

## Entering the Promised Land in 2021

### Caleb

Num. 13-14, Joshua 14-15

Jan. 27, 2021

- I. Who was Caleb, and what do we know about him?
  - A. Caleb is first mentioned in Scripture in Num. 13:6
    1. He is mentioned 31 more times in the OT
    2. He was the son of Jephunneh and of the tribe of Judah
  - B. The Israelites had been out of Egypt about two years when they arrived at Kadesh-Barnea, the threshold of their Promised Land
    1. Caleb was 40 years old at Kadesh-Barnea – Josh.14:7
    2. So, we know he was born in Egypt and was one who had endured the hardship and suffering of Egyptian bondage
    3. He was redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb and delivered from Egypt
  - C. The name “Caleb” means “wholeheartedly”
    1. We are told six times in Scripture that Caleb “wholly followed the Lord” - Num. 14:24, 32:12; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8-9, 14
    2. Caleb was a man who was totally surrendered to the Lord and who fully obeyed His Word
- II. What do we know of Caleb’s character?
  - A. Upon arriving at Kadesh-Barnea, one man from each of the twelve tribes was chosen to spy out the land
  - B. Caleb was a courageous witness who did not listen to the popular voice
    1. When the report of the spies was given, only Caleb and Joshua defended Moses and encouraged the nation to enter into Canaan – Num. 13:27-33
    2. Ten men wanted the entire nation to go back to Egypt while two men of faith wanted to go ahead
  - C. Caleb was confident to act on his faith in God’s promise – Num. 14:6-8

- D. The result: The 10 spies and the entire unbelieving generation died in the wilderness
  - 1. They were never able to obtain the blessings God had promised them
  - 2. It took courage for Caleb to stand against the whole nation, but God honored him for his faith
- E. Caleb was promised he would live to see the Promised Land, enter it, and enjoy its blessings – Num. 14:24
- F. Even though Caleb was promised his inheritance, he still had to suffer with the unbelieving nation during their 40 years of wandering
- G. How was Caleb able to maintain his spiritual life when surrounded by so much carnality and unbelief?
  - 1. Caleb’s heart was in the Promised Land; his heart was steadfastly fixed on what God had promised him
  - 2. Though his body was in the wilderness, his heart and mind were on the promises of the Lord
- H. Num. 14:24 – tells us that Caleb was of a different spirit than others
  - 1. He was persecuted – Num. 14:10 – the people wanted to stone him!
  - 2. He was charitable
    - a. When his 10 companions in the spy mission brought back their evil report that dishonored God and discouraged God’s people, Caleb still spoke of them as “his brethren” – Josh. 14:8
    - b. Nowhere in Scripture will you find that Caleb ever spoke disparagingly or disrespectfully of the other 10 spies
  - 3. He was devoted and dedicated
    - a. He followed the Lord and accepted His will
    - b. He trusted God’s Word, and stood firmly on the truth of God’s promise

### III. What do we know of Caleb’s faith? – Joshua 14

- A. Caleb is now 85 years old
  - 1. He was 40 when he received the promise that he would inherit the land
  - 2. He had faithfully endured 45 years of wandering and waiting

- B. In Josh. 14-15, Joshua is dividing up the land and giving each tribe its allotment of the inheritance
  - 1. Caleb comes boldly to Joshua to claim his share
  - 2. He reminds Joshua of God's promise – Josh. 14:6-9

IV. Caleb's testimony – Josh. 14:10-11

- A. Of God's faithfulness to him – 14:10
  - 1. He was kept through many years of wandering through the wilderness of doubt and unbelief
  - 2. He was kept while the whole multitude melted away because of their unbelief
  - 3. He still had the same confidence in God that he expressed to the people 45 years earlier
- B. Of God's goodness to him – 14:11
  - 1. God had continually blessed and strengthened him
  - 2. Now, at the age of 85, he is as strong as he was at 40
  - 3. Even though Caleb is now 85 years old, he did not ask for an easy task
    - a. He asked God for mountains to climb and giants to conquer
    - b. He knew his strength was in the Lord

V. Caleb claimed his blessing; "...give me this mountain" – Josh. 14:12

- A. He had the faith to believe that what God promised He was able to perform
  - 1. The conditions had been fulfilled, so this was not presumptuous on Caleb's part
  - 2. It was an expression of the courage of an honest faith in God
  - 3. "*If so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out*"
    - a. He did not rely on his own strength
    - b. Even though he was still physically strong, he relied on God who was the source of his strength
- B. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him his inheritance – Josh. 14:13-14
  - 1. Caleb was told that "*the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance*" – Josh. 14:9
  - 2. Hebron was Caleb's inheritance – 14:13

3. Where is Hebron? – Num. 13:22-24
  4. It is where Eschol was; it is the very land from which the cluster of grapes came and the very land upon which Caleb's feet had trodden
- VI. Caleb was able to drive out the inhabitants of his inheritance – Josh. 15:13-14
- A. NOTE: Num. 13:33 – Anak and his sons were some of the very giants that struck fear in the hearts of the ten spies when they first beheld them
  - B. Caleb did not see them as giants because his faith rested wholly on the Word of God and His promises
- VII. The story of Caleb's faith lives on
- A. His nephew Othniel helped him in one of his campaigns to conquer his portion of the land – Josh. 15:14-17
    1. As a result, Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to Othniel for a wife
    2. After her marriage to Othniel, she returned to her father to ask for a further blessing
    3. Caleb had already given her a field, but she also wanted springs of water to nourish her field – Josh. 15:19
  - B. What an impact a man of faith can have on the lives of others
    1. Caleb's faith and dedication to the Lord saved his life – he was one of only two men of his generation who did not die in the wilderness
    2. His faith gained him a personal inheritance in the Promised Land, overcame his enemies, and enabled him to bless and enrich his own family for years to come
    3. Never underestimate the influence you can have if you are totally committed and yielded to the Lord as Caleb was
    4. Judges 3:5-11a – In spite of Israel's unbelief, disobedience, and compromise, Othniel became the first judge of Israel and faithfully carried on Caleb's heritage and legacy of godly leadership