cities that were included in Judah’s lot.

3. Excerpts Josh. 15 (Verses 1-2, 13-19 ESV)

“The allotment for the tribe of the people of Judah according to their clans reached southward to the boundary of Edom to the wilderness of Zin at the farthest south. And their south boundary ran from the end of the salt sea, from the bay that faces southward.”

According to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, he gave Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the descendants of Anak. And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir. Now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher. And Caleb said, whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, to him will I give Achash my daughter as wife. And Othniel the son Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it. And he gave him Achash his daughter as wife. When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she got off her donkey, and Caleb said to her, ‘What do you want?’ She said to him, ‘Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of Negeb, give me also the springs of water.’ And he gave her the upper and the lower springs.”

A. Imperial Tribe ... Judah

NOTE

I have used two terms in reference to the tribe of Judah, “Imperial” and “Covenant” which are both relevant to this tribe.

The “**Imperial**” or “**royal**” or “**monarchial**” aspect will be briefly noted below.

The “**Covenant**” aspect is clearly seen in Scriptures, note for example:

Psa. 78:67-68 NKJV

“Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph. And did not chose Ephraim. But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved.”

Actually, God rejected the Northern Kingdom represented here by the tribe of Ephraim from the house of Joseph. Instead He chose Judah as the tribe and Mount Zion (Jerusalem) as the place where His sanctuary should be located, and He chose David to shepherd his people. (This is another great chapter to study; you can highlight verses 65-72 . . . “God Remembers His People”).

Read also **Psalm 89, NB Vv. 27-52: “God’s Covenant Stands Fast”**. As you will observe in the passage, the **covenant** with individual kings (Psa. 89:30-32) is conditional but with David’s family it is “unconditional”, NB Vv. 28, 29, 33-37. This is similar with God’s covenant with Abraham. (Keep in mind that David is of the tribe of Judah). Note the following:

Psa. 89:33-37 NKJV

“Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. **My covenant I will not break, nor alter the words that has gone out of My lips.** Once I have sworn my holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall

endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, Even the faithful witness in the sky.”

(Read the Psalm, note verses 27-52 . . . “God’s Covenant Stands Forever”)

1. **Background Information ... the Tribe of Judah** (Limited highlights possible) (Josh. 15:1)

(a) **Judah**

- (1) Judah was the fourth son of Jacob by Leah (Gen. 29:35), who took a leading role among his brothers, early in life (Gen. 37:26, 27; 43:3-10; 44:16-34; 46:28).
- (2) Judah was promised leadership and tribal stability, and ultimately kingship through David and the Messiah (Gen. 49:8-12). The genealogies of Judah’s offspring are recorded in 1 Chron. 2-4.
- (3) ***The word “Judah” is used in various ways and we should be able to distinguish the differences when used.***

- **Kingdom of Judah**

The kingdom of Judah came about when the united nation of Israel (1 Kings 12) experienced division which actually the result of King Solomon’s transgressions (1 Kings 11:1-43, NB Vv. 9-13). The division occurred during the reign of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam (1 Kings 12). The result brought about two kingdoms:

- **The Northern Kingdom or Israel** consisting of ten tribes, under the leadership of Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:16-24).
- **The Southern Kingdom or Judah** consisting of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin under the leadership of Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:21-24).

- **The territory of Judah**

This refers to the area of the inheritance as described in our study of Josh. 15.

- **There were other individuals with the name Judah, for example:**

- A Levite who returned from the Babylonian captivity under Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:8).
- A Levitical contemporary of Ezra (Ezra 10:23)
- Etc.

The “Judah” being referred to in our study is Jacob’s fourth son (Gen. 29:35) and the tribe of Judah are his descendants.

(b) **What does Judah symbolize?**

It is believed that “Judah” originally based on the Hebrew name “*Yahudah*,” probably derived from “*Yadah*” meaning “**praise**” (Psa. 43:4). Names were given with the meaning as it relates to the circumstances relating to experiences during the time of or leading to the birth of the child; note for example Gen. 29:31-35; also 30:18, 20. Leah experienced much difficulties and she named her sons accordingly. On naming Judah, she said, “Now I will praise the LORD.” **Judah**

means “thanksgiving” or “praise” and the root meaning is “to thank” or “to praise” (Gen. 29:35).

(c) **What is special about Judah?**

The tribe of Judah settled in the region south of Jerusalem and in time became the most powerful and important tribe. Not only did it produce great kings like David and Solomon but also it was prophesied that the Messiah would come from among its members and such prophesy was fulfilled!! (*Therefore I have referred to them as “The Imperial tribe”*).

The Bible speaks more about the tribe of Judah than any other single tribe in Israel. **Note the following references in regards to the Messiah coming through the tribe of Judah.**

- (1) The nations of the world would be blessed through the patriarchs: (a) Abram (Abraham) Gen. 12:3; 22:18) (b) Isaac (Gen. 17:19; 21:12) (c) Jacob, the father of the twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel, (Num. 24:17). *The tribe of “Judah” is the descendants of “Judah” one of Jacob’s sons.*
- (2) The Messiah would come through the tribe of Judah (**Gen. 49:10**).
- (3) The Messiah would be heir of King David’s throne (David was of the tribe of Judah) (**Isa. 11:1, 10; Jer. 23:5; 33:15**; 2 Sam. 7: 12-13; Psa. 89:34-37; Isa. 9:7).
- (4) The prophecy was fulfilled (Matt. 1:1, 16; 12:33; Luke 1:26-38, NB Vv. 32-33; Acts 15:15-16).

Judah’s priority (precedence) is anchored in the blessing of Jacob (**Gen. 49:8-12**) and upheld in the history of Israel (Jud. 1:1-2; 20:18; 2 Kings 17:18; Psa. 78:68).

Note carefully Gen. 49:9.

Here the imagery of the lion reflects the powerful, majestic, and kingly nature of the lion, often regarded as king of beast. Applied to Judah as that of kings. For out of Judah’s line, King David and his descendants would rule over Israel until the time of the Babylonian Captivity (1 Chron. 2; 2 Kings 24); and generations later Jesus Christ would come as a descendant of David and Judah to forge a new covenant and usher in a new kingdom of heavenly glory (Matt. 1).

Furthermore, when Jacob said that **“the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet”** (Gen. 49:10a ESV), he was also proclaiming the eventual eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ, who will forever reign as king, the scepter being a symbol of His Kingly authority and lordship. This is the main reason why Jesus is often referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Judah a great and powerful tribe is well known as kingly tribe, as a result they used the lion as a symbol of the tribe.

Gen. 49:9, 10 ESV

“Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up and stoop down; he crouched as a lioness; who dares rouse him? **The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him, and to him shall be obedience of the people.**”

2. Boundaries Identity ... Judah’s (Josh. 15:1-12)

The following is a brief note in regards to why it is difficult to identify these boundaries listed.

- (a) Some of these cities and boundaries are difficult to identify because of the many changes through the centuries.
 - (1) Often the names have been completely changed; some cities have been buried under their own ruins and have been totally forgotten.
 - (2) However, these facts do not invalidate the authenticity of the record.
- (b) Despite the difficulties identifying some of these cities and boundaries there is some good news.
 - (1) Archaeology is continually making known the location of places which for centuries have been only names in this record (Josh. 15); as well as in other similar situations.
 - (2) Also the natural geography of the land helps to give some general ideas of locations.

NOTE:

As I have stated in other lessons, do not be thrown off by the difficulty to pronounce names or of the many names in these passages; neither should we be confused because we do not know the geography of the area or any other such-like factors. As noted, some names have been changed, some cities have been buried under their own ruins and no longer remembered. However, there is still much to be learnt from these records and as you have observed, I have identified practical lessons (sometimes noted in one sentence or a paragraph or more detailed accounts). I have also noted important facts that are related to specific items of interest and have discovered and presented a lot of valuable information. ... to the glory of God and our growth in His Word!!

3. Birthright of Reuben Forfeited!

Judah and Joseph were the two sons of Jacob on whom Reuben’s forfeited birthright evolved.

- (a) As it was at the time, “Firstborn had certain responsibilities:
 - (1) They were to carry the father’s name.
 - (2) They were to manage the family estate.
 - (3) They were to provide for minors in the family.

- (4) They were to provide a dowry (bridal gift, bride's share) for the unmarried sisters.
- (5) They were to pay for parents' burial and mourning ceremonies and maintain their graves.
- (b) **THE BIRTHRIGHT!**
- (1) What is the "birthright"? *Based on the Easton Bible Dictionary, note the following compilation:*
- There were special privileges and advantages for the firstborn son among the Jews. He became the priest of the family. That honor was instead given to the Levites by God and not to Reuben (Num. 3:12, 13; 8:14-19, NB Vv.14, 18).
 - The firstborn son had allotted to him also a double portion of the parental inheritance (Deut. 21:15-17, NB v. 17). Reuben's infidelity (Gen. 49:3-4) disqualified him and this was given to Joseph (1 Chron. 5:1).
 - The firstborn inherited the judicial authority of his father, whatever it might be (2 Chron. 21:3).
- (2) Conditions regarding the birthright.
The following is limited due to time:
- The birthright may not be denied because the firstborn is disliked and another is loved (Deut. 21:15-17). However, the birthright can be denied because of the firstborn's evil ways as it was with Reuben (Gen. 35:22).
 - During his visit to his father (Gen. 48) Joseph was informed by Jacob that he was receiving an extra-portion beyond that of his brothers (Gen. 48:22).
 - As we compare Scriptures in particular Gen. 48:5, 22 and 49:4, it is obvious that Joseph received the birthright in place of Reuben (*Judah was also a beneficiary as will be seen below*).
- (c) **Judah and Joseph**
As stated above, Judah and Joseph were the two sons on whom Reuben's forfeited birthright developed.
- (1) As a reminder: The firstborn blessings consists of the "**double portion**" (Deut. 21:17), which means the firstborn receives at least two share of the tribe's wealth and the "birthright", also involves the authority to rule over the entire tribe 2 Chron. 21:3).
- It is clear that Reuben lost his birthright because of his infidelity (1 Chron. 5:1).
 - What we have in this situation is that the birthright which normally went to the firstborn **got split between Judah and Joseph.**
- (2) **Joseph received double portion** (Gen. 48:5, 22; Deut. 21:15-17, NB v. 17)
- By giving each of Joseph's sons a blessing, Jacob in fact, gave a double portion as compared to his brothers (Gen. 48:22).

- His gift became a reality when the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh received their inheritance east and west of the Jordan River (Num. 32; Josh. 16 and 17).

(3) **Judah received judicial authority** (Gen. 49:8-12)

- Judah became greater than his brothers, it was through this tribe that came great leaders (*noted before*). We have seen such great kings as David, Solomon and others and yes, the Messiah who was of the bloodline of Judah.
- Please see my brief presentation on Judah above.
 - **Jer. 23:5 Amplified Bible**
“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch (Sprout), and He will reign as King and do wisely and will execute justice and righteousness in the land.’
 - **Isa. 9:7 Amplified Bible**
“Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end. Upon, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and righteousness from the [latter] time forth even forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of host will perform this. [Dan. 2:44; 1 Cor. 15:25-28; Heb. 1:8].”

4. **Blessed Outcome** (Josh. 15:1-63)

(a) The crowning moment for the tribe of Judah finally came!

- (1) The boundary lines for the tribe was now mapped out.
- (2) At last, the families of this great and imperial tribe of Israel were to receive their long-awaited inheritance.
- (3) Soon the families of Judah would be moving to the land assigned to them—building homes, clearing and cultivating land, producing and selling produce and livestock; starting business, engaging in commerce, developing an economy, establishing families—just settling down and carry on day-to-day life in a permanent environment.

(b) **Recapitulating some basic facts**

- (1) Never before had the families of Judah been settled.
 - They were only pilgrims upon this earth, never possessing land or a permanent home.
 - They had always been wanderers in a foreign land, never belonging nor ever possessing a permanent residence.
 - All along they were pilgrims in a foreign land, however, through it all they were kept motivated, inspired by hope—the hope of the Promised Land, promised them by God!
 - At last! At Last! How gloriously wonderful!! That long-awaited day had come!!

- That which they had been promised for centuries, was theirs to enjoy!! To God be the glory!!
 - Now that this was realized, the nomad days are behind! They would now be able to settle in this awesome place, The Promised Land, that which “flows with milk and honey”!!
- (2) Judah was the largest of the tribes, and was destined to become the most important.
- As we saw before, from Judah were to come kings through David and most important the Messiah. The tribe of Judah was to preserve the worship of the true God!
 - The preeminence given Judah also falls in line with the prophecy uttered by Jacob Gen. 49:8-12.
- (3) The tribe of Judah was first to receive its inherited territory because it was the largest tribe.
- In distributing the inheritance, the size of the tribe was a determining factor both in order and amount of the inheritance received.
 - The larger tribes were to be assigned their inheritance first, and they were to receive a larger inheritance than the smaller tribes.
 - This principle of inheritance by size had been commanded by God Himself (Num. 26:52-56).
 - The tribe of Judah was now to receive its inheritance, the largest territory in the Promised Land.
 - Joshua assigned nearly half the southern part of Canaan to the tribe of Judah. Later the possession of Simeon and Dan were taken out of it (Josh. 19:1, 40-46).
- (c) **The joy of paying the price!**

This is yet another great study but unfortunately, we do not have the time for more information than what is shared.

- (1) The distribution of the Promised Land among the Israelites was a joyous period and a celebration of victory over all odd circumstances. It was a result of their determination not to give-up and not to give-in but to remain faithful to God and maintain their trust in Him.
- (2) There are many today, who desire to have the best but they are not willing to do what is necessary to accomplish their desired goals. Note the following quotes:
- “If you want your dreams to work out for you, you must work with them. **Pay the price** and have the package of your accomplishments in full vision. Never rate yourself too low; you will be whoever you think you can be **provided you are willing to pay the price.**”
 - “I do not know who has gotten to the top without paying the price. **It takes an attitude of hard work, commitment and purpose.**”
- (3) No one says it would be easy but we must press on and stay focused on our goals (Phil. 3:13-21, NB Vv. 13, 14).

- We should also remember: “God didn’t promise smooth sailing but He guarantees safe landing.”
 - Beloved, the process may be difficult, very difficult, seemingly more than we can bear but stay focus and think about the end product; the reward will outweigh all the difficulties.
- (4) The Israelites waited for centuries, their experiences varied from time to time, they faced their enemies no matter how formidable, etc. but with the help of God they preserved until their hope was realized.
- (5) Beloved think on this thought: **“When the going gets tough, the tough gets going!”**
- The above quote is simply saying: When situations become difficult, the strong will work harder to meet the challenges. Sometimes, when we are in a **tough** situation, we need to take action!!
 - A victorious Christian life means dying to self. Our service in ministering to people means that the outward perish so the spiritual life in Jesus Christ is renewed (**2 Cor. 4:16**).
 - There are trials in our service to the glory of God that includes sadness, tears, trouble, perplexities, etc. (**2 Cor. 1: 4, 8-9; 7:5**). As we minister, we also experience self-denial, disappointments, etc. (**Read 2 Cor. 4**) and yet we do not lose heart because we have hope of an eternal inheritance (2 Cor. 4:16-18).
 - As a human being Paul was subjected to progressive physical decay and finally death. But as a new person in Christ his spiritual life became stronger daily (2 Cor. 4:16).
 - No matter what our challenges, beloved, with the help of God, let us press on because we will reap in due time if we do not give up (Gal. 6:9).
Rom. 8:18 Amplified Bible
 “For I consider [from the standpoint of faith] that the sufferings of the present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us.”

5. **Basic Description of the Borders . . . Judah’s Lot** (Josh. 15:1-12)

(a) **The eastern border was all and only the Salt Sea** (Josh, 15:5).

(1) The **Salt Sea** is also called the **Dead Sea**.

(2) Note a few highlights:

- In reality, the **Dead Sea** is a **Salt Lake** bordering Jordan to the east, and Israel to the west. Its surface and shores are approximately 427/430 meters or 1400/ 1410 feet, below sea level, earth’s lowest elevation on land.
- It is estimated to be five to nine (some says 10) times briny (salty) as seawater.
- Its only tributary is the Jordan River and it is not connected to the ocean, its landlocked nature causes the water to evaporate and leaves behind a

massive amount of salt, making it so dense that people can float on top of it.

- The lake's saltiness means that no fish, frogs, birds or plants can survive in its high-saline environment. It should also be noted that regular boats cannot sail in the dead sea.
- It is believed that Sodom and Gomorrah is buried beneath the Dead Sea; others believe that only a portion of it is buried beneath.

(b) **The southern border was that of the land of Canaan in general** (cf. Josh 15:1-4 with Num. 34:3-5).

- (1) Judah was a powerful and warlike tribe and their presence in this particular location provided protection from potential enemies.
- (2) The Edomites and Israel were old enemies although their forefathers were twin brothers (Gen. 25:23-27, NB v. 23). (a) The Israelites were descendants of Jacob . . . see Gen. 29:31 and (b) the Edomites were descendants of Esau . . . see Gen. 36, NB v. 9.
- (3) The Edomites were glad to see Judah in trouble; their hatred made them want the nation of Israel destroyed.
 - The tribe of Judah had the potential to adequately protect the area from attacks, that included the old enemy "Edom" who was on the border (Josh. 15:1).
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ who sprang out of Judah will bring universal deliverance to the Church (Universal) and judge the unrighteous, He is Lord of all (Phil. 2:8-11; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 19:16).
 - Edom is an example to all the nations that are hostile to God, but God's protection is guaranteed to all His people and He will judge accordingly.
 - **Obadiah 21 Amplified Bible**
"The deliverer shall go up to Mount Zion To rule and judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom and kinship shall be the Lord's."
 - The LORD and His glorified saints will bring judgment upon the world and establish His kingdom forever. The Gospel provides hope for the whosoever will (Isa. 55, NB Vv. 1-7; Rev. 22:17) but a day of accountability will come (Isa. 63:1-6; Zech. 14:1-5; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Jude 14-15; Rev. 19:11-21).
 - God's ultimate goal is to establish His eternal kingdom. The Edomites were cruel to God's people; any nation that mistreats the people of God will be punished regardless of how invincible (indestructible, etc.) they appear. "The kingdom and kingship shall be the Lord's."

(c) **The northern border divided Judah's lot from the lot of Benjamin** (Josh. 15:6-8)

- (1) "The stone of Bohan, the son of Reuben" (v. 6).
 - This was a boundary mark on the northeast frontier of Judah.
 - We do not have much information about Bohan; he was one of Reuben's sons. **Some believe** that he was a great commander of the forces of

Reuben that came over Jordan, and died in the camp at Gilgal and was not buried far away but under this stone.

- (2) In this lot there is also the valley of Achor which lies upon the border of this lot (v. 7). This valley reminded the men of Judah of the trouble which Achan who was one of their tribe, brought upon Israel and such memory was a humbling factor.
 - (3) This northern line touched closely upon Jerusalem (v. 8), so closely as to include in the lot of this tribe Mount Zion and Mount Moriah, although the greater part of the city lay in the lot of Benjamin.
- (d) **The west border went near to the Great Sea** (Josh. 15:12)
- (1) *“The Great Sea” (limited comments)*
 - This was also known as the “Mediterranean Sea”; (a) also referred to as “the hinder sea” or “the utmost sea” (KJV) or “the western sea” (Deut. 11:24; 34:2; Joel 2:20) (b) also referred to as “the sea of the Philistines” (Ex. 23:31).
 - Other references noting the “Great Sea” are Num. 34:6-7; Josh 1:4; 9:1; 15:12, 47; 23:4; Ezek. 47:10, 15, 19, 20.
 - The Great Sea was the largest sheet of water with which the Hebrew had any acquaintance. Its gleaming mirror, stretching away to the sunset, could be seen from many an inland height.
 - Etc.
 - (2) This west border was later adjusted to accommodate the tribe of Dan.
 - (3) The alternation to this section of Judah’s lot teaches a significant lesson.
 - Although Judah was a powerful warlike tribe, they must not be left to their own choice, to enlarge their possessions at pleasure, but must live so that their neighbors might live with them.
 - **Those that are placed high must not think to be placed alone in the midst of the earth, no man is an island no man stands alone.**
6. **Bountiful Dependable are the Blessings of God** (*Practical Lessons*)
- (a) The wall plaque in regards to **“Footprints”** is told in two ways and both illustrations convey powerful lessons.
 - (1) The plaque wherein the individual saw only one set of footprints teaches that he was not really alone but when he saw only one set of footprints it was because God was bearing him in His (God’s) arms!
 - (2) Our experiences vary and sometimes they hurt, really hurt but we must **always** remember that God will **never** forsake us!!
 - (b) Judah in obtaining its inheritance (as well as all the other tribes will be) clearly and forcefully reinforces the faithfulness of God which was evident from day one!!
 - (1) The following is a quote from The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible.
 - “God had been faithful in calling and choosing Abraham to be the father of the Israelites, the father of His people (Gen. 12:1-3).

- God had been faithful in giving and protecting the promised seed of Isaac, Jacob, and the sons of Jacob who were destined to be heads of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis, chapters 12-50).
 - God had been faithful in protecting His people during the enslavement in Egypt, faithful in causing them to grow into a mighty people of over two to three million population (Exodus chapters 1-13, etc.).
 - God had been faithful in protecting and delivering His people through the wilderness or desert wanderings (Exodus 14-40; Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy).
 - God had been faithful in leading His people and giving them victory over the enemies of the Promised Land (Joshua chapters 1-12)."
- (2) God was faithful to the families of Judah; He will be faithful to us!!
Note: "... according to their families" (Josh. 15:12b)
- Clearly teaches that God provides for His people!
 - When the need is great, He will supply accordingly.
 - This was the principle upon which the manna had been given (Ex. 16:16).
 - In the New Testament, God's supply of grace was given in the light of the need.
 - Paul was assured that God's grace was sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).
 - We are also assured that God supplies all our needs (Phil. 4:19).
- (3) You may say it is generous, plentiful or as you chose but God's blessings are fully guaranteed!
- **1 Kings 8:56 ESV**
 "Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good promise which He spoke by Moses His servant."
 - **Psa. 89:1 Amplified Bible**
 I will sing of the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness from generation to generation.

B. Important Ally/Caleb the Lionheart Josh. 15:13-19

1. Basics! . . . Limited Highlights

Joshua 15:13-19 is seen as a repetition and expansion of the account recorded in Josh. 14:6-15.

- (a) As we saw before the granting of this inheritance to Caleb was according to the "command of the LORD . . ." (Josh. 15:13; also Num. 14:24; Josh 14:6).
- (1) The lot was not given to Caleb because of his long acquaintance with Joshua or any act of favoritism but strictly because it was so ordered by God.
- (2) This teaches us that in **every** situation, especially in uncertainties, it is best to know the mind of God and our duty to follow in obedience (*my favorite*

reference Prov. 3:5-6; see also Psa. 37:3, 5; 118:8; Isa. 26:4; 50:10; note also James 1:5-8)

- (b) Caleb's lot was said to be ". . . a part among the children of Judah . . ." (Josh. 15:3 KJV).
- (1) The inheritance was assigned before the lot of the tribe (Judah) was decided, the amazing result of this act results was Caleb living in the midst of the tribe; an awesome opportunity that was divinely offered to him!
 - (2) As we have noted before, Caleb was not born into the family of Judah but was ideally allied and was wholeheartedly committed to God and he was not to be separated from his brethren (the tribe of Judah).
- (c) Caleb's lot was discussed in our previous lesson, Lesson 12, pages 13-26.
- (1) The inheritance assigned to the family of Caleb included the great city of Hebron or Kiriath-Arba, the land of the giants.
 - (2) Arba was the father of Anak or of the Anakites, the giants of the land who were large-framed, huge people (Josh. 15:13).
As it relates to Arba, see my brief notes on page 25 of Lesson 12.
- (d) Caleb was genuinely a true ally and definitely a brave heart.
- (1) Caleb was not of an Israelite family but he lived and functioned wholeheartedly as an Israelite, wholly serving God; sincerely dedicated and wholeheartedly willing and ready to serve the cause of Israel.
 - (2) I have referred to him as an **ally** and indeed he was, in essence of who is a **genuine ally**.
 - The word is more generally used in the passive form as families are allied by blood; or mutually, as princes (leaders) unite themselves in a powerful state . . . they are thus associated by a treaty or league.
 - The word also conveys the meaning as one that is associated with another as helper: a person or group that provides assistance and support in an ongoing effort, activity or struggle.
 - We have seen examples of various alliances in Scripture, including those who group together against the people of God, for example: Josh. 10:1-5; 11:1-5; 1 Kings 20:1; 2 Kings 18:17; 2 Chron. 14:9; 20:1-3 (*Read the context of each reference for details*).
 - As an ally with Israel, Caleb was united by a treaty of service, commitment, patriotism, and all else that made him who he was (*See a listing of Caleb's characteristics noted in Lesson 12, pages 23-25*).
 - (3) Caleb's commitment was something that could always be relied on. His alliance was as source of unity to the cause of God and His people.
 - It is an example that is worthy of emulating among the people of God at all times.
 - Without going in details, we do know that there is an urgent need among the people of God to **sincerely** come together as one in the battle for truth.

The following quote by Matthew Henry has been used before (was used in reference to the "Northern Alliance", Josh. 11, NB Vv. 1-5).

"Thus are the children of this world more unanimous, and therein wiser, than the children of light. The oneness of the church's enemies should shame the church's friends out of their discords and divisions, and engage them to be one."

Caleb's courage has been discussed before and will be briefly repeated below.

2. **Brave Heart** (Josh. 15:13-15)

(a) Caleb was a man of courage, lion-hearted courage!

(1) He was one who always displayed exceptional courage and bravery.

(2) As noted before Joshua had already destroyed the major cities which included those with powerful armies and those that remained were the smaller, weaker cities.

- Hebron was among those cities that were partially destroyed in particular its leadership and soldiers (Josh. 10:36-39; 11:21); with the exception of those who escaped.
- As seen in Josh. 13 there were still enemies to be conquered (the smaller weaker cities, armies) and such was the responsibility of each individual tribe.
- As we saw in previous lesson, Caleb was not intimidated by the fact that some giants were still occupying Hebron (Josh. 14:6-15).

(b) Expel the Giants!! (Josh. 15:14)

NOTE: "And Caleb **drove** thence the three sons of Anak . . ." (v. 14).

(1) He publicly displayed his fearlessness in the conquest of Hebron.

- He was solely dependent on God to enable him (Josh. 14:12).
- His courage also showed that he was a man of action not just words. He willingly set the example of facing the enemy who was trying to prevent the people of God from inheriting that which was promised.

(2) Note also he did not slay them all but there were those who escaped.

- Here again we have seen the enemy fleeing their impending destruction, which also contributed to the fact that the enemies were not totally destroyed in some situations as should have been.
- However, these fleeing enemies had regarded themselves as been ferocious and formidable but they were eventually overcome by fear and fled for their lives.

(c) God certainly humbles the high and lofty (Psa. 2; 18:27; 20:8; etc.)

(1) **Even the kings of the earth shall discover that the Lord is the real ruler!**

Psa. 76:12 Amplified Bible

"He will cut off the spirit [of pride and fury] of princes; He is terrible to the [ungodly] kings of the earth."

(2) No leader has any wisdom apart from God.

- We must all recognize that God’s wisdom is superior to any that the world has to offer.
- God takes away the heart of the leaders of the people who exalt themselves against God (again note Psa. 2, etc.)
- As we notice in our text, the great and mighty giants Caleb faced were no match for the true and living God!!
- Beloved, we should never allow earthly advisers to dampen our desire to know and serve God better each day, irrespective of what we see!! We should never forget that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world and we do see a lot happening today (1 John 4:4; Rom. 16:20; etc.).

Job. 12:24 Amplified Bible

“He takes away the understanding from the leaders of the land and of the earth, and causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no path.”

(d) **Welcome to the family of God!!**

“. . . he gave a share among the children of Judah (Josh. 15:13b NKJV)

- (1) As we noted before, Caleb was not originally a member of God’s chosen people.
- (2) However, we have seen here God’s willingness to receive whosoever will come to Him!
- (3) This is a subject we have noted repeatedly but needs repetition . . . God extends His warm welcome to the whosoever will!! Oh, that many more would taste and see that God is good!!

- **Rev. 22:17 ESV**

“The Spirit and the Bride say ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

- See also Isa. 45:22; 55:1; Matt. 22:9; John 7:37; Rom. 10:12.

3. **Bold Integrity** (Josh. 15:16-17)

(a) Debir was re-occupied by the enemy

- (1) This city was conquered by Joshua during the Southern Campaign (Josh. 10:3, 39).
- (2) The conquest of Canaan took at least five to seven years (*see Lesson 10 page 18 for my brief explanation as to the two opinions in regards to the duration of the conquest of Canaan*). Debir or Kirjathsepher was re-occupied while the Israelites were still conquering the land of Canaan
- (3) Reflecting on the re-occupation by the enemy, the Holy Spirit laid on my mind Christ’s illustration found in **Matt. 12:38-45** (*read the context for details Matt. 12:22-45*). I know that the context is centered about Christ’s interaction with the Pharisees and signs but I am lifting some thoughts from this to reinforce the danger of the enemy reoccupying that which was conquered or cleansed but remained unoccupied.

- Evil spirits desire to return to one who was formerly demonized or was in a sinful state (either is appropriate for this illustration) (Matt. 12:44).
 - Beloved, evil spirits cannot return if that person's heart is occupied by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:44 cf. 1 Cor. 6:19, 2 Cor. 6:14-16).
 - A whole nation or society may seek the pleasure of evil to such an extent that society itself can become demonized (Matt. 12:44; cf. Rev. 16:14)
 - **“When an unclean spirit goes out ...”** (v. 43 NKJV). Jesus came to deliver people from evil. But there is great danger when the house of their heart is left empty indicating it is unoccupied, a soul that has lost the life and power of godliness and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Eventually, **seven other spirits (v. 45)** occupy that emptiness and the individual situation becomes even worse than it was before! Beloved, Jesus is there ready to enter, and control our lives if **only we will open and let Him in!!** (John 1:12; 1 John 1:3; **Eph. 3:17-19; Rev. 3:20**).
 - **We must be watchful against sin and yielding to temptation:** Matt. 26:41; Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 10:12; 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8
 - **As noted above there is danger in having an empty heart:** Matt. 12:43-45 & Luke 11:24-26
 - Whether one is delivered from demons or sin **he must not remain unoccupied** (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 4:11; Phil. 1:21).
 - If Jesus Christ has delivered you, but you are not filled with His Spirit you are on dangerous territory and can end up in a situation worse than before; drifting back to sin is a situation no one should allow, therefore seek God in His fullness (**Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:18; etc.**).
- (b) **Caleb's outstanding example of integrity** (Josh. 15:15-19)
- (1) Upon completing the conquest of Hebron Caleb focused on the city of Debir (Josh. 15:15).
 - (2) The city had other names:
 - *“Kirjathsepher”* (Josh. 15:15) meaning *“the city of a book.”*
 - *“Kirjathsannah”* (Josh. 15:49) meaning *“the city of learning.”*
 - (3) Although his inheritance was now liberated this neighboring city, located approximately ten miles southwest of Hebron was still occupied by the enemy.
 - To show his zeal for the public good he refused to lay down arms until this neighboring city was liberated.
 - Liberating this city was not for his personal use but towards the benefit of his tribe (Judah). The city was later assigned to the Levites, see Josh. 21:15.
 - **An outstanding lesson for us!!:**
Matthew Henry notes:

“Let us learn hence not to seek and mind our things only, but to concern and engage ourselves for the welfare of the community we are members of, we are not born for ourselves, nor must we live to ourselves.”

- Jesus specifically added to Deut. 6:5 that which so many have ignored or having no desire to live accordingly; see Matt. 22:37-39, NB v. 39 (also Mark 12:29-31, NB v. 31)
- See also **John 13:35**; 15:12; Rom. 12:9; 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Peter 1:22.

(4) Compensation for the conqueror!

- Caleb offered his daughter in marriage to anyone who successfully lead an assault against the city of Debir.
 - Such was a custom in ancient history; for example, King Saul had promised his daughter to anyone who slay Goliath (1 Sam. 17, NB Vv. 25-27).
 - Such an act was not forcing the daughter into marriage; the father would consult with the daughter and the outcome would depend on her final decision.
- Also such an act of conquering an enemy was regarded as a service to the nation and his daughter’s betrothal was an opportunity for her to marry someone who was considered worthy.
- It is believed that Othniel already had an interest in Achsah and immediately made use of the opportunity.
 - Othniel was Caleb’s nephew, the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother (Judges 1:13; 3:9).
 - Othniel led a battalion of soldiers under his command and conquered the city (Josh. 15:17; Judges 1:13).
- Caleb, a man of outstanding integrity did as he had promised; he gave his in marriage daughter to the victorious officer (v. 17).

4. **Beneficence** (Josh. 15:18-19)

(a) “*Beneficence*” means an act of charity, mercy, any kindness with a strong connotation of doing good to others including moral obligation.

(b) **Caleb’s wedding gift.**

(1) Achsah obtained some land by Caleb’s free gift.

- He gave her a southland. The southland area was dry and apt to be parched.
- Achsah saw the need to be addressed, discussed it with her husband but eventually she had to approach her father about the situation.

(2) The harmony between father and daughter was obviously a very good one.

- Achsah had confidence in her father’s love, nevertheless she recognized his authority.
- She asked for a larger dowry (Josh. 15:19). On leaving her father, to cleave to her husband, we find her seeking her husband’s interest.

- **Note carefully the steps Achsah took in presenting her petition to her father:**
 - **First**, she took the opportunity when her father brought her to the home of her husband, when the satisfaction of having willingly given his daughter in marriage a time he would do anything for her.
 - **Second**, she lighted off her ass, in token of respect and reverence to her father, whom she honored still, as much as before her marriage. There was also a display that she had a need.
 - **Third**, she calls it a blessing (v. 19), because it would add much to the comfort of her agreement and she was sure that since she was married not only with her father's consent, but in obedience to his command, he would not deny her his blessing.
 - **Fourth**, she asked only for the water, without which the ground she had would be of little use either for agricultural purposes or for their livestock; the need was to have the springs of water to meet these needs.
- (3) Caleb's act of good will continued to flow freely and with great love.
 - Achsah obtained more on her request, "... so he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs (Josh. 15:19b NKJV)
 - Caleb's gifts are definitely an outstanding example of unusual unselfishness because water was a priceless gift in a dry country.
- (c) **Othniel was a man of honorable character.**
We have only a brief history of Othniel (Josh. 15:16-20; Judges 1:12-13; 3:8-11).
 - (1) He was a man of courage, willing to risk his life for the woman that he loved.
 - (2) It is believed that he saw the need for the springs but humbled himself to the point of not asking and as a result his wife did. Someone said: "He was brave enough to battle against Debir but he was not mean enough to beg."
 - (3) Later in Israel's history when they were under oppression of the king of Mesopotamia, he became Israel's leader and Judge (Judges 3:1-11, NB Vv. 8-11).
- (d) **Facets of Wholesome Family Life . . . Caleb's Family**
 - (1) The individual members felt free to share with each other their hopes and needs. This practice kept misunderstanding at a minimum.
 - (2) There were love and submission reflected by Achsah in her relations both with her husband and with her father; she politely made a reasonable request (Josh. 15:18-19).
 - (3) Generosity and love reflected in Caleb's response. He gave liberally and graciously.

Such wholesome family life always enriches the community of which it is a part!

C. Inherited Cities Josh. 15:20-63

1. Condense Account of Joshua 15:20-63

- (a) Quote from Preacher's Outline Sermon Bible

“There were a large number of cities inherited by Judah, well over 113 cities. This shows that the inheritance of Judah was extremely valuable, for cities meant wealth. Moreover, cities were usually built around water supplies and fertile land. And when possible, cities were also built in strategic locations along main roads for commerce and military defense.

The territory of Judah was divided into four regions or districts in their topographical features or land surfaces. The natural features included mountains and valleys, coastal plains or lowlands, hill and dry, desolate wilderness. The tribe of Judah received the largest inheritance of the territory among the Israelites . . .”
(“topographical” means the shape and features of land surfaces. Some synonyms are landscape, landform, contours, natural features, geographic, etc.).

(b) Divisions of Judah’s inheritance (Josh. 15:21-62)

(1) The Southern Region (Vv. 21-32)

(2) The Western Foothills (Vv. 33-47)

(3) The Mountain or Hill Region (Vv. 48-60)

(4) The Wilderness or desert Region (Vv. 61-62)

Verse 63 shows that Jerusalem remained unconquered.

2. Concise review of Each Region (Josh. 15:20-62)

(a) **The Southern Region** (Josh. 15:21-32)

Listed are thirty-eight cities although verse 32 listed twenty-nine, because later, nine were transferred to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19:1-9).

(b) **The Western Foothills or The Lowland Region** (Josh. 15:33-47)

This area between the highlands of certain Judah and the Philistine coast was for the most part not occupied by Israel until the victories of King David. Some of the places on this list were reassigned to the tribe of Dan (Josh. 19:41-43).

(c) **The Mountain or Hill Region** (Josh. 15:48-60)

The high region south of Jerusalem. One source added eleven names to this list including Tekoa and Bethlehem.

(d) **The Wilderness or Desert Region** (Josh. 15:61-62)

The “wilderness” is the chalky, dry region east and south of Jerusalem that borders the Dead Sea. Of the places named in this list, only En Gedi can be positively located. However, either Sekakah or the City of Salt may have been the ancient name of Qumran, where the Scribes who produced the Dead Sea Scrolls lived.

Compilation based on research from the NIV Study Bible

3. Continued Occupation by the Jebusites (Josh 15:63)

(a) A terrible blunder by the tribe of Judah.

(1) Israel was specifically commanded to destroy the Canaanites because of their gross evil way of living (Num. 33:52-55; Deut. 7:1-6; 12:2-4; etc.).

(2) Judah failed to conquer the Jebusites of Jerusalem!

- No peace was to be made with the enemy of the land. Irrespective of what, under no circumstance any covenant was to be made with the enemies (Ex. 34:11-17).
- As we saw in previous lessons, the Canaanites were so evil and far gone that they were beyond repentance and were to be destroyed.
- Destroying them was a way of protecting themselves against apostasy, against turning away from God (Deut. 7:1-5).

(b) God did promise to drive out the remaining enemies that were still in Canaan.

(1) This was specifically made known by God (Josh. 13:6b). This was discussed in Lesson 11 . . . note the following two statements taken from page 9.

- “God did promise to drive out all the remaining enemies in the Promise Land (Josh. 13:6b), but we must note: **‘The Israelites had to be involved.’**”
- “If Israel, through laziness, fearfulness or affection for the idolaters, sit still and let them alone, they have no one to blame but themselves, and not God, if these remaining enemies of God’s righteousness are not driven out.”

(2) Had they (the tribe of Judah) attempted with vigor and resolution, we have all the reason to know that God would deliver and give them the victory. They could not drive out the Jebusites because they would not; it required diligence and effort and allowing God to act on their behalf!!

(c) **Expel the Jebusites!!**

(1) In Josh. 10, we saw where the Jebusites’ king and most certainly the soldiers who accompanied him in battle were defeated although the city itself was not taken (See Lesson 9B, note pages 20-21).

(2) **We also noted that in Judges 1:8 Jerusalem was taken.**

- **Some believed that it was conquered then re-occupied by the Jebusites.** The fact remained that both Judah and Benjamin failed to take the Jebusites fortress of Jerusalem (Judges 1:21).
- We also noted in Lesson 9B that David finally conquered Jerusalem.
 - The victory realized by David is recorded in 2 Sam. 5:1-12, and he established the Capital at Jerusalem.
 - The city continued for 400 years until its first destruction by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25).

4. Closing Thought

Quote from The Preacher’s Outline Sermon Bible . . . Comment on Josh. 15:63

“Jebusites—Jerusalem: Jerusalem was actually a part of the inherited territory assigned to the tribe of Benjamin (Josh. 18:28). However, the city sat on the border between the two tribes. Judah’s territory ran just south of the city, making a detour through the valley of the hill or mountain range upon which Jerusalem was built. *The Nelson Study Bible* gives an excellent explanation that is worth quoting:

The Jebusites, who inhabited Jerusalem before the Israelites arrival, stubbornly held on to Jerusalem because the tribe of Judah did not follow through on its obligation to destroy them completely. God did not want Israel to make peace with the inhabitants of the land, but instead to drive them out and utterly destroy them (Num. 33:52-55; Deut. 7:1-56; 20:16-18). Jud. 1:21 repeats this verse almost verbatim, except that it states Benjamin (not Judah) failed to drive out the Jebusites. This is because Jerusalem sat astride the boundary between Benjamin and Judah. In the early period, Jerusalem did not strictly belong to either tribe. The tribe of Judah did capture Jerusalem later (Jud. 1:8), but Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites in their portion (Jud. 1:21). Apparently, Judah took the unfortified southwestern hill, while the tribe of Benjamin failed to take the walled city on the eastern hill. The details are not entirely clear, but it is stated that Jebusites and Israelites lived together (Josh.15:63; Jud. 1:21). The city effectively belonged to the Jebusites until the time of David (2 Sam. 5:5-10). Indeed, in Jud.19:11, 12 the Levite from the hill country of Ephraim called Jebus (Jerusalem) an “alien city.”

2 Tim 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

Lesson 13 Review Questions

- Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:
 “God was with Israel and He fought for them, and as it relates to Israel the entire process called for them to be _____ and His perfect will.”
 (a) aware of the enemy
 (b) intimidated by their weakness
 (c) aware of their strength
 (d) steadfastly committed to God
- As noted in our lesson, what is regarded as one of the most fundamental principle of success, briefly explain?

- Complete the flowing:
 “Just as God (a) _____ the earth to be (b) _____ (Isa. 45:18) even so (c) _____ was (d) _____ to be (e) _____ by (f) _____ (Num. 33:53).”
- In what way was the Levitical priest a bridge-builder and Israel a bridge?

- Briefly** explain who were the Kenizzites and how they became so closely associated with the tribe of Judah.

6. Complete the following:

A quote by Matthew Henry . . . focus on Caleb’s wholehearted commitment to God.

“Those that (a) _____ God (b) _____ when they are (c) _____ shall have both the (d) _____ and (e) _____ of it when they are (f) _____, and the (g) _____ of it forever in the heavenly (h) _____.”

7. In regards to Joshua Chapter 15, briefly note what is covered in (a) Vv. 1-12, (b) Vv. 13-19 and (c) Vv. 20-63.

8. (a) Briefly explain what message is communicated in Psa. 78:67-68 (b) what Scriptural proof can you give showing God’s covenant was unconditionally established with the tribe of Judah.

9. In regards to “Judah” and as used in Scripture: (a) **briefly** explain what “The Kingdom of Judah” refers to and (b) note three persons in Scripture with the name Judah. Give references for each answer.

10. What Scriptural examples can you give showing that the Messiah would come through the tribe of Judah?

11. Briefly explain how precedence (superiority) of the tribe of Judah is based on the blessing of Jacob in Gen. 49:8-12.

12. As noted in our lesson, what were some of the responsibilities of the Hebrew first born.

13. **Briefly** explain what the “birthright” was as relates to the Hebrews.

14. **Briefly** explain (a) why Reuben lost his birthright (b) in what way did Joseph and Judah become beneficiaries of Reuben’s forfeited birthright. Give references.

15. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer:
“Judah was first to receive their inheritance in Canaan because they were the largest tribe and such norm was commanded by God.”

16. **Briefly** list the four sections of Judah’s borders, with references.
One sentence for each is OK.

17. Briefly note three features of the “Salt Sea” (Josh. 15:5).

18. Complete the following:

“The Great Sea was the (a) _____ sheet of (b) _____
with which the Hebrew had any (c) _____. Its gleaming(d)
_____, stretching away from the (e) _____ could be
(f) _____ from many an (g) _____ height. f

19. Based on a quote in our lesson from the Preacher’s Outline Sermon Bible, briefly note at least three ways God’s faithfulness was demonstrated to Israel with references.
(This comment was made in reference to the inheritance of the Promise Land)

20. In Josh. 15:12b we note: “. . . according to their families.” What lesson is taught from this reference, and what practical example, from Scripture can you give in support of this principle?

21. What “Practical Lesson” was demonstrated by Caleb (a) when he decided to conquer Hebron? (b) And when he decided to liberate Debir?

22. Complete the following:

Matthew Henry comments on Caleb’s effort to liberate Debir . . . keep in mind this was not his city.

“Let us learn hence not to (a) _____ and (b) _____ our things (c) _____, but to concern and (d) _____ ourselves for the (e) _____ of the (f) _____ we are (g) _____ of, we are not born for (h) _____, nor must we (i) _____ to ourselves.”

23. (a) What compensation did Caleb offered to anyone who conquered Debir? (b) By abiding according to his promise what was demonstrated by Caleb?

24. What steps were taken by Achsah in presenting her petition to add springs of water to the land that her father had given as dowry?

25. What three pointers were noted in regards to the “Facets of Wholesome Family Life”, seen in Caleb’s family?
